

PLYMOUTH-CANTON

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

President Sidhu called the Regular Meeting to order at 7 p.m. in the Boardroom.

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

Absent: Member Christenson

District Staff: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resources Officer
Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board
Joe Greene, Executive Director of High Schools

Others Present: John Kava, Collins and Blaha Legal Counsel
Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair
Krushna Modi, SVA Student Co-Chair

Arjan Swaminathan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #27-08-07: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to adopt the agenda and the consent agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

The motion was passed 6-0

New Hires

Akabey, Denise	Elementary Classroom Hoben	Effective 8-25-26
Alonzi, Angela	Pre-K (GSRP) Allen	Effective 8-25-26
Alter, Kelly	Occupational Therapy Field/Hulsing	Effective 8-25-26
Anderson, Barry	Elementary Classroom Bentley	Effective 8-25-26
Awad, Noor	Social Worker Workman	Effective 8-25-26
Beyerle, Ethan	Social Studies East	Effective 8-25-26
Brinkman, Alison	Occupational Therapy West/Liberty	Effective 8-25-26
Brothers, Paige	Elementary Classroom Workman	Effective 8-25-26
Bruyere, Abigail	Elementary Classroom Workman	Effective 8-25-26
Brydges, Mara	Elementary Classroom Dodson	Effective 8-25-26
Chamberlain, Grace	German Canton	Effective 8-25-26

Davis, Kassidy	Elementary Classroom Hulsing	Effective 8-25-26
Gauss, Casey	Media Specialist Field	Effective 8-25-26
Geiger, Eric	Media Specialist Salem High School	Effective 8-25-26
Gietzen, Benjamin	Chemistry Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Goncalves, Rachel	(0.8) French Plymouth	Effective 8-25-26
Gonzalez, Ofelia	Pre-K GSRP Dodson	Effective 8-25-26
Hamilton, Kyle	Math Discovery	Effective 8-25-26
Helgren, Kayla	History/Psychology Canton	Effective 8-25-26
Hill, Amanda	Mathematics Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Karamon, Colleen	French Canton	Effective 8-25-26
Logeman, Rilynn	Elementary Classroom Field	Effective 8-25-26
Maki, Micayla	Elementary Classroom Tonda	Effective 8-25-26
Manor, Gabrielle	Elementary Classroom Workman	Effective 8-25-26
Marchello, Alison	Elementary Classroom (TAG) Gallimore	Effective 8-25-26
Marquardt, Megan	Math Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Marra, Sophia	Resource Room Hulsing	Effective 8-25-26
Masy-Alhin, Alexandra	Gallimore Pre-K GSRP	Effective 8-25-26
Moran, Danielle	Elementary Classroom (TAG) Gallimore	Effective 8-25-26
Nea, Lindsay	Cognitive Impairment Bentley	Effective 8-25-26
Purgar, Steven	Teacher Consultant Pioneer/Discovery	Effective 8-25-26
Riddell, Donna	Pre-K GSRP Allen	Effective 8-25-26
Roberts, Makaylah	History Plymouth	Effective 8-25-26
Shearer, Haley	Co-Teach with Gen Ed Teacher Resource Room Discovery	Effective 8-25-26
Topolski, Corinne	Biology Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Waldecker, Angela	Secondary ASD Teacher Liberty	Effective 8-25-26
Fuller, Kimarie	Student Support Coordinator Bentley	Effective 8-19-26

Kenneally, Kristy	Supervisor of Special Education Plymouth	Effective 8-10-26
Oliver, Amy	Technology Manager Educational Support Center	Effective 8-18-26
Prince, Damian	Student Support Coordinator Workman	Effective 8-10-26
Reinsmith, Devin	Technical Coordinator Educational Support Center	Effective 8-10-26
Knierim, Kevin	Assistant Principal Plymouth	Effective 8-12-26

Resignations

Abruzzo, Joshua	History Salem	Resignation Effective 7-28-26
Cox, Jacob	Academic Skills Starkweather	Resignation Effective 7-23-26
Danahy, Diane	Elementary Classroom Field	Resignation Effective 7-13-26
Fletcher, Megan	Resource Room Gallimore	Resignation Effective 7-28-26
Gales, Jamie	Assistive Tech Specialist/SE Liberty	Resignation Effective 8-1-26
Patel, Sonal	Instructional Coach – Secondary Educational Support Center	Resignation Effective 7-15-26
Purcell, Pamela	Spanish West	Resignation Effective 6-30-26
Souldourian, Gregory	Health Plymouth	Resignation Effective 7-22-26
Urquhart, Hawanya	Language Arts Liberty	Resignation Effective 7-15-26

Retirements

Anthony, Karen	English Canton	Retirement Effective 6-30-26
Forsyth, Gena	English Plymouth	Retirement Effective 6-30-26
Watkins, Marsha	Marketing Canton	Retirement Effective 6-10-26

Minutes

The Board of Education Special Meeting from June 22, 2026, and the Regular/Organizational Meeting Minutes from July 9, 2026, were approved as presented.

B. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Anupam Chugh Sidhu

President Sidhu congratulated Plymouth High School junior Neel Natarajan and Canton High School freshman Samanyu Manoj on their outstanding performances at the International Geography Championships. Neel placed fifth in the world, while Samanyu finished among the top 15 competitors worldwide.

She also reminded her Board colleagues to complete the Community Engagement Form in Board notes when attending events in support of the district's schools and community and provided an update on the sinking fund proposal.

Additionally, President Sidhu provided an update on Board committee assignments. It was determined that Members Kehoe and Tollefson will co-chair the Finance and Operations (F&O) Committee for the remainder of 2026, and that F&O meetings will be held as Committee of the Whole meetings, allowing all Board members the opportunity to attend. Member Ahmed will also join the SPA Committee.

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, September 9, 2026, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom. Community members were encouraged to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Aamina Ahmed

Member Ahmed shared that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Collaboration Conference Room. Community members are encouraged to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe and Joe Tollefson

Member Kehoe shared that the Finance and Operations Committee has not met since the last board meeting. He spoke about creating a future committee to educate the community on the sinking fund proposal. The Next F&O Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom. Community members are encouraged to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) – Anupam Sidhu

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.

C. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt congratulated the P-CEP Culinary Arts Program at Salem High School on earning prestigious accreditation from the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation. P-CEP is the first comprehensive public high school in Michigan to earn this distinction. She recognized Culinary Arts instructor Chef Diana Woodward and her students for their outstanding work.

She also provided additional information about the remarkable accomplishments of students Neel Natarajan and Samanyu Manoj, who finished among the world's top performers at the International Geography Championships in Thailand.

District families were reminded that the Back-to-School Check-in opens August 13 through MISTAR Parent Connection and is required for returning K-12 students to update medical, contact, and emergency information. Elementary families living more than one mile from their home school, and families of all other students living more than 1.5 miles from their home school, were also asked to register their students for transportation.

Superintendent Merritt also shared that the district's transportation partner, Durham School Services, and custodial partner, ABM Industries, are fully staffed and ready for the new school year.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt provided an update on the district's Building and Site Sinking Fund Proposal and thanked the Human Resources Team and all staff members who worked tirelessly throughout the summer to prepare for the first day of school on August 31, 2026.

D. Citizens' Comments

- Rachel Hayes and Michelle Moustakas spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students
- Littlece Jones spoke on how P-CCS helped her students succeed and on student disability awareness

E. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Human Resources – Abdul Madyun

First/Final Reading Resolution

- Consider Approval of a Resolution to Adopt a Wireless Communications Devices Policy. Abdul Madyun provided an overview of this resolution to adopt Board Policy 5136, *Wireless Communications Devices*

(WCDs), in compliance with newly enacted Michigan legislation requiring public school districts to implement policies governing student use of wireless communication devices during instructional time beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. The proposed policy establishes restrictions on student device use, outlines the required exceptions, specifies enforcement provisions under the Student Code of Conduct, and incorporates the required emergency-use protocols into the District Emergency Operations Plan.

During the discussion of this policy, the Board agreed to consider the item for First and Final Reading, and Action Item #27-08-08 was added to the agenda.

Action Item #27-08-08: It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Kehoe to Consider Approval of a Resolution to Adopt a Wireless Communications Devices Policy. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was passed 6-0

F. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

G. Discussion

- Workshop Dates to Establish 2026-2027 Superintendent and Board Goals - Board members reviewed calendars and a special meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2026, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to work on Superintendent and Board goals. Board members were asked to come to this meeting prepared to submit two board goals.
- 2026-2027 Master Board Calendar Presentations - The process for adding presentations to upcoming Board meeting agendas was reviewed. Topics may be scheduled when at least two Board members indicate an interest in having a presentation on the subject. Board members were asked to consider topics of interest and come prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.
- Board Member Professional Development - Board member professional development opportunities available through the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) and Wayne RESA were discussed. Board members interested in attending upcoming conferences or training opportunities were asked to email President Sidhu and copy Diane Robertson, who will coordinate registration.

I. Follow-up Board Questions

None

J. Adjournment

President Sidhu adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 8-25-26/dr