

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

President Christenson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7 p.m. in the boardroom.

Present: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Absent: None

Administrators: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student & Family Engagement
Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Jen Curry, Chief Academic Officer
Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer

Others Present: Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board
Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair

Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Adoption of the Agenda/Approval of the Consent Agenda

Action Item #26-10-13: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Ahmed to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Special Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2025, and an Out-of-Country Field Trip.

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

New Hires

Mahogany, Tate	Resource Room/Teacher Consultant Starkweather Academy	Effective 10-20-25
Alexander, Kristopher	Dean of Student Support Liberty Middle School	Effective 10-13-25
Cushman, Makaila	Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of Special Education Administrative Office	Effective 10-8-25

Leaves

Ennis, Sarah	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 9-22-25 to 12-12-25
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Approval of Minutes

The Special Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2025, and the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2025, were approved as presented.

Out-of-Country Field Trips

- Spain - Plymouth High School – Grades 9-12

B. Celebrating Success

Member Westra presented the Volunteers in Public Service Award (VIPS) to Lynn Helinski, a long-time volunteer at Hoben Elementary School, recognizing her more than 20 years of dedicated service. Lynn has devoted countless hours to maintaining and beautifying the school grounds, often using her own resources or securing donations. Her generosity, creativity, and commitment have created a warm and welcoming environment that reflects the pride and spirit of the Hoben community.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson shared that Board members recently volunteered at the Miracle League of Plymouth, serving as buddies and cheering on the players. She thanked her colleagues for their participation and Member Vos for suggesting this opportunity, noting that the Miracle League welcomes additional volunteers from the community. She reminded Board members of the upcoming Wayne County Association of School Boards general membership meeting this Thursday. She also shared information about the National School Board Advocacy and Equity Institute, scheduled for February 1-3, 2026. She encouraged interested members to contact her regarding available Wayne RESA funding to offset the cost of one registration. Finally, she encouraged support for the PCEF's upcoming fundraiser, "Uncorked," a wine tasting and strolling dinner on Friday, November 14, at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, with proceeds benefiting teacher classroom grants.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee met on October 1, 2025, and reviewed a Teaching and Learning Department presentation to evaluate the data provided through NWEA testing and potential alternative assessment testing options. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., and all are welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next Policy committee meeting is scheduled for October 28, at 5:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the F&O committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Co-Chair, shared that the SVA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next SVA committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School, and everyone is welcome to attend.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt began her report by recognizing and thanking the district's principals in honor of *Principal Appreciation Month*. She spoke about their dedication, passion, and the many hours they devote to supporting teachers and helping students succeed. She also invited the community to attend the first "Coffee with Monica" for this school year on Wednesday, October 15, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the P-CCS Educational Support Center. This event provides an opportunity for community members to learn about the exciting things happening in our district, ask questions, and share feedback in an informal setting.

She congratulated the 25 P-CEP students who were named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists, after scoring in the top one percent nationwide on the PSAT exam. These students will now advance in the selection process, with finalists announced later this year. Superintendent Merritt also highlighted the success of the district's award-winning Culinary Program, which recently opened its student-run Rock Café for the season under the leadership of Chefs Diana Woodward, Polly Brown, and Andy Lehmann.

In closing, she encouraged community members to support the Plymouth-Canton Educational Foundation's annual "Uncorked" fundraiser on November 14 at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center. The event will feature a wine tasting and strolling dinner, with proceeds supporting teachers, students, and innovative programs throughout the district. Tickets and information can be viewed on the P-CEF Facebook page.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Laurie Mayers spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students and anti-bullying staff training
- Rachel Hayes spoke in support of transgender students
- Dale Burns Jr., Caitlin Burns, and Christopher Williams spoke on kindergarten class size at Eriksson Elementary
- Heather Gatny and Michelle Moustakas spoke in support of immigrant students and anti-bullying staff training

F. Administrative Reports

Teaching and Learning

Elementary Program Updates (Goal B) (Presentation)

Dr. Denise Lilly, Executive Director of Elementary Education, gave a presentation to provide updates on the Elementary Program, emphasizing efforts to strengthen students' sense of belonging and overall school climate. The presentation highlighted the continued professional development in social-emotional learning and culturally responsive teaching, morning meetings, inclusive classroom libraries, and family engagement initiatives. The 2025-26 focus areas include continued implementation of Being a Reader, UFLI Foundations and Morphology, peer mentoring programs, and ongoing data analysis to monitor belonging and engagement.

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-10-14:** It was moved by Member Kehoe seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution to Purchase Two Single-Lane Mobile EVOLV Units. This purchase is recommended to enhance districtwide safety through the use of mobile concealed weapon detection systems. The proposal includes the purchase of two single-lane EVOLV units from Security 101 at a cost not to exceed \$143,058, which includes four years of licensing and software updates. Funding for this purchase is available through the State of Michigan School Aid Act, Section 31aa. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- None

H. Action Items/Discussion

Action Item #26-10-15: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to consider the Approval of a Resolution to adopt Board of Education Goals for the 2025-2026 School Year. (First and Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Discussion – Member Kehoe highlighted the upcoming PCEF “Uncorked” Fundraiser and noted that the Board has supported this event in past years as a sponsor. He encouraged Board members to consider joining together as a sponsor again this year and asked that anyone interested reach out to him by tomorrow.

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- None

J. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education