

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 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 7:02 p.m. in the Boardroom.

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

Absent: Members Kehoe and Sidhu

Administrators: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent-Student & Family Engagement
Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Jen Curry, Chief Academic Officer
Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems
Andrew Steinman, Associate Director of Integrated Technology Systems
Mathew 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
Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair
Brian Gesaman, McCarthy and Smith Senior Project Manager
Nick Tindall, McCarthy and Smith Assistant Project Manager
Derek Dinkeloo, TMP Architecture, Inc., Senior Associate
Natalie Miller, TMP Architecture, Inc., Interior Designer
Brian Gesaman, McCarthy and Smith Senior Project Manager
Joe Ross, McCarthy and Smith Project Manager

Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #26-03-48: It was moved by Member Ahmed and seconded by Member Picard to adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

Resignations

DeJonge, Tracy	Nurse Workman Elementary School	Resignation Effective 3-13-26
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Retirements

Sutherland, Janet	Video Production Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
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Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education from February 24, 2026, and the Special Meeting Minutes from March 2, 2026, were approved as presented.

B. Celebrating Success

Member Picard presented the Volunteers in Public Service (VIPS) Award to the P-CCS Clothing Bank Volunteers in recognition of their vital behind-the-scenes service to students and families. Led by Karen Palgut and Julie Jasinski, the Clothing Bank provides students experiencing financial hardship with quality clothing, helping reduce barriers so they can focus on learning. The need for this service has grown significantly over the past five years, and the program is expected to serve more than 1,000 individuals this year while continuing to partner with

community organizations to reach those in need. Several of the volunteers were present to be recognized for their service and dedication to district families.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson reminded Board members that the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) is offering complimentary registration for Board members to attend its Spring Conference on March 18 and 19. She also reported on recent events attended by Board members, including Coffee with Monica, the P-CCS Band Festival, and a tour of the 88.1 radio studio.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra reported that the SPA Committee met on March 4, 2026, and reviewed presentations on the revised Michigan Health Standards and on the P-CCS Middle Level Program. The next SPA committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 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. She provided a brief recap of previously reviewed updates. She shared that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the collaboration room, and that everyone is welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Christenson reported that the Finance & Operations Committee met on March 5, 2026, and discussed the logistics of sinking funds and how they help districts fund repairs. Representatives from Plante Moran and Miller Canfield were present to provide additional information on this topic. The committee also reviewed resolutions related to classroom furniture, paving, an intergovernmental WAN fiber agreement, and laptop and desktop computer purchases. The next Finance & Operations Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Arjan Swaminathan and Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-chairs, reported that the SVA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. Committee members continue to share important messages to students regarding substance abuse prevention through posters and school announcements. The next SVA Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School. All are welcome to attend.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt congratulated 22 P-CEP students who were recently named National Merit Scholarship finalists, recognized for scoring in the top one percent on the PSAT and for their academic achievements. Finalists are now eligible for a range of scholarships, with winners to be announced later this year. She also recognized the P-CEP Culinary Arts teams under the leadership of Chef Diana Woodward, for their recent success at the ProStart State Hospitality Competition, where the Restaurant Management Team won the state championship and advanced to nationals, the Culinary Quiz Bowl Team earned its first state title, and the Culinary Team placed second by a narrow margin.

She invited the community to attend the P-CEP Athletics and Activities Extravaganza on March 18, from 6-7:30 p.m. This annual event provides an opportunity for students and families to connect with representatives from athletic programs and more than 100 clubs and organizations. She also announced that Early Childhood Program registration opens to the public on March 17, including tuition-based programs for two, three, and four-year-old students as well as a free full-day option for eligible four-year-old students through the Great Start Readiness Program. Additional information can be found at earlychildhood.pccsk12.com

In closing, Superintendent Merritt reminded families of the upcoming College and Career Night on March 25 at Canton High School, where attendees can explore a variety of postsecondary pathways with representatives from colleges, trade schools, businesses, and the military.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Rachel Hayes spoke about pending legislation concerning the content of school library materials
- Will Heckman spoke on the district's extended day program
- Brad Valentine spoke on the new enrollment procedures for P-CCS Summer Camp Programs

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Teaching and Learning – Jen Curry

Middle Level Program Updates (Goals A & B) (Presentation)

Anthony Ruela, Executive Director of Middle Schools, gave a presentation highlighting the P-CCS Middle Level Programming for the 2025-26 school year, with a focus on developing the Educational Development Plan (EDP). The presentation showed the alignment to the district's Dynamic Plan and outlined the requirements of the Michigan Career Development Model, including initiation of the EDP in grade 7, review in grade 8, and ongoing updates in high school. Middle school students engage in structured career exploration through Xello, including interest inventories, career cluster exploration, goal setting, and development of an individualized talent portfolio. A defined scope and sequence ensure consistent delivery across buildings, with lessons embedded in core classes and progress monitored through reporting tools. Next steps include strengthening connections to co-curricular opportunities and increasing family access and engagement.

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

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Purchase of Classroom Furniture for Bid Package #EL-4 (Hoben and Gallimore Elementary) and Bid Package #MS-3 (Discovery Middle School). Representatives from TMP Architecture provided an overview of the recommended furniture purchase, noting that the selection process included input from district administrators, building principals, and staff. The furnishings are ADA-compliant and consistent with those purchased at other district buildings. Several quotes were reviewed, and, if approved, installation is anticipated in August 2026. The cost for this purchase will be \$1,014,137.56 for #EL-4 (including music storage) and \$812,837.22 for #MS-3, for a combined total of \$1,826,974.78, funded through 2023 bond funds. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Package #PCEP-6 Plymouth High School Paving. Representatives from McCarthy and Smith provided an overview of this project, which includes the removal and replacement of existing asphalt in select areas of the Plymouth High School campus, as well as limited sidewalk replacement. No additional stormwater management improvements are required. Construction is anticipated to occur during the summer of 2026. The apparent low bidder is Nagle Paving Company with a base bid of \$915,000.00, plus \$4,675 for the required performance and payment bond, for a total recommended award of \$919,675, which will be paid from 2023 bond funds. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a WAN Intergovernmental Fiber Connectivity Agreement with Northville Public Schools. Mark Salzer and Andrew Steinman, Director and Associate Director of Integrated Technology Systems, reviewed a proposal for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (P-CCS) to enter into a Wide Area Network (WAN) agreement with Northville Public Schools (NPS) to interconnect the districts' fiber networks. The agreement would allow NPS to access its internet service provider through the P-CCS fiber path while each district retains ownership and operational control of its infrastructure, with NPS covering initial build and equipment costs and no ongoing payments between districts. This partnership would enable P-CCS to discontinue its leased fiber with WOW, improve network performance and long-term cost control, and enhance reliability by providing a second fiber route and access to an additional ISP for increased resilience. Legal counsel has reviewed the agreement, and administration recommends Board approval. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-03-49:** It was moved by Member Picard and seconded by Member Westra to Consider Approval of a Purchase of 900 HP ProBook Laptops. Mark Salzer and Andrew Steinman, Director and Associate Director of Integrated Technology Systems, reviewed a proposal to purchase Windows staff laptops to replace devices acquired in 2021. Due to higher-than-anticipated pricing increases identified through the REMC contract, administration recommends accelerating the purchase ahead of the planned 2027 refresh cycle. The recommended purchase is for 900 HP ProBook 4G1i 16 laptops from SEHL through the REMC Save cooperative contract at \$689.02 per unit, for a total amount not to exceed \$620,118, funded through 2023 bond proceeds. (First and Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Picard, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 5-0

- **Action Item #26-03-50:** It was moved by Member Ahmed and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for Bid Package #EL-5 Farrand Elementary School Playground. This project includes replacing existing playground equipment, reconfiguring the current layout, and increasing ADA accessibility, with construction anticipated to begin in the summer of 2026. The total recommended project cost is \$1,000,581.30, to be funded through 2023 Bond funds. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Picard, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 5-0

- **Action Item #26-03-51:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Vos to Approve a Resolution for Bid Package #MS-3 Discovery Middle School. The project includes lighting and mechanical upgrades, carpet replacement, and corridor ceiling replacement, life management renovations, toilet partition replacement, media center renovations, and parking lot replacement. The total recommended project cost is \$4,451,544, to be funded with 2023 bond funds. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Picard, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 5-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- None

H. Action Items/Discussion

- **Action Item #26-03-52:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Ahmed to Approve a Resolution for a Commercial Naming Opportunity – orsa. Superintendent Merritt shared that this naming rights partnership will provide enhanced learning opportunities and support student readiness for the global economy, with orsa committing \$5 million over 25 years to benefit K–12 students. The agreement has undergone administrative and legal review to ensure alignment with state law, Board policy, and the best interests of the district, including consideration of building naming. Approval allows the district to finalize the agreement and move forward with this investment in the future of P-CCS students. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Picard, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was carried 5-0

- **Discussion – Board Objective #3 Next Steps** – Board members discussed next steps for Board Objective #3, reviewed their calendars, and identified April 7 or April 20 as potential dates for a workshop to complete this work. Superintendent Merritt will contact the MASB facilitator to confirm availability.

I. Follow-up Board Questions

None

J. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education