

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

President Christenson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:04 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-Student & Family Engagement
Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent-Student Services
Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Jen Curry, Chief Academic Officer
Mark Salzer, Executive Director of Integrated Technology Systems
Jody Malbon, Executive Director of Finance and Accounting

Others Present: Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board
Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair
Matthew Stockert, Barton Malow, Design Specialist II

Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #26-02-39: 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, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

New Hires

Bawden, Susan	Psychology Canton High School	Effective Date 1-21-26
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Major, Kristy	Resource Room Bentley/Miller Elementary Schools	Effective Date 2-11-26
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Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2026, were approved as presented.

B. Celebrating Success

Member Sidhu presented the STARS Award to Robotics Teams from Gallimore Elementary School and East Middle School in recognition of their outstanding achievements, hard work, and perseverance in STEM education. The Gallimore Elementary Robo Relic Hunters earned the Robot Design Award at their State Championships and qualified for an elite international invitational. East Middle School's Infinity Tech Team placed 4th out of 72 teams at the FIRST Robotics State Championship, becoming the first P-CCS middle school team to qualify for the FIRST Robotics World Competition. The team also earned third place for the Inspire Award.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson reported that the Board held a special meeting yesterday to conduct a mid-year superintendent evaluation check-in. She also shared that Board members met prior to tonight's regular meeting to receive negotiation updates. Additionally, President Christenson reminded Board members of the upcoming

Wayne RESA General Membership meeting on Thursday, February 26, at 5:45 p.m., and encouraged their attendance.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee met on February 4, 2026, and reviewed updates on the digital ecosystem computer-to-student program, focusing on evaluating its successes and identifying areas for improvement. The committee also reviewed updates to the elementary ELA curriculum. The next SPA committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Ahmed shared that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next Policy committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the collaboration conference room, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Christenson shared that the F&O Committee met on February 5, 2026, to review technology awards for e-rate network infrastructure, structured cabling, and other technology needs related to bond projects. The committee also reviewed resolutions for fiber maintenance contracts, the purchase of HP laptops, and a mid-year budget amendment for 2025-2026, all of which are included in this evening's agenda. The next F&O Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, and all are welcome to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student 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 provided information about the upcoming P-CEP Shadow Day Program for in-district eighth-grade families who do not currently attend P-CCS. This event will take place on February 20 at Salem High School and will give visiting students the opportunity to shadow a current P-CEP student and meet with counselors and staff.

She also announced that the Schools of Choice application window will be open from February 13 through March 14 for students in grades K–10. Additional details are available on the district website.

Canton CTE teacher Jeff Boykin was congratulated for being named February 2026 Michigan Teacher of the Month, in recognition of his commitment to student success and innovative instructional practices.

In addition, Superintendent Merritt invited the community to attend the 88.1 The Park Record CD and Music Memorabilia Show on February 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Salem High School, noting that proceeds will support the student radio program.

In closing, she shared details about the winter *Coffee with Monica*, scheduled for February 18 from 5-6 p.m. in the Rock Café at Salem High School, providing district families with an opportunity to ask questions and engage in two-way dialogue with district administrators.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Sophia North spoke on the P-CEP student walkout
- David Champagne and Holly Mitchell spoke on instruction in a Tonda Elementary classroom
- Rachel Hayes spoke on the P-CEP student walkout and a newly established community group
- Meta Mendel-Reyes, Hudes Allen, and Laurie Mayers spoke on the P-CEP student walkout and support for immigrant families
- Karen Sisolak introduced herself as a Plymouth City Commissioner and community liaison
- Nancy Faerber spoke on the Invest in MIKids ballot initiative
- Mary Miller spoke in support of students' sense of belonging
- Heather Gatny spoke on support of immigrant families, staff training, and the P-CEP student walkout

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

Mid-Year 2025-2026 Budget Amendment Presentation

Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, provided an overview of the 2025-2026 Mid-Year Budget Amendment for the General Fund. The presentation reviewed updated revenue and expenditure projections reflecting revised student enrollment, state aid adjustments, categorical funding changes, negotiated compensation costs, and operational spending trends since the budget was initially approved with assumptions. Ms. Minnick shared historical financial data, fund balance targets, and the district's ongoing efforts to align financial resources with priorities outlined in the P-CCS Dynamic Plan to best support student needs. The projected year-end fund balance of approximately 15% remains within Board policy and auditor-recommended guidelines. Jody Malbon, Executive Director of Finance and Accounting, assisted with the presentation and was thanked for her dedication and collaboration throughout the budget process. Next steps include ongoing financial surveillance, validation of projections, monthly reporting, and preparation of the year-end final amendment.

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

Final Reading Resolution

- **Action Item #26-02-40:** It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Kehoe to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the 2025-2026 Mid-Year Budget Amendment. (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 for Bid Package #T-12 E-Rate Network Infrastructure and Structured Cabling at Gallimore ES, Hoben ES, Discovery MS, Salem HS, and P-CEP Athletics.** Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems, and Matthew Stockert from Barton Malow presented an overview of recommended network infrastructure and structured cabling purchases for bond-funded projects. These purchases are eligible for partial reimbursement of up to 50% of telecommunications services through the federal E-Rate/Universal Service Fund (USF) program. The resolution recommends awarding contracts to Nerds Xpress, in an amount not to exceed \$73,598.66, and People Driven Technology, in an amount not to exceed \$131,120.44. The total awarded amount for BP #T12 is not to exceed \$204,719.10, with anticipated reimbursements totaling \$73,369.82. These purchases will be funded through proceeds from the 2023 bond funds. (First Reading)
- **Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Package #T-13 Technology related to Additions and Renovations at Gallimore ES, Hoben ES, Discovery MS, Salem HS, and P-CEP Athletics.** Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems, and Matthew Stockert from Barton Malow provided an overview of the recommended technology equipment purchases needed in learning, office, and activity/athletic spaces. The resolution recommends awarding contracts to TEL Systems, in an amount not to exceed \$158,602.54; SoundCom Systems, in an amount not to exceed \$91,630.00; and Security 101, in an amount not to exceed \$404,590.88. The total award for BP #T13 across the three categories is not to exceed \$654,823.42 and will be funded from proceeds of the 2023 bond. (First Reading)
- **Consider Approval of a Resolution for a District Fiber Maintenance Service Contract.** Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems, provided an overview of this recommendation for fiber network maintenance and repair services. School districts are eligible for partial reimbursement of eligible telecommunications costs through the federal E-Rate / Universal Service Fund (USF) program. Due to the upcoming June 30, 2026, expiration of the district's E-Rate-approved contract, the district issued a formal bid to remain eligible for reimbursement for maintenance and repair costs. Following review by the district's E-Rate consultant and technology staff, administration recommends awarding a three-year fiber maintenance service contract to Western Tel-Com, Inc. Estimated annual costs of up to \$60,000 will be partially offset through E-Rate reimbursement, cost sharing with Canton Township and the Michigan Statewide Education Network, and applicable insurance coverage. The resolution authorizes awarding the contract to Western Tel-Com, Inc. from the General Fund operating budget. (First Reading)

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-02-41:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution to Purchase 450 HP ProBook Laptops. Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems, presented the recommendation to replace aging HP 450 G5 laptops that are incompatible with Windows 11 and approaching Microsoft's end of support for Windows 10. Due to anticipated cost increases and security concerns, a first and final approval is requested to purchase 450 HP ProBook 4 G1i 16 Windows laptops from SEHI under the REMC contract at a cost of \$690.52 per unit. The resolution authorizes the purchase in an amount not to exceed \$310,734, funded through proceeds from the 2023 bond funds. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

- **Action Item #26-02-42:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution for an Outdoor Pavilion Structure at Smith Elementary School in recognition of the school's 75th Anniversary. The pavilion will be purchased from GameTime using OMNIA Partners cooperative pricing in the amount of \$68,001.60, with a ten-year warranty. This purchase will be fully funded by the Smith Parent–Family Organization, with the District issuing the purchase order for oversight and reimbursement following installation. Installation is anticipated for spring or summer 2026. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- Sarah Krzyzanski spoke on the Invest in MKids ballot initiative
- Michelle Moustakas spoke on the P-CEP student walkout and support for immigrant families
- Meghann Witmer asked about shadow day opportunities for district resident students
- Jennifer Fulton spoke on P-CEP accessibility for all students

H. Discussion

- Member Sidhu provided highlights from the National School Boards Association Conference, sharing insights on national advocacy efforts for funding, particularly related to IDEA programs, and collaborative discussions with Michigan Association of School Boards partners on strengthening recruitment and retention within the teaching profession. She summarized key sessions on civil discourse, the impact of school air quality on student health and learning, innovative approaches to elevating student voice, and updates on federal education law and the expanding role of artificial intelligence in education. She noted that she will share additional takeaways with the Board.
- After reviewing calendars, the Board scheduled a special meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to continue review of negotiation updates.

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- After the presentation from the Student and Family Engagement Department, Board members expressed interest in receiving data that reflects the impact of the department's initiatives.
- Following the Mid-Year Budget Amendment presentation, Board members asked for yearly data from 1994 to present showing the State's per-pupil foundation allowance and corresponding FTE enrollment figures, if readily available.

J. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education