



Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
January 27, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Collaboration Conference Room
454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170

Committee Attendees: Abdul Madyun, Anupam Sidhu, Dr. Monica Merritt, Chris Allan, Aamina Ahmed, Sebastein Ostertag and Hadi El-Sheikh (SVA Representative)

Others Present: John Kava (Legal Counsel), Lisa Rasmussen, Jennifer Vos, James Lockwood Tarek Tarmoom (SVA Member), Joseph Tollefson and Laurie Mayers

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Member Sidhu welcomed the group.
2. Citizens' Comments: None
3. The Meeting Minutes from November 25, 2025, were approved as presented

Due to challenges with Neola, the district's current policy consulting firm, the Policy Committee is reviewing and exploring other companies that provide policy development and support services.

4. THRUN POLICY SERVICE PRESENTATION - THRUN LAW FIRM, P.C. POLICY SERVICE

Luke Savoie and Cathleen Dooley from Thrun Law Firm provided a virtual presentation outlining the policy services they offer to Michigan school districts. Following the presentation, the group had an opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion.

5. MILLER JOHNSON POLICY SERVICE PRESENTATION - MILLER JOHNSON LAW FIRM

Kevin Sutton from Miller Johnson law firm provided a presentation outlining the policy services they offer to Michigan school districts. Following the presentation, the group had an opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion.

The Policy Committee will continue discussions regarding both policy presentations and next steps.

6. PRE-LABOR DAY START DISCUSSION

Abdul Madyun provided an overview of the option of a pre-Labor Day start for the 2026–2027 school year. He noted that in 2026, Labor Day falls on September 7. Because Labor Day occurs later than usual, beginning school after the holiday would push the end of the 2026–2027 school year into the third week of June, 2027.

Mr. Madyun explained that the district would need to obtain a Labor Day waiver from the Michigan Department of Education in order to begin school before Labor Day. The waiver covers three school years. If the waiver is approved, P-CCS does not have to have a late start all three years. P-CCS has applied for this waiver and an agreement was reached with the PCEA (Plymouth-Canton Education Association) to develop a 2026-27 school calendar

State law also requires that a public hearing be held to allow community members the opportunity to ask questions and provide input regarding the waiver request. This policy meeting constitutes the required public hearing related to the potential pre-Labor Day start.

Chad Urchike, from the Michigan Department of Education joined the meeting virtually. He reiterated that state law prohibits school districts from starting before Labor Day. To obtain a pre-Labor Day start, each district must apply for a Labor Day waiver from the Michigan Department of Education.

Mr. Madyun provided a presentation regarding the advantages of a pre-Labor Day start for our district.

After the presentation, the group asked questions regarding a pre-Labor Day start.

At the conclusion of this question and answer session, the waiver was approved by the Michigan Department of Education.

Future Scheduled Meeting Dates

- March 24, 2026
- April 28, 2026
- May 26, 2026
- June 23, 2026

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.