

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 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, Picard, Sidhu, and Vos

Absent: Member Westra

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
Caitlin Opfermann, Program Coordinator for Early Childhood Education
Kitty L. Hjelmroth, Special Ed. Supervisor / Early Childhood & Speech-Language Pathologists
Joe Greene, Executive Director of High Schools
Dr. Chrystelle Rasolonjatovo, High School Curriculum Coordinator
Dr. Isabel Haller-Gryc, Multilingual Learners (MLL) & World Language Curriculum Coordinator

Others Present: Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board
Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair
Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair

Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #26-04-58: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

New Hires

Fletcher, Megan	Resource Room Gallimore/Smith Elementary Schools	Effective 4-21-26
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Retirements

Julian-Price, Elaine	Pre-K (GSRP) Allen Early Learning Academy	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Kimball, Thomas	Digital/Multimedia – Photoshop Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26

**Member Ahmed arrived at 7:04 p.m.*

Minutes

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

Out-of-Country Field Trips

- Costa Rica – Plymouth High School – Grades 9-12
- Costa Rica – Salem High School – Grades 9-12

B. Celebrating Success

Member Ahmed presented STARS Awards to 27 outstanding middle and high school students selected for the All-State Band and Orchestra and State Honors Choir. These students earned their placements through competitive auditions with the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association and the Michigan School Vocal Music Association, reflecting both their individual talent and the strength of the district's music programs.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson welcomed everyone back from spring break. She reminded her Board colleagues of the Board Governance Workshop scheduled for April 22, 2026, which will focus on Board Goal Objective #3 and updating the operating manual and guidelines. She also highlighted recent events attended by Board members, including the P-CEP Jazz Band concert and a local Cub Scout meeting.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Sidhu shared that the SPA Committee met on April 8, 2026. The committee reviewed presentations from the Early Childhood Department and High School Updates. The committee also reviewed a resolution for the high school math curriculum and multilingual (MLL) curriculum. The next SPA committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 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 has not met since the last Board meeting. She shared that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 5 p.m. in the Collaboration Conference Room, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the Finance & Operations Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next Finance and Operations Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 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 has not met since the last Board meeting. 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 several recognitions and updates highlighting staff and student achievements across the district. Kathy Grodus, P-CCS Psychologist and Mental Health Manager, was named NAMI Michigan Secondary Educator of the Year for her leadership in advancing districtwide mental health initiatives, including programming through the Student and Family Engagement Department, the Mental Health and Wellness Fair, and collaboration with the Suicide Prevention Coalition. Students were also recognized for their accomplishments, including Josh Patterson, who was named the Michigan Youth Advocate of the Year for his work with Students vs. Stigma, and Arjun Swaminathan, who won the 2026 University of Michigan Brain Bee and will advance to the national competition. Additionally, P-CEP and East Middle School HOSA students earned top placements at regional and state competitions and will advance to the next level. At Starkweather Academy, staff members Stephanie McMaster and Baljit Kaur were honored by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity for their contributions to student success.

Superintendent Merritt also spoke about attending the State of the Community luncheon and highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen connections with local leaders and partners. Families were encouraged to complete the 2026 School Relationship Survey by May 1 to provide valuable feedback to guide district decisions.

She also shared that the latest edition of the P-CCS Press was recently released and should arrive in mailboxes soon, featuring student achievements and highlights of exciting happenings throughout the district.

In closing, she highlighted the upcoming SJ5K Charity Run/Walk on May 3, which supports local families facing medical hardships and has raised more than \$1 million to date. Student leaders Charlotte Andrews and Sharbin Sajadpour provided information about the families being supported this year through the event.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Chris Robbins spoke about the 250th Anniversary of America
- Rachel Hayes spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students
- Heather Gatny spoke in support of immigrant families
- Michelle Moustakas spoke about CAPES club activities
- Caitlin Reynolds spoke about a situation at P-CEP

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Student and Family Engagement – Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs

Early Childhood Highlights (Goal A) (Presentation)

Caitlin Opfermann, Program Coordinator for Early Childhood Education, and Kitty L. Hjelmroth, Special Education Supervisor for Early Childhood and Speech-Language Pathologists, presented an overview of the district's Early Childhood programs, including Early On (birth–3), Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), and Pre-K programming (GSRP and tuition-based), noting alignment with the P-CCS Dynamic Plan.

The presentation outlined a comprehensive early childhood model focused on developmentally appropriate, play-based instruction supporting literacy, numeracy, communication, and social-emotional development. The program prioritizes inclusive practices, early intervention, and strong family engagement to build a foundation for long-term academic success. Data demonstrated growth across all domains from fall to winter.

Highlights included strong CTE partnerships, recognition as a model ECSE program, increased preschool and kindergarten enrollment, and new program offerings. Future goals include expanding preschool access, increasing inclusion opportunities, developing an early childhood hub, improving facilities (including licensed playgrounds), and increasing the percentage of students who continue in the district through K–12.

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

Teaching and Learning – Jen Curry

P-CCS High School Level Program Highlights (Goal A) (Presentation)

Joe Greene, Executive Director of High Schools, presented on P-CCS High School programming aligned with Dynamic Plan Goal A, with a focus on math achievement, increasing performance, and closing achievement gaps. The presentation highlighted the district's use of equity-based MTSS to support both academic success and student belonging, as well as instructional shifts over the past two years that emphasize deeper student thinking, collaboration, common assessments, and math curriculum pilots (IM360 and Amplify).

Data presented showed consistently high and improving pass rates in Semester 1 math courses, increasing from approximately 91% in 2021–22 to nearly 94% in 2025–26, along with targeted efforts to improve attendance, behavior, and student engagement. The presentation also showed growth across all demographic groups, with achievement gaps narrowing, though not yet fully closed.

Next steps include continued focus on strengthening Tier 1 supports, ongoing instructional coaching, expansion of equitable grading practices, and implementation of the newly adopted math curriculum.

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

First Reading Resolutions

- **Consider Approval of a Resolution for a High School Math Curriculum Adoption** - Jen Curry, Chief Academic Officer, Chrystelle Rasolonjatovo, High School Curriculum Coordinator, and Joe Greene, Executive Director of High Schools, provided an overview of the recommendation to adopt the Imagine Learning IM 360 curriculum as the new high school mathematics resource. The program aligns with Michigan standards, emphasizes problem-solving and conceptual understanding, and was selected following a comprehensive, multi-year review and pilot process. Implementation is planned over two years beginning in 2026–2027. The total cost associated with this recommended purchase is \$1,206,676 and includes a six-year subscription, workbooks, student digital subscriptions, teacher editions, professional development, and all ancillary materials. (First Reading)

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Multilingual Learner Curriculum Revision - Jen Curry, Chief Academic Officer, and Dr. Isabel Haller-Gryc, Multilingual Learners (MLL) & World Language Curriculum Coordinator, provided an overview of the proposed adoption of National Geographic Lift instructional materials for high school Multilingual Learner (EL) courses (ELs 1 and 2), beginning in the 2026–2027 school year. The recommendation follows a successful pilot demonstrating strong student engagement, appropriate scaffolding, and cultural relevance. The new materials align with the 2020 WIDA English Language Development Standards, replacing outdated resources and supporting state assessment requirements. The total cost of \$9,306.22 will be funded through the General Fund. (First Reading)

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

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

H. Action Items / Discussion

First Reading Resolution

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Sponsorship Agreement with Henry Ford Health System. Superintendent Merritt provided an overview of a one-year agreement with Henry Ford Health System (HFHS), under which HFHS will provide \$20,000 to be divided equally among the three P-CEP athletic departments. In exchange, HFHS will receive signage at various high school athletic venues and recognition through district promotional channels. The agreement does not include naming rights and was reviewed by legal counsel to ensure the best interests of the district. (First Reading)

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- From the Early Childhood Presentation - The Board requested information on the number of students earning an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education, as well as how long the program has been in place
- From the High School Highlights Presentation - The Board requested:
 - Second-semester math grade data to assess student progress
 - Pre-COVID math grade data for comparison
 - Information on the research supporting the adoption of the new math curriculum
 - The number of subscriptions the district is purchasing for the new math curriculum, and how this aligns with current and projected enrollment
 - To view a demo of the new math curriculum
 - A detailed grade breakdown (for at least one class) showing how many students earned A's, B's, etc., among those receiving a passing grade
- From the Henry System Sponsorship - The Board asked for clarification on whether there are defined parameters on how the district will spend these funds.

J. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education