

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 25, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Superintendent Merritt announced the passing of Carline Bonney, a dedicated district bus driver who positively impacted students across the district through her driving routes, including those at the Cooke Center. She offered condolences to her family and colleagues and requested a moment of silence in her honor.

President Christenson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the boardroom.

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

Absent: Member Sidhu

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
 Kevin Rhein, Pioneer Middle School Principal
 Matthew Lents, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects

Others Present: Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board
 Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair
 Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair
 John Kava, Collins and Blaha Legal Counsel

Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #26-11-20: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Leaves

Bazzi, Aziza	Social Worker Workman Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 11-10-25 through 6-10-26
Jossey, Keri	Math Canton High School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 10-27-25 through 1-13-26

Approval of Minutes

The Special Meeting Minutes of November 11, 2025, the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 11, 2025, and the Special Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2025, were approved as presented.

B. Celebrating Success

Member Picard presented the Mary Beth Carol Extra Miler Award to Amy Caragay, P-CCS Nurse serving Canton High School and the post-secondary Special Education Program at Madonna University. Amy was celebrated for her generous spirit, her calm demeanor, and her ability to find creative solutions when challenges arise. She is

known as a strong advocate for student safety and well-being and as a teammate who is always willing to step in and help with a positive, caring attitude.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson thanked Members Kehoe, Sidhu, and Westra for representing the Board at the recent P-CEF fundraiser. She also spoke about the new board attendance tracking form, noting that the link will be included in the weekly Board notes. In closing, she expressed appreciation for Board members, administration, students, staff, parents, and the community, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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 SPA committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 5 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Ahmed shared that the Policy Committee met this evening and reviewed Policies #6320 and #6325 regarding purchasing and procuring federal grants and funds. The next Policy committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., in the boardroom, and the committee will examine a policy review spreadsheet. Community members are welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Christenson shared that the F&O committee met on Thursday, November 20, 2025, and reviewed a transportation agreement, recommendations to purchase chillers for two elementary buildings, and October financial statements. The next F&O committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4, 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 Arjan Swaminathan and Josh Patterson shared that the SVA Committee met on November 17, 2025, and discussed an initiative focused on substance abuse awareness. Committee members also provided feedback on food samples from the P-CCS Food and Nutrition Services Department. The next SVA Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 15, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School, and everyone is welcome to attend.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt announced the launch of the new P-CCS Mobile App, which provides families, students, and staff easy access to district news, updates, calendars, lunch menus, and more. The app is customizable, allowing families to receive the notifications that matter most to them. The app is available for free on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

She congratulated the Plymouth High School E-Sports team for qualifying for the Michigan High School E-Sports League fall playoffs and wished them success in their upcoming championship event at Michigan State University.

She also celebrated P-CEP's award-winning culinary program, which received a \$5,000 Rachael Ray Foundation ProStart Grow Grant. P-CEP is one of only 48 schools nationwide selected for this initiative, which supports kitchen safety and infrastructure upgrades.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt expressed gratitude for the entire P-CCS community and wished everyone a restful and enjoyable Thanksgiving recess with family and friends.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Meta Mendel-Reyes, Michelle Moustakas, and Sarah Krzyzanski spoke in support of immigrant students
- Rachel Hayes spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students
- Laurie Mayers spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students, immigrant students, students of color, and students with disabilities.
- Priti Kulkarni spoke in support of more vegetarian options on school lunch menus

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Teaching and Learning – Jen Curry

Middle School Program Highlights (Goal B) (Presentation)

Kevin Rhein, Principal of Pioneer Middle School, shared an update on P-CCS Middle Level Programming for the 2025-26 school year, emphasizing alignment with the district's Dynamic Plan and the Learner Profile. The presentation centered on improving students' sense of belonging through intentional relationship building, culturally responsive teaching, and expanded engagement opportunities. Survey results indicate steady growth in middle school students' sense of belonging over the last four years, rising from 50% favorable responses in 2021-22 to 56% in 2024-25. P-CCS middle schools are performing better than comparison schools nationwide in this area. Highlights included enhanced 6th-grade transition supports (Shadow Day, WEB Day, Family Night), which allow students and families to become familiar with their school building and build relationships. Next steps include continued work with MTSS, belonging-centered professional learning, and development of an online new-family hub.

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-11-21:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Kehoe to Approve a Resolution for a New Course Proposal (Advanced Placement Physics C: Mechanics). This new course is a calculus-based, college-level physics course designed for students who intend to pursue studies in the physical sciences or engineering fields. This course will be implemented beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and will be available to eligible students who have completed the required mathematics and science prerequisites. The total proposed cost of this course will be \$25,000, inclusive of textbooks and lab supplies, and would be paid from the Teaching and Learning Curriculum Account. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #26-11-22:** It was moved by Member Ahmed and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution for a one-semester Peer-to-Peer Music elective at the high school level. Adding this course will create additional opportunities for students of diverse abilities to build relationships, collaborate, and learn from one another across a range of academic settings. Expanding the program to include a music-focused course would allow general education students to develop leadership skills while supporting students in the ASD and CI classrooms through shared musical experiences and curriculum-based activities. The course will be offered beginning in the second semester of the 2025–2026 school year. No additional costs are anticipated for implementing this course. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Chiller Replacement at Hulsing Elementary School Matthew Lents, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects, provided an overview of this recommendation, which is being presented to replace an older chiller that, upon review, is no longer operable and requires full replacement. Carrier provided a quote of \$126,995 for a new 40-ton chiller and remote condenser, utilizing pricing from the E&I Cooperative Purchasing Agreement #666051. The cost of this recommendation will be funded through 2023 bond funds, with installation scheduled for May of 2026. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Chiller Replacement at Eriksson Elementary School. Matthew Lents, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects, provided an overview of this recommendation, which is being presented to replace an older chiller that, upon review, is no longer operable and requires full replacement. Carrier provided a quote of \$126,995 for a new 40-ton chiller and remote condenser, utilizing pricing from the E&I Cooperative Purchasing Agreement #666051. The cost of this recommendation will be funded through 2023 bond funds, with installation scheduled for May of 2026. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-11-23:** It was moved by Member Ahmed and seconded by Member Picard to approve a Resolution to enter into a transportation agreement with HopSkipDrive Inc. This recommendation supports transportation needs for students eligible under the McKinney-Vento Act. The district's current transportation providers have reached capacity and do not offer service after 8 p.m. hours, which limits students' ability to participate in after-school activities. HopSkipDrive can provide flexible, later-evening transportation and will bill the district only for services used. All costs will be covered by Title I and Section 31a funds, with no impact on the general fund. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- None

H. Action Items/Discussion

- John Kava, District Legal Counsel from Collins and Blaha, provided an overview of recent changes to the State of Michigan 31aa grant funding and reviewed details of a resolution to conditionally opt in to receive funds.
- **Action Item #26-11-25:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to Approve a Resolution to Conditionally Opt-in to Receive 31aa Funds. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #26-11-24:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve 2025-2026 Superintendent Goals. Dr. Merritt reviewed revisions as discussed at the November 17 meeting. (First and Final Reading)
- Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Vos, and Westra
- Nays: None
- The motion was carried 6-0

- Discussion – Board Members reviewed Objective Two from 2025-26 Board Goals. The discussion will be revisited after the Data Dashboard updates are received. Member Kehoe also provided an overview of the budget process.

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- During the 2025-2026 Fall Data Review - The Board asked why restorative practices are not being utilized in every suspension case.
- During the Middle School Updates Presentation -The Board asked if data shows a correlation between students' sense of belonging and improved academic outcomes.

J. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education