

PLYMOUTH-CANTON

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 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 7:03 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Present: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, 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
Amanda Pelukas, Early Middle College and Post-Secondary Coordinator
Jonathan Flukes, Director of Data, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation

Others Present: Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair
Krushna Modi, SVA Student Co-Chair
Kevin Sutton, Miller Johnson Legal Counsel

Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #26-06-75: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra 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

New Hires

Winkler, Celina	Speech Pathologist Bentley Elementary School	Effective 8-25-26
Farris, Jessica	Speech Pathologist Salem High School	Effective 8-25-26
Hammond, Christopher	Elementary Principal Farrand Elementary School	Effective 7-1-26

Resignations

Bawden, Susan	Psychology Canton High School	Resignation Effective 6-30-26
Sheehan, Nancy	Student and Family Engagement Specialist Starkweather Academy	Resignation Effective 6-10-26
Valentine, Jolie	Media Specialist Field Elementary School	Resignation Effective 6-10-26

Retirements

Adams, Charles	Physical Education Elementary Bird Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Anderson, Jon	Elementary Classroom (TAG) Gallimore Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Beck, Roger	Language Arts (.40 31a) West Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Brown, Angela	Physics Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Cantin, Jill	Media Specialist Bentley Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Caudill, Amy	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Cole, Rebecca	Media Specialist Isbister Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Cummings, Lauren	504 Academic Skills Salem High School	Retirement Effective 7-23-26
Cummings, Robert	Physical Education Secondary Salem High School	Retirement Effective 7-23-26
Easterling, Shanda	Art Education Starkweather Academy	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Esser, Laura	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Fistler, Kenneth	Math Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Forslund, Jon	Philosophy/Logic Reasoning Canton High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Gatzke, Donna	English Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Gold, Matthew	Elementary Classroom (TAG) Gallimore Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Guinta, Michael	Math Salem High School	Retirement Effective 7-23-26
Henson, Kimberly	German Canton High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Holten, Cheryl	Elective – Skill for Success West Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Howell, Kelly	Innovation Period Teacher Smith Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Hymes, Christopher	Math Salem High School	Retirement Effective 7-23-26
Ihm, Kristen	Math (.20 31a) Pioneer Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Jarvi, Lora	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Jewett, Krista	Elementary Classroom (TAG) Gallimore Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26

Lee, Kimberly	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Lehmann, Barbara	Counselor (Non-Instructional) Canton High School	Retirement Effective 6-24-26
Lewis, Jamie	Math Liberty Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
MacDonald-Demarest, Erin	Counselor (Non-Instructional) Canton High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Malpass-Larson, Michelle	Media Specialist Gallimore Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Morgan, Pamela	Elementary Classroom Bird Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Morse, Bernadette	Senior Seminar/Edgenuity Starkweather Academy	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Mui, Richard	History Canton High School	Retirement Effective 6-29-26
Mussell, Jennifer	Elementary Classroom Bird Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Nowak, Jamie	MS Academic/Behavior Support Specialist Discovery Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Putt, Patricia	Elementary Classroom Miller Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-30-26
Rasmussen, Lisa	Executive Assistant – Human Resources Administration Building	Retirement Effective 6-30-26
Robertson, Scott	Elementary Classroom (TAG) Gallimore Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Rutecki, Barbara	Academy Leader (Business) Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Rykard, Roberta	Elementary Classroom Workman Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Scully, Kimberly	Math Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Stanford, Gina	Assistant Director of Nutrition Services Administration Building	Retirement Effective 6-30-26
Stephens, Kristin	Elementary Classroom Miller Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Stevens, Richard	Chemistry Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Trudell, Marybeth	504 Academic Skills Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Verble, Michelle	Elementary Classroom – EL Teacher Field Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Weeda, Jill	Instructional Coach – Title I Field Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Zidzik, Lisa	Innovation Period Teacher Dodson Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-10-26

Recalls

Beaulieu, Steven	Recalled
Sanabria, Jill	Recalled
Yuchasz, Amanda	Recalled

Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education from June 9, 2026, and the Special Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2026, were approved as presented.

B. Celebrating Success

Member Ahmed presented the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award to Terri Hamel, Discovery Middle School Paraprofessional, for her outstanding dedication to students, staff, and families. Terri was recognized for ensuring students have reliable access to technology, for being a trusted and dependable colleague, and for consistently going above and beyond to support the Discovery Middle School community.

C. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresident's Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson shared that the Board met yesterday in a Special Meeting to conduct the Superintendent's annual performance evaluation. She was pleased to report that Superintendent Merritt received an overall rating of Effective and stated that the Board looks forward to continued progress in the coming year.

She also announced that Trustee Picard submitted her resignation from the Board of Education effective June 11, 2026. On behalf of the Board, President Christenson thanked Trustee Picard for her dedicated service to the P-CCS community and extended best wishes,

President Christenson further shared that the Board is seeking qualified candidates to fill the vacant Board seat through December 31, 2026. Interested individuals are encouraged to visit the district website or contact Diane Robertson for application information. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on July 2, 2026. Selected candidates will be invited to participate in interviews during the July 9, 2026, Organizational Meeting. The remainder of Trustee Picard's term will appear on the November 3, 2026, election ballot.

She also noted that the Board will elect its officers for the 2026-2027 school year during the Organizational Meeting on July 9, 2026.

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 will be held in the fall, and the meeting date will be announced once it is scheduled.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the Policy Committee met earlier this evening to review the transition to the District's new policy provider, Miller Johnson School Policy Services. They reviewed the implementation timeline and next steps. The committee also reviewed the proposed wireless device policy, which must be adopted before the start of the 2026-2027 school year to meet state requirements. The committee will finalize its recommendations at the next meeting. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held in the fall, and the meeting date will be announced once it is scheduled.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the Finance and Operations Committee met on June 18, 2026, as a Committee of the Whole. The committee discussed a potential sinking fund, reviewed key performance indicators for Durham Transportation and ABM Custodial Services, and considered proposals for a fire suppression upgrade, electronic building signs, chiller replacements, updates to the district's severance plan, and the May financial reports. The next Finance and Operations Committee meeting will be held in the fall, and the meeting date will be announced once it is scheduled.

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.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt shared that the district's annual Summer Communications are now available online, providing families with information to prepare for the 2026-27 school year, including transportation, food service, enrollment, school calendars, and other back-to-school resources. She noted that the annual P-CEP E-Communicator will be released this week with information on schedule pickup, orientation, athletics, extracurricular activities, and student resources for high school families.

She also announced that the district's Food & Nutrition Services Department received a \$93,500 USDA Innovation Hub Spark Award to support the HARVEST Hub Project, which will expand access to Michigan-grown foods, provide hands-on learning focused on agriculture & sustainability, strengthen partnerships with local farms, and reduce food waste. Superintendent Merritt also reminded families that the Summer Sun Meals program is providing free breakfast and lunch to all children 18 and younger, as well as eligible young adults with disabilities, at five district locations through Aug. 7.

She concluded by recognizing several P-CEP students for national accomplishments. Culinary student Ty Monahan won the national championship in Restaurant Service, while Jonah Osborne placed third in Culinary Arts at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. She also congratulated National History Day students Shreeya Patel, Afsheen Mogul, and Airah Baig, whose projects were selected from thousands of entries and finished among the nation's top 100 at the National History Day Finals.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Rachel Hayes, Michelle Moustakas, and Laurie Mayers spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students
- Kyle Arban spoke about a Title IX complaint
- Daniel O'Karma spoke on the Plymouth Express Magazine and high school start times
- Patrick Cox spoke in support of a district sinking fund
- Holly Coppiellie spoke on preventing vandalism
- Bryan Jager advocated for Special Education Programs

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Human Resources – Abdul Madyun6

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-06-76:** It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Kehoe to Consider Approval of a Resolution for a New Policy Provider Request. Kevin Sutton, Miller Johnson Legal Counsel, provided additional information regarding the district's transition to Miller Johnson School Policy Services as the district's new policy service provider, including a personalized implementation approach, a dedicated point of contact, and the 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was passed 6-0

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution to Establish a Sinking Fund for District Capital Improvements. Jill Minnick provided an overview of a proposed Building and Site Sinking Fund that may be placed before voters on the November 3, 2026 ballot. The proposal would authorize a 1.5-mill levy for ten years, generating approximately \$13.5 million annually for facility, site, technology, transportation, and security-related capital improvements. The presentation highlighted the benefits of establishing a dedicated funding source for long-term infrastructure needs, including roof, parking lot, HVAC, and safety improvements, while preserving operating funds for classroom instruction and avoiding the issuance of additional debt. Information was also provided regarding the estimated taxpayer impact, annual independent audits, and the district's commitment to transparency and accountability in the use of sinking fund revenues. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Purchase of Electronic Building Signs for Farrand and Gallimore Elementary Schools. Jill Minnick provided an overview of the recommendation to purchase and install two

Daktronics Galaxy® outdoor electronic message centers at Farrand Elementary School and Gallimore Elementary School. She explained that the new signs will replace existing signage, align with district standards established through the 2020 Bond program, and enhance communication with students, families, staff, and the community. The total cost of \$47,872 will be funded through the 2023 Bond Fund using Sourcewell cooperative purchasing pricing (First Reading)

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

First Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-06-77:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Consider approval of a Resolution for the Replacement of five HVAC Units at the Educational Support Center. Jill Minnick provided an overview of the recommendation to replace five rooftop HVAC units. The existing units have experienced repeated failures during the 2025-2026 school year, are beyond their useful life, and no longer provide reliable heating or air conditioning. The proposed project includes the purchase, installation, startup, and warranty of five replacement units through the E&I Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Carrier at a total cost of \$127,950, funded through the 2023 Bond Fund. (First and Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was passed 6-0
- **Action Item #26-06-78:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Vos to Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Five-Year Contract Renewal with Durham School Services Student Transportation. This recommendation is to renew the Transportation Services Agreement with Durham School Services through June 30, 2031. The five-year contract renewal maintains student transportation services and expands special populations transportation services. The agreement is projected to generate approximately \$444,434 in transportation savings, resulting in an estimated net savings of \$26,132 to the General Fund for the 2026-2027 school year. This is presented as a first and final reading, as it has been discussed at length during two Finance and Operations Committee Meetings. (First and Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was passed 6-0
- **Action Item #26-06-79:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to Consider Approval of a Resolution to Adopt the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was passed 6-0
- **Action Item #26-06-80:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to 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. The recommendation is for a 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 (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Nays: None
The motion was passed 6-0
- **Action Item #26-06-81:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to Consider Approval of a Resolution to Purchase a Grand Piano for the P-CEP Choir Program. This recommendation is to purchase 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was passed 6-0

Teaching and Learning – Jen Curry

First Reading Resolutions

- **Consider Approval of a Resolution for a High School Virtual Academy Revision and Subject.com Platform Provider Approval Request**. Amanda Pelukas presented an overview of the proposed revisions to the P-CCS High School Virtual Academy, including the adoption of Subject.com as the district's virtual learning platform provider. The redesigned, fully asynchronous model is intended to better meet the needs of students by providing flexible scheduling, personalized learning supports, and expanded course access while improving student engagement and retention. The cost of this new platform will be \$2,300 per student, with an anticipated cost of \$230,000 for the 2026-27 school year. The program is scheduled to launch during the 2026-2027 school year. (First Reading)

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

2025-2026 Spring Data Review (Presentation) (Goals A and B)

Jonathan Flukes, Director of Data, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation, presented an overview of the district's spring 2025-2026 student achievement results and progress toward the goals of the Dynamic Plan. The presentation included a review of academic achievement, attendance, behavior, and assessment data, highlighting stable attendance, increased course pass rates, improved graduation outcomes, strong NWEA achievement, and a reduction in the number of students requiring intensive literacy support, as measured by DIBELS. Mr. Flukes also reviewed student subgroup data, common assessments, intervention supports, and professional learning initiatives. He noted that reducing chronic absenteeism, strengthening behavior supports, and closing achievement gaps will remain key priorities for the 2026-2027 school year.

Board members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #26-06-82:** It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Westra to **Consider approval of a Resolution for a Library Curriculum Revision**. This recommendation is for a 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was passed 6-0

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

H. Discussion/Action Items

- Board members discussed and expressed interest in officer roles for the 2026-2027 school year.
- **Action Item #26-06-83** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Sidhu to **Consider Approval of a Resolution Urging the Governor and the Legislature to Pass the 2026-2027 School Aid Budget by July 1** (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was passed 6-0

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- A board member asked if additional language could be added to the November ballot to further describe the sinking fund proposal
- From the 2025-26 Spring Data Presentation
 - A board member asked if expulsion data could be added, similar to the suspension data
 - A board member requested trend data for DIBELS Maze Comprehension
 - A board member requested trend data on targeted interventions over time, including the number of students receiving interventions and the number of students who have successfully exited interventions
 - A board member asked what resources are needed to support the outcomes reflected in the data in this presentation
- From the Virtual Academy Presentation
 - Board members asked if a demo of the Subject.com software could be provided
 - A board member asked if students could participate in both the Virtual Academy and in-person courses
 - A board member asked what the district will do to emphasize and promote the value of the P-CCS Virtual Academy

J. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:29 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 7-9-26/dr