

PLYMOUTH-CANTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR (ORGANIZATIONAL) MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular (Organizational) Meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, located at 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Superintendent Merritt called the Organizational - Regular Meeting to order at 6 p.m. in the boardroom.

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

Absent: None

District Staff: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
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

Others Present: Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair

Superintendent Merritt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of the Organizational Meeting Agenda

Action Item #27-07-01

It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Ahmed to adopt the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

2. Discussion of Officer Positions

3. Election of Officers 2026-2027

Nominations for **President** were called.

It was moved by Member Kehoe to nominate Member Sidhu for President of the Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Member Sidhu was declared to be President.

President Sidhu immediately commenced responsibilities as President of the Board of Education and conducted the remainder of the July 9, 2026, Organizational Meeting.

Nominations for **Vice President** were called.

It was moved by Member Christenson to nominate Member Vos for Vice President of the Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Member Vos was declared to be Vice President.

Nominations for **Secretary** were called.

It was moved by Member Ahmed to nominate Member Westra for Secretary of the Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

Member Westra was declared to be Secretary.

Nominations for **Treasurer** were called.

It was moved by Member Westra to nominate Member Kehoe for Treasurer of the Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

Member Kehoe was declared to be Treasurer.

2026-2027 Board of Education Officers

President:	Anupam Chugh Sidhu
Vice-President:	Jennifer Vos
Secretary:	Judy Westra
Treasurer:	Patrick Kehoe

4. By-Laws Nos. 0164.1 and 0164.2 - Time, Place, and Notification of Meetings

It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Kehoe to adopt the following By-Laws:

By-Law Nos. 0164.1: Regular Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month beginning at 7 p.m. Exceptions: There will be only one meeting in July (7-9-26 at 6 p.m.) and one meeting in December (12-8-26). August meeting dates will be on the first and fourth Tuesday (8-4-26 and 8-25-26). All meetings will be at 7 p.m. at the following location (except as agreed herein) unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the members:

E. J. McClendon Educational Center
454 South Harvey Street
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

By-Law No. 0164.2 Special Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Special meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, may be called by the President of the Board, or any two members thereof, by serving on the other members a written notice of the day, time, and place of such special meetings, or by a majority vote of the Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE of each meeting of the Board of Education shall be given by posting a copy of the NOTICE on the message board by the front entrance to the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time of the meeting. The Executive Assistant to the Board of Education or other central office staff, in her absence, shall be appointed the designee for posting notice of meetings.

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

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to direct the Board of Education Executive Assistant to advertise By-Laws Nos. 0164.1 and 0164.2 in the Detroit Newspaper or Detroit Free Press Agency newspapers.

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

5. Authorized Signatures for School District Business:

It was moved by Member Christenson and seconded by Member Ahmed to authorize the following signatures for School District business.

<u>Documents</u>	<u>2026-2027 Authorized Signatures</u>
A. Administrator Contracts	President, Secretary, or Superintendent
B. Teacher Contracts	
(1) Probationary	President, Secretary, or Superintendent
(2) Continuing Tenure	President, Secretary, or Superintendent
C. Motor Vehicle Titles	Superintendent, Chief Finance, and Operations Officer
D. Land Contracts	President, Secretary, or Superintendent
E. Deeds to Real Estate	President, Secretary, or Superintendent
F. Leases and Easements	President, Secretary, Superintendent, or Chief Finance and Operations Officer
G. Deposit and Investment Accounts	President, Treasurer, Superintendent, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, Executive Director of Finance & Accounting
H. Vendor Contracts	Superintendent, Chief Finance and Operations Officer

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

6. Consider the Following Resolutions:

A. Naming Depository, Investment of Moneys, and Naming Signatories for all Funds

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Vos that the Treasurer and/or Chief Finance and Operations Officer be authorized to deposit all monies for all funds of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools in the following banks:

ors Credit Union
 J. P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.
 Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus
 PNC Bank and PNC Capital Markets, LLC
 U.S. Bank, N.A.

and further, to invest all monies of all funds of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools in investments authorized under Section 1223 of the Michigan School Code of 1976, as amended,

and, further, that these banks be requested, authorized, and directed to honor checks, drafts, and other orders for the payment of money drawn in the name of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools against the named funds when bearing facsimile signature of TREASURER Kehoe and the facsimile signature of PRESIDENT Sidhu

and, further, that the Argent Institutional Trust Company, Bank of New York Mellon, UMB Bank, N.A., and US Bank, N.A. be designated as the paying agents for bonds of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools as required,

and, further, a Blanket Position Bond is required for all School District employees in the amount of \$100,000, and the cost of the Bond is to be provided by the School District.

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

B. Naming General Counsel

It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Kehoe to appoint legal counsel for the 2026-2027 school year.

Collins and Blaha Law Firm, P.C. (General Counsel)

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

C. Naming Other Specific Legal Counsel as appointed by the Board of Education

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to appoint other specific legal counsel as appointed by the Board of Education for the 206-2027 school year. In addition, the Board of Education has the right to name other legal firms during the course of the year as they deem necessary.

Clark Hill, PLC
Lacey & Jones, LLP
LaPointe and Associates, P.C.
Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, PLC
Miller Johnson, PLC
Thrun Law Firm, P.C.

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

D. Naming School District Auditor

It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Kehoe to appoint Plante Moran, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, as the School District auditors for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

E. Naming School District Bond Financial Advisor

It was moved by Member Vos and seconded by Member Kehoe to appoint PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, as the School District's Bond Financial Advisor for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

7. Designate Routine Advertisement

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra that the Detroit Newspaper Agency or the Michigan Chronicle newspapers be designated for the following routine advertisements:

- (A) Notice of Budget Hearing and Truth in Taxation Hearing
- (B) Invitation for Bids
- (C) Request for Proposals

And, that The Bond Buyer or the Detroit Legal News, as required, be designated for publication of:

- (A) Call for Redemption of Bonds
- (B) Sale of Bonds
- (C) Sale of Tax Anticipation Notes

And, that Invitation for Bids for Major Renovations, Additions, and New Construction- P.A. 232 of July 21, 2004, requires schools to post-construction solicitations for a minimum of two (2) weeks on the State of Michigan's "SIGMA Michigan" website.

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

Without objection, President Sidhu adjourned the Organizational Meeting and called the Regular Meeting to order in the boardroom.

Present: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
Absent: None

District Staff: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
 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

Others Present: Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair

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

Action Item #27-07-02: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, and Regular Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2026.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

New Hires

Aguilar, Marcelo	Elementary Classroom Dodson	Effective 8-25-26
Andrus, Anthony	Video Production/English Plymouth	Effective 8-25-26
Bader, Kaitlyn	Elementary Classroom Tonda	Effective 8-25-26
Bevington, Luke	History Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Brown, Bailey	Elementary Classroom Gallimore	Effective 8-25-26
Carlsen, Erin	Elementary Classroom Field	Effective 8-25-26
Chemotti, Ella	Elementary Classroom Miller	Effective 8-25-26
Clark, Amy	Elementary Classroom Bird	Effective 8-25-26
Courtney, Melissa	Elementary Classroom Hulsing	Effective 8-25-26
Craggs, Cassidy	Political Science/Econ/History Canton	Effective 8-25-26
Creighton, Heather	Resource Room Co-Teach with General Ed Teacher Pioneer	Effective 8-25-26
Farris, Jessica	Speech Pathologist Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Gefter, Mariya	Speech Pathologist Eriksson	Effective 8-25-26
Halinen, Andrew	Physical Education Elem. Dodson/Eriksson	Effective 8-25-26
Hewitt, Avery	Math Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Hippley, Mark	Language Arts West	Effective 8-25-26
Hobbins, Garry	Elementary Classroom Workman	Effective 8-25-26
Kipp, Jonathan	Elementary Classroom Tonda	Effective 8-25-26

Kippola, Caleb	Adaptive Physical Education Liberty/Plymouth	Effective 8-25-26
LaForest, Madeline	English Plymouth	Effective 8-25-26
LaFrance, Rebeca	Elementary Classroom Workman	Effective 8-25-26
MacDonald, Hailey	Language Arts East	Effective 8-25-26
McCarley, Tynan	English Canton	Effective 8-25-26
McCormick, Margaret	Art Elementary Hulsing/Field	Effective 8-25-26
McGuire, Chatham	Elementary Classroom (TAG) Gallimore	Effective 8-25-26
Neumann, Megan	Elementary Classroom Hoben	Effective 8-25-26
Reed, Chad	Physical Ed Secondary/Health Discovery	Effective 8-25-26
Rice, Brianna	Elementary Classroom Smith	Effective 8-25-26
Roberts, Tanya	Elementary ASD Teacher Field	Effective 8-25-26
Schott, Caitlyn	Elementary Classroom Tonda	Effective 8-25-26
Smentowski, Maya	Elementary Classroom Dodson	Effective 8-25-26
Suchy, Alyivia	History Canton	Effective 8-25-26
Taweel, Jasmine	Elementary Classroom Workman	Effective 8-25-26
Vest, Sarah	Integrated Science East/Pioneer	Effective 8-25-26
Waggoner, Grace	Elementary Classroom Eriksson	Effective 8-25-26
Weber, RheaAnn	Social Worker Pioneer/East	Effective 8-25-26
Wilson, Christine	Math Plymouth	Effective 8-25-26
Winkler, Celina	Speech Pathologist Bentley	Effective 8-25-26
Winn, Kymberly	Biology Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Workman, David	(0.6) Social Studies West	Effective 8-25-26
Ivacko, Nicholas	Student Support Coordinator Field	Effective 8-10-26
<u>Leaves</u>		
Richardson, Lindsay	Elementary Classroom Farrand	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-26 through 1-1-27
<u>Resignations</u>		
Cole, Alyssa	Social Studies East	Resignation Effective 6-19-26

Heard III, Hal	Executive Director Student Services Administration Bldg.	Resignation Effective 6-30-26
McClellan, Emily	(0.6) Math Salem	Resignation Effective 6-30-26
Miller, Raymond	HS Assistant Principal Plymouth	Resignation Effective 6-30-26
Mulvihill, Tracey	Teacher Consultant West	Resignation Effective 6-10-26
Pola, Andrew	Biology Canton	Resignation Effective 6-10-26

Retirements

Adams, Beau	Physical Education Elementary Isbister	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Andrews, Lori	Teacher Consultant Discovery	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Avery, Heidi	Biology Salem	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Brodie, Robert	Physical Education Secondary Salem	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Carson, Stephanie	Elem. Classroom Farrand	Retirement Effective 7-31-26
Dunneback, Navara	Co Tch with Gen Ed Teacher (Lang Arts) Pioneer	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Hughey, Tina	Math 9.20 31a East	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Kownacki, Phyllis	Teacher of Autistic Liberty	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Medley, Tameka	Social Studies Discovery	Retirement Effective 7-23-26
Morelli, Margaret	(.8) English Canton	Retirement Effective 6-10-26
Villarosa, Kimberly	High School Principal Salem	Retirement Effective 6-30-26
Watson, Robert	Social Studies West	Retirement Effective 6-10-26

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes from June 23, 2026, were approved as presented.

Action Items

- Approved a Resolution for a Tentative Agreement with the Plymouth-Canton Association of Educational Office Personnel (PCAEOP) (First and Final Reading)
- Approved a Resolution for a Tentative Agreement with the Plymouth-Canton Plant Engineers (First and Final Reading)
- Approved a Resolution for a Tentative Agreement with the Plymouth-Canton Cafeteria Association (PCCA) (First and Final Reading)
- Approved a Resolution for a Tentative Agreement with the Plymouth Congress of Administrators (PCA) (First and Final Reading)

B. Citizens' Comments

- Michelle Moustakas, Rachel Hayes, Lawren Juip, and Laurie Mayers spoke in support of school board vacancy candidate Joe Tollefson

C. Action Items

Final Reading Resolutions

- Action Item #27-07-03:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to Consider Approval of a Resolution to Establish a Sinking Fund for District Capital Improvements. This proposal, to be placed before voters on the November 3, 2026, election ballot, 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 proposal would address long-term infrastructure needs while preserving operating funds for classroom instruction, avoiding additional debt, and ensuring transparency through annual independent audits and accountability for the use of sinking fund revenues. (Final Reading)
 Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 6-0
- Action Item #27-07-04:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Purchase of two Daktronics Galaxy Electronic Building Signs for Farrand and Gallimore Elementary Schools. 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. (Final Reading)
 Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 6-0
- Action Item #27-07-05:** It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Vos to Consider Approval of a Resolution for a High School Virtual Academy Revision and Subject.com Platform Provider Request. The redesigned, fully asynchronous virtual 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. (Final Reading)
 Ayes: Members Ahmed, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 6-0

D. Follow-up Board Questions

- None

President Sidhu called for a recess at 6:57 p.m. The Meeting resumed at 7:02 p.m.

E. School Board Candidate Interviews

Thirteen (13) candidates were interviewed for the Board of Education vacancy to replace Trustee Cheryl Picard, whose resignation was effective June 11, 2026.

Board Member Votes							
Candidates	Member Ahmed	Member Christenson	Member Kehoe	Member Sidhu	Member Vos	Member Westra	Totals
Katherine Breur							
Joe Tollefson	3	3	2	3		3	14
Joseph Vezina							
Stephen Cassani							
Michael Dabkowski							
Tareq Rahman							
Bryant Nunn							
Katie Bennett	2	2		2	3	2	11
Tracey McDade-Yurko							
Sara Khan						1	1
Jennifer McDowell		1	1		1		3
Bradly Gray							
Lester Booker, Jr.			3	1	2		6

Based on the tally of votes (3 points for first choice, 2 points for second choice, and 1 point for third choice). The following three (3) candidates **with the most votes as noted above** were selected to participate in second round interviews immediately following:

Joe Tollefson
Katie Bennett
Lester Booker, Jr.

Final School Board Candidate Interviews

The Board of Education interviewed the following three (3) finalists to fill the vacant Board Trustee Position. Each candidate answered the same set of questions. Based on the tally of votes (3 points for first choice, 2 points for second choice, and 1 point for third choice), **Joe Tollefson received the most points.**

Board Member Votes							
Candidates	Member Ahmed	Member Christenson	Member Kehoe	Member Sidhu	Member Vos	Member Westra	Totals
Katie Bennett	2	2	1	2	2	2	11
Joe Tollefson	3	3	2	3	1	3	15
Lester Booker, Jr.	1	1	3	1	3	1	10

Highest points scored = 15 for candidate Joe Tollefson as noted above

President Sidhu thanked all of the candidates who interviewed and encouraged everyone to stay involved in the district by serving on a committee, volunteering, and/or attending Board meetings.

The Board discussed committee chair assignments and also selected August 4, 2026, as the date for a closed session to receive negotiations updates.

- **Action Item #27-07-06:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Consider Approval of a Resolution to appoint Joe Tollefson to the vacant School Board Trustee position until December 31, 2026. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

F. Citizens' Comments Overflow (if necessary)

- None

G. Adjournment

President Sidhu adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:48 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 8-4-26/dr