

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Superintendent Merritt shared the sad news of the passing of Chuck Portelli, former P-CCS Teacher and PCEA President, who was a respected leader and fierce advocate for both teacher and student, and a friend to many throughout the Plymouth-Canton Community. She extended heartfelt condolences to Chuck's family and requested a moment of silence in his honor.

President Christenson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Present: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, 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
Josh Meier, Director of Safety and Security
Matthew Lents, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects

Others Present: Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board
Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair
Brian Gesaman, McCarthy and Smith Senior Project Manager
Nick Tindall, McCarthy and Smith Assistant Project Manager
Joe Ross, McCarthy and Smith, Project Manager
Derek Dinkeloo, TMP Architecture, Inc., Senior Associate
Anna Reid, TMP Architecture, Inc., Principal Project Manager

Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #26-01-29: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Kehoe to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

New Hires

Demarest, Mary	Social Worker Tonda/Isbister Elementary Schools	Effective 1-5-26
Loiselle, Michelle	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Effective 1-7-26

Leaves

Ennis, Sarah	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 12-15-25 through 6-10-26
--------------	---	--

Resignations

Nino, Gina	Nurse Liberty Middle School	Resignation Effective 1-9-26
------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------

Approval of Minutes

The December 9, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

Final Reading Policies

- Policy #6320 – Purchasing
- Policy #6325 – Procurement Federal Grants

B. Celebrating Success

Member Ahmed presented the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award to Keith Pedery, Discovery Middle School Plant Engineer, in recognition of his tireless efforts to ensure building systems operate effectively and that classrooms and common areas are clean, safe, and well-maintained. Keith's outstanding service, pride in his work, willingness to help without being asked, and positive demeanor provide invaluable support to the students and staff at Discovery Middle School. Keith is a most deserving candidate for this award.

C. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresident's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson welcomed everyone back following winter break and spoke about the Board's commitment to strengthening communication and engagement with the community. She noted several recent events attended by Board members, including visits to the Rock Café, the Muslim Community High School Informational Roundup, a P-CEP Multicultural Event, a documentary film screening at the Penn Theatre honoring the WWII generation, which also featured P-CCS students, *The Music Man* musical, and a P-CCS Choir Concert. She reminded Board members to log community events they attend using the link included in the weekly Board Notes. She concluded by wishing students well on their upcoming final exams.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee met on January 7, 2026, and reviewed a Benchmark Assessment Pilot and a Digital Media Arts Course Revision. The next SPA committee meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2026, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, and everyone is 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 January 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the collaboration conference room and everyone is welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the F&O committee met on January 8, 2026, and reviewed items appearing on this evening's agenda, including Farrand Elementary upgrades, Gallimore and Hoben Elementary renovations, Salem High School upgrades, and baseball/concession upgrades. The committee also discussed filter-first legislation as well as a resolution regarding the sale of Series III 2020 bonds. The next F&O committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, 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 Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 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 reading a resolution in recognition of Board Member Appreciation Month and expressed thanks to the Board of Education for their leadership, dedication, and continued advocacy for P-CCS students, families, and the school community.

She also invited community members to attend a celebration honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, January 19, at the Village Arts Factory in Canton. This free event is open to all community members and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent Merritt recognized the achievements of P-CCS middle school and elementary robotics teams for their strong performances at recent state and regional competitions. She highlighted East Middle School's Infinity Tech Robotics team for becoming the first P-CCS middle school team to qualify for the FIRST Robotics World

Championship. Additional middle school teams across the district earned high placements and awards for outreach, engineering, and design. At the elementary level, Gallimore's Robo Relic Hunters earned first place for Robot Design, qualifying for an invitational world championship. She congratulated students and spoke about how these accomplishments reflect the district's strong emphasis on STEM education both in and out of the classroom.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt offered congratulations to the Canton High School E-Sports team for winning a state championship at the Michigan High School E-Sports League playoffs held at Michigan State University.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Heather Gatny, Nancy Faerber, and Michelle Moustakas spoke in support of immigrant families
- Rachel Hayes spoke in support of all students
- Patrick Cox spoke on the P-CCS Tag Program
- Laurie Mayers spoke on new legislation and anti-bullying policies

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Student Services – Kurt Tyszkiewicz

P-CCS School Safety and Security Update (Strategic Goal B & E) (Presentation)

Joshua Meier, Director of School Safety and Security, presented an update on recent safety and security enhancements across the district and reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining safe, supportive learning environments in all school buildings. He emphasized the importance of continued state funding to sustain these efforts. Mr. Meier reviewed major initiatives, including a fully staffed Security Operations Center (SOC), camera upgrades with visible firearm detection, expanded building access controls and lockdown monitoring, enhanced emergency communication systems, visitor management, emergency operations planning, security window film installations, and updated threat assessment processes supported by trained building-level crisis response teams. He outlined the expanded capabilities of the SOC, which include camera and district-wide 911 monitoring, gunshot and weapon detection, emergency call monitoring, and transportation GPS tracking. Mr. Meier also shared an update on the district's K-9 safety program, highlighting the role of Echo and handler Scott in school visits, threat investigations, therapy support, and responses to critical incidents. He concluded by noting current staffing levels, ongoing professional training, strong law enforcement partnerships, and future priorities.

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-01-30:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to Approve a Resolution for the Enrollment of Non-Resident Applicants for the 2026-2027 School Year Pursuant to Schools of Choice, Section 105 and 105c. This resolution will allow non-resident students from Wayne County and contiguous counties to apply for enrollment. The 2026-2027 proposal provides for a minimum of one seat for Kindergarten through 10th grade with a maximum of 500 seats. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: Members Picard and Vos

The motion was carried 5-2

- **Action Item #26-01-31:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for the Enrollment of Non-Resident Students for P-CCS Employees for the 2026-2027 School Year. This option is available for current staff members who receive a P-CCS paycheck. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-01-32:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution authorizing the sale of its third series of Bonds under the voter-approved 2020 bond program. This resolution authorizes a competitive sale of bonds in an amount not to exceed \$89,685 of the district's 2015 school building and site bonds, depending on market conditions at the time of sale. (First and Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 7-0

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution to Purchase John Deere Gator Utility Vehicles. The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Facilities Department to purchase two 2026 John Deere Gator utility vehicles with snow plows to support year-round grounds maintenance at P-CEP. The purchase will be made through Hutson, Inc. under the State of Michigan MiDeal cooperative contract at a total cost of \$74,896.34, funded through the 2025-2026 maintenance equipment replacement budget. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Package #EL-4 Gallimore Addition and Renovation and Hoben Renovation. Representatives from McCarthy & Smith and TMP Architecture provided an overview of the project recommendations, including timelines and a review of bids and post-bid interviews related to scope, scheduling, staffing, and construction materials. The administration recommended approval of construction contracts totaling an amount not to exceed \$8,611,506. Separate contingency budgets have been established for Gallimore Elementary and Hoben Elementary to address items not included in the initial construction documents. The recommended award will be funded through 2023 Bond funds. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Package #HS-7 Salem High School Multipurpose Room Addition and #PCEP-4 Canton High School Baseball/Soccer Concessions. Representatives from McCarthy & Smith and TMP Architecture provided an overview of the project recommendations, including timelines and a review of bids and post-bid interviews related to scope, scheduling, staffing, and construction materials. The administration recommended approval of construction contracts totaling an amount not to exceed \$12,544,234. A separate construction contingency has been established outside of the contract amounts to address unforeseen conditions and scope coordination. The recommended award will be funded through 2023 Bond funds. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Filter First Water Bottle Filling Station Purchases. In January 2025, Filter First legislation was enacted requiring school districts to install approved filtered water bottle-filling stations. Following a successful pilot installation, the Facilities Department is recommending the purchase of additional units to achieve districtwide compliance. The units will be purchased from Ferguson Enterprises, LLC through the OMNIA Cooperative Agreement at a total cost of \$367,335.13, and will be funded through Filter First funds. (First Reading)

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

Teaching and Learning – Jen Curry

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Course Revision for Digital Media Arts I and II. This course revision is recommended to restructure the current year-long Digital Media Arts I and II courses into four semester-long (.5 credit) Visual, Performing, or Applied Arts courses to provide increased scheduling flexibility and establish a sequenced pathway with defined prerequisites for students in grades 9–12. The revised courses would be implemented beginning in the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year and beyond. There is no cost associated with these proposed revisions. (First Reading)

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

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- None

H. Discussion

- Board members reviewed Objective #3 of the 2025–2026 Board Goals and discussed the need to update the Board Operating Manual. President Christenson will gather and share prior-year materials with the Board, and members discussed scheduling a future workshop, potentially with a facilitator, to support this work. The Board also spoke about ongoing professional development opportunities, including courses offered through Wayne RESA and the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB).

- A Special Board meeting was scheduled for February 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. for negotiations updates.

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- None

J. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 1-27-26/dr