

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**May 26, 2026**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 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, Vos, and Westra

Absent: None

District Staff: 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  
Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Jen Curry, Chief Academic Officer  
Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board  
Joe Greene, Executive Director of High Schools

Others Present: Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair  
Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair  
Natalie Miller, TMP Architecture, Inc., Interior Designer  
Anna Read, TMP Architecture, Inc., Principal Project Manager  
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 #26-05-66:** It was moved by Member Sidhu 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

**Leaves**

|              |                                                   |                                                                |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Low, Kathryn | Elementary Classroom<br>Hulsing Elementary School | Childcare Leave of Absence<br>Effective 8-25-26 through 6-9-27 |
| Tebben, Sara | (0.8) French<br>Plymouth High School              | Childcare Leave of Absence<br>Effective 8-25-26 through 6-9-27 |

**Resignations**

|                 |                                                              |                               |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Burch, Clayton  | Supervisor of Special Education-PCEP<br>Plymouth High School | Resignation Effective 6-30-26 |
| Cuyler, Jessica | P-CEP Registrar<br>Plymouth High School                      | Resignation Effective 5-27-26 |
| Sturdy, Nichole | Student Support Coordinator<br>Workman Elementary School     | Resignation Effective 6-12-26 |

**Retirements**

|                  |                             |                              |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Belanger, Brenda | French<br>Salem High School | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|

|                       |                                                                                              |                              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Campbell, Kelly       | Elementary Classroom<br>Workman Elementary School                                            | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
| Carroll, Joshua       | Journey Program (.20 31a)<br>Plymouth High School                                            | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
| Duran, Ronda          | Elementary Classroom<br>Workman Elementary School                                            | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
| Fedewa, David         | Physical Education Elementary<br>Dodson Elementary School                                    | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
| Giannandrea, Leighann | Elementary Classroom<br>Eriksson Elementary School                                           | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
| May, Kimberly         | Director of State & Federal Programs<br>and School Improvement<br>Educational Support Center | Retirement Effective 6-30-26 |
| Moss, AnnMarie        | Physical Education Elementary<br>Workman Elementary School                                   | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
| Rushlow, Michelle     | Innovation Period Teacher<br>Miller Elementary School                                        | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
| Shamey, Nicol         | Journey Program (.40 31A)<br>Plymouth High School                                            | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
| Smiley, Michele       | History<br>Canton High School                                                                | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
| Washington, Carolyn   | Elementary School Principal<br>Farrand Elementary School                                     | Retirement Effective 6-30-26 |
| Young, Rebecca        | Elementary Classroom<br>Workman Elementary School                                            | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |
| Zinser, Julie         | Elementary Classroom<br>Smith Elementary School                                              | Retirement Effective 6-10-26 |

### Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education from May 12, 2026, were approved as presented.

### Action Items

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Cooperative Agreement with Wayne-Westland Community School District - Career Technical Education Program for the 2026-2027 School Year (First and Final Reading)

## **B. Celebrating Success**

Member Sidhu presented the STARS Award to Josh Patterson, Student Voice in Action Co-Chair and Plymouth High School senior. Josh is a student leader whose lasting impact on P-CCS is reflected in his advocacy for student voice, including bringing meaningful student perspectives to Board of Education discussions, his service to others, and his dedication to strengthening P-CCS. Through his leadership of SVA and commitment to peer support, Josh has left a meaningful legacy that will continue to benefit students for years to come.

## **C. Board Committee Reports/Action**

### President's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson welcomed everyone back from the Memorial Day holiday weekend and acknowledged the significance of honoring those who served our country. She noted that graduation and the end of the school year are quickly approaching and shared her anticipation for next week's commencement ceremonies. She also recognized Board members who attended P-CEP Honors Night events, served as guest judges at the P-CCS Art Show, and attended the orsa Hub grand opening.

### 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, June 3, 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 as a Committee of the Whole. She noted that, after a several-month review process, the committee selected Miller Johnson as its recommended policy service provider. Today's meeting provided an opportunity for Board members to ask questions and provide feedback before the recommendation is brought to the Board for formal action. The next Policy Meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

**Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe**

Member Kehoe shared that the Finance and Operations Committee met on May 21, 2026, to review several items, including a pilot furniture purchase for P-CEP, a painting contract for Hoben Elementary, a recommendation to replace security cameras, and the Durham contract renewal. The committee also reviewed the budget update and assumptions presentation, as well as the April financial statements. The next Finance and Operations Committee meeting will be held on June 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom as a Committee of the Whole so the full Board can participate in the discussion regarding a potential sinking fund. The meeting was rescheduled to this date to accommodate Board members' attendance at the Starkweather commencement ceremony. The next F&O Meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2026, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom. The public is welcome to attend.

**Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson**

Josh Patterson and Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chairs, shared that the SVA Committee met on May 18, 2026. Representatives from orsa credit union attended the meeting and exchanged ideas with students on ways to increase financial literacy across the district. The committee also introduced a Substance Abuse Awareness feedback form to collect student input to guide enhancements to the initiative for the coming school year. The next SVA Committee meeting will be held in the fall, with the meeting date to be announced once scheduled.

**D. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Merritt highlighted several recent district achievements, beginning with the P-CEP Girls Flag Football team's qualification for the Michigan State Finals at Ford Field in the program's inaugural season. She also celebrated student success at 88.1 The Park, where the radio station surpassed \$200,000 in its Amplification Capital Campaign, securing matching funds from the Plymouth Rotary Foundation to complete new production and interview studios.

Superintendent Merritt expressed appreciation to the Bosch Community Fund for a recent \$47,135 grant. This investment will expand STEM learning opportunities through robotics programming, hands-on learning experiences, and teacher professional development.

Academic excellence was also recognized as P-CEP seniors Aarush Kumar, John Collins, and Andrew Tai were named 2026 National Merit Scholarship recipients. This prestigious recognition reflects their dedication to academic excellence.

Superintendent Merritt also reflected on the recent grand opening of the orsa hub at Canton High School, which will provide students with innovative learning opportunities in areas such as robotics, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. The event also celebrated the district's 25-year, \$5 million partnership with orsa Credit Union.

In closing, she announced the launch of the new P-CCS Dashboard, an online resource that provides the community with access to district performance, financial, and Dynamic Plan data through the district website.

**E. Citizens' Comments**

- Rachel Hayes spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students
- Kelly Giromini spoke on the Credit Recovery Program
- Venus Harris commented on district website information for post-secondary special education programming
- Sheryl Courson spoke on Middle School Robotics
- John Stewart spoke about an Educational Summit
- Judy Oldfield-Wilson spoke on media center para-professional positions
- Mary Miller read a children's book on Belonging
- Jessica Hoyt spoke on Workman Elementary class sizes
- Danielle Kilbride spoke on Workman Young 5's availability
- Michelle Moustakas spoke on budget reductions and the November election

## **F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations**

### **Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick**

#### **2026-27 Budget Progress Update and Final Assumptions (Presentation)**

Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, presented an overview of the proposed 2026-27 General Fund Budget and final assumptions, including the budget development timeline, enrollment trends, state budget proposals, and findings from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC), highlighting alignment with the P-CCS Dynamic Plan.

Ms. Minnick reported that the Executive, House, and Senate budget proposals have been released and include an expected \$250 increase to the foundation allowance, bringing per-pupil funding to approximately \$10,300, while differing in their support for weighted funding, dual enrollment, literacy initiatives, universal meals, teacher retention, and school safety and mental health grants. The budget assumes a projected enrollment decline of 75 students, with final budget adoption scheduled for June 23, 2026.

The presentation included a review of projected fund balance levels and the district's ongoing efforts to maintain long-term financial stability while protecting classroom instruction and student supports. Ms. Minnick noted a projected FY26 amended fund balance of 15% and advised that budget reductions of approximately \$10 million in FY27 and \$8 million annually in FY28 and FY29 will be necessary to maintain that level.

The Board also reviewed proposed staffing reductions, operational efficiencies, contract reviews, and planned investments in employee compensation, equitable resource allocation, technology support, and extracurricular programming. Administration emphasized that budget decisions continue to prioritize classroom instruction, student and staff well-being, and long-term financial sustainability.

Next steps include continued monitoring of state and federal funding and enrollment trends, followed by the June budget review, public hearing, and final budget adoption process.

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

#### **First Reading Resolutions**

- **Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Pilot Furniture Purchase for P-CEP.** Representatives from TMP Architecture, Inc. and Joe Greene, Executive Director of High Schools, gave a presentation and provided an overview of this recommendation to purchase Round 2 pilot flexible, movement-friendly classroom furniture and equipment from Great Lakes Furniture Supply through the OMNIA cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$51,500.12, to be funded through 2023 bond funds. (First Reading)

**Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Packet #EL-4 Hoben Painting - Revised Contract Award.** Brian Gesaman, Senior Project Manager with McCarthy & Smith, presented this revised recommendation. Following the submittal review process, the original contractor, Papa's Painting, was unable to complete the specified work under the terms of the original contract due to issues meeting project specifications and increased material costs. It is recommended that Bid Division 120 be awarded to Trio Painting, the next lowest qualified bidder, in the amount of \$44,450. This revised award is \$2,030 higher than the original contract value and will be funded through 2023 bond funds, with no impact on the overall project budget. (First Reading)

- **Consider Approval of a Resolution for Camera Replacements.** Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, provided an overview of this recommendation to upgrade 61 security cameras at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park (P-CEP) to ensure compatibility with the district's newer visible firearm detection technology. The proposed upgrades include new Avigilon cameras and associated hardware to enhance district-wide safety and security measures. It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase of the cameras and related equipment from Safeware through the OMNIA cooperative purchasing program in an amount not to exceed \$98,245.67. Installation will be completed by P-CCS Safety and Security staff, and the purchase will be funded through 2024-2025 State School Aid Act Section 31aa funds. (First Reading)

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

#### **Final Reading Resolutions**

- **Action Item #26-05-67:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and Seconded by Member Ahmed to **Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Packet #MS-3 Discovery Middle School Furniture and Equipment Purchase-Package.** This recommendation will furnish three repurposed, former computer lab spaces to support

instructional and student needs, including a flexible learning classroom, a conference/meeting space, and a sensory lounge. The total cost of \$89,376.12 will be funded through the 2020 Bond Program. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

- **Action Item #26-05-68:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and Seconded by Member Westra to Consider Approval of a Resolution for a 2026-2027 Contract Renewal with ABM Education Services, LLC. This is a recommendation for a one-year renewal of the existing service agreement with ABM Education Services, LLC for custodial services, extending the contract from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The renewal reflects terms outlined in the sixth Memorandum of Understanding, including adjustments for wage increases and additional staffing needs. The total annual contract value is \$4,916,958. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: Member Picard and Vos

The motion was carried 5-2

### **Teaching and Learning – Jen Curry**

#### **Final Reading Resolutions**

**Action Item #26-05-69:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and Seconded by Member Vos to Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Course Revision (Peer-to-Peer Physical Education, also known as Peer-to-Peer Team Games). This course revision will offer students an inclusive collaborative environment where neurotypical and neurodivergent students work together as they explore elective subjects, build meaningful relationships, and develop lifelong skills for success. Recommended resources include five teacher curriculum development days to create course lessons at a cost of \$741.25. There are no textbooks or digital resources required for the course. No new FTE is required, as teachers from the ASD and CI classrooms, along with a current physical education teacher, will teach the course. The course is proposed for implementation beginning in the second semester of the 2026-2027 school year and continuing thereafter. (First Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

### **G. Remaining Citizens' Comments**

None

### **H. Action Items / Discussion**

#### **Final Reading Resolutions**

- **Action Item #26-05-70:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Vos to Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Local District's Vote on Wayne RESA Budget. In accordance with Section 380.624 of the Revised School Code, Local School District Boards must adopt a resolution expressing their support or disapproval of the proposed Wayne RESA budget, prior to June 1, 2026. Supporting materials were made available for Board members' review. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

### **I. Follow-up Board Questions**

- A Board member requested data for the past three years showing the percentage of staff reductions, comparing teacher and administrative reductions.
- A Board member would like to review data showing the ratio of administrators to students.
- A Board member asked about the future plans for the Student Career Center
- A Board member asked whether it would be possible to coordinate the furniture replacement at Canton High School to occur at the same time as the replacements at Salem and Plymouth High Schools

**J. Adjournment**

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:06 p.m.

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Judy Westra  
Secretary, Board of Education

\*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 6-9-26/dr