

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

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

Present: Members Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Absent: Members Ahmed, Christenson, and Kehoe

Administrators 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

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

Arjan Swaminathan and Josh Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #26-10-16: It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Picard to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2025.

Ayes: Members Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 4-0

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2025, were approved as presented.

B. Celebrating Success

Member Sidhu presented the STARS Award to Canton High School senior David Sandburg, recognizing his outstanding leadership and mentorship on the P-CEP Lightning Robotics Team. David has played a key role in fostering an inclusive and supportive environment while helping new members gain confidence as they develop their programming skills. His positive influence, humility, and commitment to helping others succeed embody the true spirit of the STARS Award, making him a most deserving recipient of this recognition.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

Vice President Sidhu shared that she and Member Vos recently attended the MASB Annual Leadership Conference, which offered valuable opportunities for professional growth and collaboration. She noted that President Christenson and Superintendent Merritt also served as panel presenters at the conference. She also reported on the recent Wayne County School Boards Association meeting, where she and Member Vos received legislative and budget updates and learned about student mental health initiatives.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 5 p.m., and everyone is welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the Policy Committee met earlier this evening, and she thanked SVA students for their participation. The committee reviewed recent updates received from Neola on policies 6320 and 6325 regarding purchasing. These revisions will be sent to district legal counsel for review and will be discussed again at the next meeting. The committee also reviewed the overall policy review timeline to ensure continued alignment with state and federal requirements. The next Policy committee meeting is scheduled for November 25, at 5:30 p.m., and everyone is welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Picard shared that the F&O committee met on October 23, 2025, and reviewed the Plante Moran Annual Audit P presentation. Also discussed reintegration with benchmark transportation for McKinney-Vento students. The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

SVA Co-Chairs Josh Patterson and Arjan Swaminathan reported that the SVA committee met on October 20, 2025, where they welcomed new members, shared feedback on menu samples from the Food and Nutrition Services Department, and began planning initiatives for the year ahead. The next SVA committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School, and everyone is welcome to attend.

D. Citizens' Comments

- Shanel Talbert spoke on elementary recess time
- Rachel Hayes and Meta Mendel-Reyes spoke on support for LGBTQ+ students
- Sarah Krzyzanski spoke on support for immigrant students
- Ini Ekpenyong, Samuel Aremu, Femi Ayangbayi, Owen Poszywak, and Owen Mannarelli spoke in support of a Salem High School coach
- Michelle Moustakas spoke on support for LGBTQ+ and immigrant students
- Hasina Abdu spoke on sustainability and recycling at P-CCS

E. Administrative Reports/Recommendations**Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick**2024-2025 Annual Audit – Plant Moran (Presentation)

Representatives from Plante Moran, Jeff Higgins, Partner, and Renee Esper, Audit Manager, provided a comprehensive overview of the district's 2024-2025 Annual Financial Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, as required under state auditing standards. Their findings included a clean, unmodified audit opinion, which is the highest level of assurance an auditor can issue. The presentation outlined the audit process and provided an in-depth review of the district's revenue, expenditures, foundation allowance, enrollment trends, and a historical summary of the district's fund balance. The ending fund balance of \$44,961,617 represents 20.34% of annual expenditures. Overall, the audit confirmed that the district continues to maintain strong financial health and stability. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, expressed appreciation to Jody Malbon, Executive Director of Finance and Accounting, for her leadership and collaboration throughout the audit process.

Board members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-10-17:** It was moved by Member Picard and seconded by Member Vos to Approve the Annual Financial Audit for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. (First and Final Reading)
 Ayes: Members Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 4-0

First Reading Resolutions

Consider Approval of a Resolution of a Transportation Agreement with Benchmark Transportation, LLC. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, presented a recommendation to enter into an agreement with Benchmark Transportation, LLC, to provide flexible transportation services for students identified under the

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The agreement will expand the district's capacity to meet federal requirements by offering transportation for regular, after-school, and evening activities at a competitive rate of \$4.00 per mile. Benchmark is able to provide late-hour service not available through current providers. The cost of this service will be paid with Title 1 and Section 31a funds, with 50% reimbursement from the district in which each student's temporary housing is located.

Board members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

F. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- None

G. Discussion

- Members Sidhu and Vos provided additional highlights from the MASB annual conference.

H. Follow-up Board Questions

The Board requested the current number of McKinney-Vento students residing within P-CCS boundaries who are enrolled in other school districts and being transported to those schools.

I. Adjournment

Vice President Sidhu adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 11/11/25/dr