

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 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 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Present: Members Ahmed*, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Absent: Member Picard

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

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

Josh Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #26-03-53: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Kehoe to adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

Leaves

Clark, Megan	Psychologist Eriksson Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 3-10-26 through 6-10-26
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Retirements

Adams, Elisabeth	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Derkos, Theresa	Elementary Classroom Hulsing Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Sutherland, David	Political Science/Practical Law American Media Studies Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26

Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education from March 10, 2026, were approved as presented.

B. Celebrating Success

Member Vos presented STARS Awards to eight P-CEP students recognized in the prestigious Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. Their submissions exemplify the strength of P-CEP's arts curriculum and showcase exceptional creativity, technical skill, and artistic expression in areas such as painting and photography. Students earned Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention distinctions, with Gold Key recipients eligible for national recognition and scholarships.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson shared that members Ahmed and Sidhu recently attended the Michigan Association for Computer Users and Learning (MACUL) conference. Member Sidhu shared key takeaways from the conference and provided information from sessions related to the role of artificial intelligence in education. President Christenson also extended congratulations to Member Sidhu on her recent election as a Member at Large for the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB). Additionally, Member Sidhu will be honored at the MASB Awards Ceremony on April 30 for achieving the Level 5 Master Diamond Award in recognition of her completion of numerous professional development courses.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. 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 Sidhu shared that the Policy Committee met this evening and continued reviewing and researching potential new policy providers, as the committee seeks a new provider that offers the greatest level of customization and ease of use for the community. She shared that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 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 Finance & Operations Committee met on March 19, 2026, and reviewed several items, including a turf field replacement resolution, updates on 2020 bond projects, and preliminary 2026-27 budget assumptions. The committee also reviewed the results of the community budget survey and the February financial statements. The next Finance & Operations Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 5 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 met on March 16, 2026, and continued their work on substance abuse awareness initiatives, including making posters and creating student announcements. The committee also discussed the co-chair application process. The next SVA Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School. All are welcome to attend.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt shared that, in recognition of *March is Reading Month*, she recently visited classrooms and read with students, highlighting the excitement and joy that reading brings to young learners. She expressed her appreciation to the district's dedicated teachers for organizing engaging activities that foster a love of reading.

She also congratulated DECA chapters from Canton, Plymouth, and Salem High Schools for their success at the State Career Development Conference, where 19 P-CEP students were named state finalists and 8 qualified for international competition.

Superintendent Merritt encouraged the community to attend the P-CCS Mental Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kellogg Park, highlighting efforts to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and to connect families with local resources.

She also noted the release of the 2026-27 district calendar, with the school year beginning August 31, and encouraged families to review details on the district website.

She concluded by acknowledging the upcoming spring break and wished everyone a restful and meaningful time with loved ones.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Laurie Mayer spoke on legislative initiatives to remove transgender historical references
- Rachel Hayes spoke on school voucher programs
- Cascy Brant spoke about the MCHS Family of Services Senior Program

- Sarah Krzyzanski spoke on the district's-How to Address a Concern-Procedures
- Bryan Jager spoke on Special Education Advocacy
- Steve Gentilia Spoke on the budget process and a focus on the best interest of the full community
- Michelle Moustakas spoke on support for immigrant families

**Member Ahmed arrived at 7:37 p.m.*

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Teaching and Learning – Jen Curry

ELA Curriculum Updates (Goals A & B) (Presentation)

Jan Douglas, P-CCS K-5 Curriculum Coordinator, provided updates on the district's Elementary ELA Curriculum. The presentation highlighted the district's continued implementation of a Science of Reading–aligned approach, including UFLI Foundations (K–2) and Collaborative Classroom (K–5), both state-approved, evidence-based Tier 1 resources. The update emphasized instructional shifts toward teaching the reading comprehension process and the use of assessment tools, including DIBELS and CORE Phonics, to guide differentiated instruction and monitor student progress. Data shared showed overall student growth and a reduction in the number of students requiring intensive support. Ongoing supports include administrative learning walks, small group instruction, and student-centered coaching cycles. Next steps include continued focus on data-informed instruction, job-embedded professional learning, and consistent implementation of evidence-based practices

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

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

2026-2027 General Fund Budget Progress Updates (Presentation)

Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, presented an overview of the 2026–2027 General Fund budget progress and preliminary assumptions, including alignment with the District's Dynamic Plan priorities. She reviewed the budget development timeline, noting key updates from the January Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC) and the Governor's proposed budget, which includes a \$250 per-pupil increase in the foundation allowance.

Preliminary district assumptions include a projected enrollment decline of approximately 75 students, partially offset by the increase in per-pupil funding, along with expected changes in staffing, retirement costs, health care expenses, utilities, and contracted services. She outlined key budget considerations, including maintaining appropriate fund balance levels, aligning resources with enrollment trends, evaluating program effectiveness, leveraging bond funds, and strategically using grant funding.

Ms. Minnick reviewed the district's current fund balance and noted that planned, multi-year reductions and/or revenue enhancements of approximately \$10 million will be required to maintain the Board's 15% fund balance target for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Next steps include continued budget development, monitoring state budget activity, refining assumptions, and presenting a proposed budget for Board consideration and adoption in June 2026

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

Community Budget Survey Results

Member Kehoe, Treasurer of the Board of Education, reviewed stakeholder feedback and results from the Budget Community Survey, which included input from staff members and the community. The survey gathers feedback to help identify priorities as the district enters the next budget cycle. 35 responses were received.

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-03-54:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Package #PCEP-6 East Turf Replacement Purchase. Brian Gesaman, McCarthy and Smith Senior Project Manager, provided an overview of the proposed turf replacement project. An independent evaluation determined the turf has reached the end of its expected service life, with heavy use and recent flooding accelerating deterioration. To meet the project timeline, the district will utilize Sourcewell cooperative purchasing. Construction is planned for summer 2026. It is recommended that the contract be

awarded to AstroTurf Great Lakes of Novi, Michigan, in the amount of \$650,547, including bonds, with a \$65,000 contingency, to be funded from the 2023 bond budget. (First and Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #26-03-55:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to 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). Several quotes were reviewed, and 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, with both projects under their respective bond budgets and funded through 2023 Bond funds. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #26-03-56:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Package #PCEP-6 Plymouth High School Paving. This project 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 \$4,675.00 for the required performance and payment bond, for a total recommended award of \$919,675.00, and will be paid from 2023 bond funds (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #26-03-57:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Ahmed to Consider Approval of a Resolution for a WAN Intergovernmental Fiber Connectivity Agreement with Northville Public Schools. This resolution requests approval of a Wide Area Network (WAN) agreement between Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (P-CCS) and 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. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 6-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

H. Discussion

The Board discussed possible dates for a Board workshop and reached consensus on April 16 or 22, with a 5:30 p.m. start time. When confirmed, the date will be shared in the next Board notes.

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- Board members would like to know the total number of respondents to the annual Community Budget Survey over the past five years.
- Board members requested, if available, a summary of responses from Family Exit Surveys completed by families who have left the district.

J. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 4-14-26/dr