

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Superintendent Merritt shared the sad news of the unexpected passing of Salem High School Plant Engineer, Mike Runstrom. Mike was part of the P-CCS family for 24 years and was known for his genuine smile, kind spirit, and tireless work ethic. She extended heartfelt condolences to Mike's family and colleagues and requested a moment of silence in his honor.

President Christenson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Boardroom.

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

Absent: Member Picard

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
Cathie Williams, Curriculum Coordinator, K-12 Electives
Matthew Lents, Director of Capital Programs and Facilities

Others Present: Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair
Krushna Modi, SVA Student Co-Chair
Anna Read, TMP Architecture, Inc., Principal Project Manager

President Christenson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Member Ahmed arrived at 7:05 p.m.*

**Member Vos arrived at 7:05 p.m.*

2026-2027 Budget Hearing

The Budget and Truth in Taxation Hearing was called to order at 7:05 p.m. to provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, and Jody Malbon, Executive Director of Finance and Accounting, presented an overview of the proposed budget, which must be adopted by June 30.

The presentation included a review of fiscal year financial updates, projected revenues and expenditures, state aid assumptions, enrollment projections, staffing considerations, operational costs, and Truth in Taxation requirements. District enrollment is projected to decline by approximately 75 students, while initial state aid projections indicate an increase to \$10,300 per pupil, which is a \$250 increase per student.

Ms. Minnick noted that the proposed budget aligns with the P-CCS Dynamic Plan and maintains the District's 15% fund balance target while supporting student programs and staff compensation. Budget reductions of approximately \$10 million in FY27 and \$8 million in FY28 and FY29 are anticipated to maintain this fund balance level.

Next steps include continued monitoring of state aid outcomes, staffing adjustments based on enrollment, and a mid-year budget amendment to reflect any legislative budget changes.

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

First Reading Resolution

Consider Approval of a Resolution to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Budget (First Reading)

Board members and citizens were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions on the proposed budget.

Citizens' Comments on the 2026-2027 Budget

- Alexandria Weber, Katherine Breur, Melanie Campbell, Holly Henien, Amy Collins, and Shanna Lasker spoke about budget reductions in support of nursing positions.
- Steffy McCourt spoke about budget reductions and in support of nurses, media center paraprofessionals, and student support coordinators.
- Jamie Gales spoke about budget reductions and in support of Assistive Technology positions
- Jennifer Bennett and Charles Hameline spoke about budget reductions and in support of copy paraprofessional positions
- Nick Ivacko spoke about budget reductions and in support of paraprofessional and nursing positions.

The Budget Hearing Convened at 8:42 p.m.

President Christenson called the Regular Meeting to order at 8:42 p.m.

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

Action Item #26-06-69: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to adopt the agenda and the consent agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

The motion was passed 6-0

Leaves

Calomino, Elizabeth	Elementary Classroom Eriksson Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 5-18-26 through 1-3-27
Lechowicz, Libby	English Plymouth High School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 5-27-26 through 1-15-27

Resignations

Brekke, Grace	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School	Resignation Effective 6-10-26
Goldy-Lewis, Kathleen	Cognitive Impairment Bentley Elementary School	Resignation Effective 6-10-26
Stone, Deborah	Social Worker Bentley Elementary School	Resignation Effective 6-10-26

Retirements

Berger, Jonathan	Language Arts Discovery Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Darby, Rebekka	Elementary Classroom Workman Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Davies, Amanda	Media Specialist West Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-15-26
Dentel, Charles	Music Elementary Isbister Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Depper, Janice	Biology Canton High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26

Erickson, Deborah	Media Specialist Dodson Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Feldscher, Valerie	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Foster, Michelle	Elementary Classroom Workman Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Fowler, Julie	Elective - Science Inq. Discovery Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Gallagher, Courtney	Elementary Classroom Smith Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Gravin, Wendy	Elementary Classroom Miller Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Hall, Charles	Project Lead the Way (STEM) Discovery Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Johnson, Katherine	Math Intervention Teacher Hoben Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Johnson, Brenda	Co Tch with Gen Ed Teacher Discovery Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Keith, Bill	W.S.D.P. Station Manager Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-30-26
King, Carolyn	Literacy Interventionist - General Fund Bentley Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Majszak, Jeremy	Science West Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Martinsky, Leslie	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
McCormick, Roxane	Physical Education Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Murphy, Pamela	Elementary Classroom Eriksson Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Novak, Malissa	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Oke, Kristine	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Olds, Diana	Pre-K (GSRP) Allen Learning Academy	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Otto, Colleen	(.5) Literacy Interventionist - Title I Farrand Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Pumper, Cathryn	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Ruhala, Heather	Level Literacy Interventionist (Title I) Eriksson Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Sheets, Robert	Math Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Smith, Julie	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26

Sparks, Kimberly	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Tews, Kim	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Trucks, Lisa	Coordinator of Extended Day Programs Extended Day Care Allen Early Learning Academy	Retirement Effective 6-30-26
Trzeciak, Mark	STEM West Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Tyszkiewicz, Kurt	Asst. Superintendent - Student Services Administration Building	Retirement Effective 6-30-26
Willett, Nicole	English Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Wiseman, Cheryl	Nurse East Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26

Tenure Recommendations

Sandra Allain	Elementary Classroom Farrand Elementary School	Tenure Effective 9-6-25
Amanda Graves	Integrated Science Liberty Middle School	Tenure Effective 9-6-25
Douglas McDougall	Science Discovery Middle School	Tenure Effective 9-7-25
Laura O'Neil	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Tenure Effective 9-26-25
Meghan Taylor	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Tenure Effective 9-6-25
Jeremiah Vera-Burgos	History Plymouth High School	Tenure Effective 9-19-25
Catherine Anderson	Math Discovery Middle School	Tenure Effective 10-17-25
Paige Braumuller	Clinical Behavior Specialist Bentley Elementary School	Tenure Effective 10-3-25
Erin Carlesco	Early-on Service Provider Allen Early Learning Academy	Tenure Effective 10-3-25
Erin Collinash	Math Intervention Teacher Farrand Elementary School	Tenure Effective 10-10-25
Lauren Corsi	Resource Room/Co-Teach Salem High School	Tenure Effective 11-14-25
Scott Victor	Physical Educ. Elementary Gallimore Elementary School	Tenure Effective 11-28-25
Jennifer Beams	MLL Teacher Salem High School	Tenure Effective 1-9-26
Jason Windes	Social Studies West Middle School	Tenure Effective 1-23-26

Kathryn Carr	Math Salem High School	Tenure Effective 3-6-27
Robert Foster	English Plymouth High School	Tenure Effective 3-24-27
Stiffany McCourt	Language Arts Discovery Middle School	Tenure Effective 4-10-26
Eric Newton	Resource Room Canton High School	Tenure Effective 4-16-26
Clara Albarkat	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Caitlin Berner	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Nicole Caliskan	Elementary Classroom Workman Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Sarah Canfield	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Bethany Caswell	Elementary Classroom Hulsing Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Athena Frisco	Elementary ASD Tonda Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Tiffany Gartner	Media Specialist Eriksson Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Chelsea Gwizdala	Elementary Classroom Eriksson Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Kathrin Jacquillet	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Megan Kammo	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Jason Liguori	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Morgan Mettlach	Elementary Classroom Eriksson Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Taylor Murphy	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Lauren Nalepa	Art Secondary Salem Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Brandi Ngoma	Instructional Coach Bird Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Jacob Nuechterlein	Math Canton High School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Christina Ochoa	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Melissa Parent	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Joanna Perry	Elementary Classroom Smith Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26

Aleshea Powell	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26
Lynsey Wiltzer	Physical Education/Health Discovery Middle School	Tenure Effective 6-30-26

Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education from May 26, 2026, were approved as presented.

Out-of-Country Field Trips

- Costa Rica – Plymouth High School – Grades 10-12
- Italy and Vatican City State – Salem High School – Grades 9-12
- Puerto Rico – Canton High School – Grades 9-12

B. Action Items

- **Action Item #26-06-74:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and Seconded by Member Sidhu to consider the Approval of a Resolution for the layoff of two nursing positions. (Jill Sanabria, Field and Hulsing Elementary Schools, and Amanda Yuchasz, Salem High School and Goals)

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

Nays: Member Vos

The motion was carried 5-1

C. Celebrating Success

Member Vos presented the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Awards to Starkweather Academy Teacher Melissa Darnell and Starkweather Academy Social Worker Taraneh Breisacher in recognition of their exceptional dedication to supporting students. Darnell was honored for her creative, student-centered approach to teaching and her commitment to helping all students succeed. Taraneh was recognized for her compassionate support for students, families, and staff, and for her efforts to foster a strong sense of belonging within the school community. Starkweather Academy graduating senior Christina Scharr was also honored with the P-CCS STARS Award for her perseverance in overcoming obstacles and for consistently demonstrating a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

D. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson wished everyone a happy last week of school and congratulated the 2026 P-CCS graduates. She spoke about what a privilege it was for her and fellow Board members to present diplomas at the graduation ceremonies, and she thanked her colleagues for their participation. She also shared that Board members attended the Pan Asian Festival in Canton.

President Christenson also reminded everyone of the upcoming Organizational Meeting in July, during which Board officers will be elected for the next school year. She encouraged Board members interested in serving in an officer role to come prepared to share their interest at the June 23 meeting. She closed by wishing students and staff a well-deserved, relaxing summer break.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee met on June 3, 2026, and reviewed the spring data presentation and a revision to a library course. The committee also discussed the NWEA testing format and high school virtual programming. The next SPA Committee meeting will be held in the fall, with the meeting date to be announced once scheduled.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. 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 June 8, 2026, as a Committee of the Whole, to discuss a potential sinking fund and to review resolutions regarding weight room equipment at Salem High School and the purchase of a P-CEP grand piano. The committee also reviewed the final budget amendment and proposed the 2026-27 budget. The next F&O Meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2026, as a Committee of the Whole at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Member Christenson shared that the SVA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next SVA Committee meeting will be held in the fall, with the meeting date to be announced once scheduled.

E. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt condensed her report due to time constraints. She offered sincere congratulations to the class of 2026 and spoke about how meaningful it was to celebrate with the graduates and participate in the commencement ceremonies this past week. She thanked Board members for being part of this special milestone. She also expressed appreciation to staff and family members for the important role they played in helping prepare these students to walk across the stage and move confidently into their futures beyond high school.

F. Citizens' Comments

- Rachel Hayes and Michelle Moustakas spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students
- Joe Tollefson spoke in support of a sinking fund

G. Administrative Reports/Recommendations**Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick**2025-2026 Final Budget Amendment (Presentation)

Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, and Jody Malbon, Executive Director of Finance and Accounting, presented an overview of the 2025-2026 Final Budget Amendment. The amendment updates projected revenues and expenditures based on year-end financial activity and reflects the District's continued commitment to fiscal responsibility and alignment with its strategic priorities. The amended budget projects General Fund revenues of \$224.8 million, expenditures of \$234.9 million, and an ending fund balance of \$35.3 million, representing 15.0% of expenditures. The presentation also included a review of other District funds and updated fund balance projections.

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

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Weight Room Equipment Purchase as part of Bid Package #HS-7 Salem High School Multipurpose Room Addition Project. Jill Minnick provided an overview of the proposed equipment package, which was developed collaboratively to support both physical education curriculum needs and athletic programming and includes delivery and installation. The purchase, in an amount not to exceed \$163,129, will be made through the OMNIA Partners and Sourcewell cooperative purchasing programs and funded through the 2023 bond funds (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Grand Piano for the P-CEP Choir Program. Jill Minnick and Cathie Williams provided an overview of the proposed purchase of a Yamaha C3X Grand Piano and related accessories for the P-CEP Choir Program. The piano will replace the existing instrument, which has exceeded its practical service life, and was selected through a competitive RFP process. The purchase, in an amount not to exceed \$42,523. It was requested that the cost for this item be expensed from bond funds instead of the general budget fund. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-06-70:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and Seconded by Member Westra to Consider the Adoption of the 2025-2026 Final Budget Amendment (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #26-06-71:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and Seconded by Member Westra to Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Pilot Furniture Purchase for P-CEP. The recommended purchase is for Round-Two 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Action Item #26-06-72: It was moved by Member Kehoe and Seconded by Member Vos to Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Package #EL-4 Hoben Painting - Revised Contract Award. 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #26-06-73:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and Seconded by Member Westra to Consider Approval of a Resolution for 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. 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Sinking Fund Discussion

Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, provided the Board with an informational presentation on sinking funds and their role in supporting district capital and infrastructure needs. The presentation reviewed eligible uses of sinking fund revenues, including school building construction and repairs, site improvements, athletic facilities, playgrounds, safety and security enhancements, technology, and certain transportation-related purchases. Board members also reviewed legal requirements, spending limitations, projected revenue scenarios, homeowner tax impacts, and comparisons with other Michigan school districts. The presentation emphasized that sinking fund revenues cannot be used for salaries, utilities, supplies, or other operational expenses, and that they can help preserve General Fund dollars for instructional programs and student services.

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

Teaching and Learning – Jen Curry

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Library Curriculum Revision. Jen Curry and Cathie Williams provided an overview of the proposed Library Curriculum revision, which includes the adoption of three digital resources (Noodle Tools, GALE in Context Middle School, and LibraryTrac) to support K-12 research instruction, information literacy, and library management. The resources are intended to strengthen research skills, support curriculum standards, and improve student achievement through vertically aligned instruction beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. The total cost, including training, is \$13,896.23, with Reoccurring annual digital costs of \$10,634.73. (First Reading)

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

Human Resources – Abdul Madyun

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a New Policy Provider Request (Miller Johnson). Abdul Madyun provided an overview of the recommendation to transition to Miller Johnson School Policy Services as the District's new policy service provider. The presentation summarized the Policy Committee's review of available vendors and highlighted Miller Johnson's personalized implementation approach, dedicated point of contact, and development of separate Board Policy and Administrative Regulation manuals. The initial investment for this transition is \$17,500, which includes the Policy Manual and Administrative Regulation Manual. The annual update fee is estimated at \$4,000 beginning in November 2027 (First Reading)

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

H. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

I. Discussion

None

J. Follow-up Board Questions

From the Nurse Staffing Resolution

- The Board requested five-year trend data comparing the number of students requiring medical care and nursing services to current levels.
- The Board requested comparative data from neighboring districts regarding nurse caseloads, including students receiving services through IEPs and 504 Plans, as well as general student health needs.
- The Board requested information on nursing leadership and management structures in neighboring districts.

From the Sinking Fund Discussion

- The Board requested information on which KLAA and Southern Conference districts currently have voter-approved sinking funds.
- The Board requested a list of district facilities and infrastructure needs that could be addressed through a sinking fund, including estimated project costs.
- The Board requested a one-page Sinking Fund FAQ to accompany the first reading resolution at the June 23 meeting, outlining the purpose of a sinking fund and its allowable uses.

K. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:07 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 6-23-26/dr