Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Student Voice in Action Committee Minutes
Monday, November 17, 2025 @ Pioneer Middle School

Committee Attendees: Aleeza Mallick, Anna Carlesco, Arjun Swaminathan, Eden Wilkerson, Ethan Fong, Ethan Miller, Hudson Lloyd, Josh Patterson, Kavya Jhaveri, Keerat Singh, Megan Barbour, Mahika Srivastava, Manha Farooqui, Neha Aekka, Olivia Mattson, Riley Tulgetske, Rohan Gurung, Ruhi Lakhani, Ruvanya Karthickkumar, Saline Benkalefa, Sofia Reece, Solomon Andrade, Sudeeksha Jois, Sylvia Daunoravicius, Tarek Tarmoom, Tejas Kalani, Zachary Patterson, Jessica Lombardi, Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Superintendent, Dr. Monica Merritt, Board of Education President, Lauren Christenson, Board of Education Vice President, Anupam Chugh Sidhu, and Board of Education Trustee, Jennifer Vos

Call to Order, Introductions and Attendance
The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm by Josh Patterson. Josh welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Review Minutes from October 20, 2025
Josh Patterson asked the SVA committee to review the minutes. The minutes from October 20, 2025, were reviewed and approved. ***I, Neha Aekka, approve the minutes as amended. I, Aarti Pradhan, second. Motion carries to approve the minutes.***

Welcome to the following Teacher Liaisons that joined us:
- Scott Thomas, Plymouth High School
- Erin Le, Canton High School
- Lauren Cummings, Salem High School

Citizens Comments
There were no citizens comments.

Nutrition Services with Ann Whetstone
Josh introduced Ann Whetstone from Food and Nutrition Services to the group. Mrs. Whetstone brought food samples for the SVA members to try. They were asked to give feedback on survey forms. Food provided was the following:
- Vegan three bean chili.
- Blind taste test - Hot dog - Beef and Turkey (Not Halal)

Initiatives for the 25/26 School Year
SVA members worked as a group with their table to discuss ideas about educating students about substance abuse. SVA members were asked to share their ideas with the group.
- **Group 1** - School should be more flexible during student absences. This will create less stress to complete assignments. More stress could increase substance abuse in students.
- **Group 2** - Improve smoke detectors in the bathrooms. Improving them and hiding them better could cut down on the number of students vaping. Fewer people allowed to go to the restroom at one time could also help.
- **Group 3** - Smoke detectors should be improved and added to middle schools. Staff could be more visible and aware. Look at the situation before assuming the worst as it relates to discipline. Consider family issues and friend groups as influences.
- **Group 4** - More anonymous way to report substance abuse. You don't have to get directly involved but can still report the behavior. Be considerate with discipline.
- **Group 5** - People know the effects in general, but if you are actively participating in substance abuse it might be helpful to speak with a college age student that can relate to them and help them through it.

- **Group 6** - We emphasised clubs that students could attend by choice. The clubs can spread awareness through social media platforms to help spread awareness and offer support.
- **Group 7** - Clean up program to clean up the school buildings.
- **Group 8** - Middle School vs. High School. HS level is more intervention and MS seems to be more prevention. Substance abusers often do not have a good support system. It is important to have a community to offer support to the students.

Update from SVA members who attend subcommittee meetings.

- **Policy:** Policies have to comply with state and supplies, defining words better, meeting state requirements. Adapt policies that are old. Went through each part of the policy and adapted, revised or edited.
- **Finance and Operations:** Reviewed prior minutes. Reviewed a transportation agreement. Reviewed 24/25 audit findings. The next meeting is Thursday, November 20 @ 5:00 pm.
- **Student Performance and Achievement:** Student testing courses and data. Peer to peer program was discussed. Students team up with a neurodivergent student to discuss courses with them. They discussed a new music course. Approved adding APA mechanics physics. Many students were taking this course in Dual Enrollment. Panorama, NWEA, PCCS ranks above national averages overall.

Moving forward:

Substance abuse was the top initiative based on the google form that SVA students filled out. There will be an upcoming agenda meeting to plan events, programs, and initiatives to help students. The Truth about Vaping. Alternative to Suspension. 6 week program at P-CEP and Starkweather. Tonight at 7:00 there is an event at the Penn Theater to learn about the opioid crisis. SVA co-chairs are going to work to help with this initiative.

Member Sidhu shared that the state is working to change the law regarding a store selling to underage people. Legislation is in the works to hold stores accountable with a harsher penalty. She will share additional information at our next meeting.

Food and Nutrition Services has used the feedback from the SVA members. Dr. Vartanian asked students what they liked about the chili and the hot dogs. Only a couple of students liked the hot dogs.

Josh Patterson adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm.