

PLYMOUTH-CANTON

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 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 7:01 p.m. in the Boardroom.

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

Absent: Members Tollefson and Westra

District Staff: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of 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

Others Present: Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair

President Sidhu led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #27-08-09: It was moved by Member Christenson and seconded by Member Vos to adopt the agenda and the consent agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

The motion was passed 5-0

New Hires

Abraham, Laura	Elementary Classroom Hulsing	Effective 8-25-26
Avram, Anna	Elementary Classroom Eriksson	Effective 8-25-26
Bell, Elizabeth	Elementary Classroom Eriksson	Effective 8-25-26
Carnes-McWatt, Cammi	Elementary Classroom Field	Effective 8-25-26
Casey, Kira	Elementary Classroom Field	Effective 8-25-26
Christoffersen, Wilder	Elementary Classroom Dodson	Effective 8-25-26
Comiskey, Marissa	Elementary Classroom Field	Effective 8-25-26
Cordisco, Angela	Elementary Classroom Field	Effective 8-25-26
Cormendy, Elanor	Pre-K (GSRP) Dodson	Effective 8-25-26
Cotter, Breanna	Elementary Classroom Hulsing	Effective 8-25-26
Fava, Amy	Elementary Classroom Workman	Effective 8-25-26
Goodman, Rachel	Elementary Classroom Field	Effective 8-25-26

Haran, Ann	Elementary Classroom Smith	
Hubbard, Megan	Elementary Classroom Bentley	Effective 8-25-26
Koppenberg, Megan	Elementary Classroom Isbister	Effective 8-25-26
Kremer, Brianna	Health/Physical Ed-Secondary Canton	Effective 8-25-26
Mato, Yvonne	Elementary Classroom (TAG) Gallimore	Effective 8-25-26
Melendez, Amaya	Elementary Classroom Workman	Effective 8-25-26
Molloy, Kiera	Art Secondary Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Naseer, Isra	Language Arts Liberty	Effective 8-25-26
Nosay, Andrew	Art Secondary Salem	Effective 8-25-26
O'Brien, Fiona	Elementary Classroom Hulsing	Effective 8-25-26
Page, Ryan	English Plymouth	Effective 8-25-26
Poole, Aafrika	Business Education Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Rynard, Amanda	Counselor Canton	Effective 8-25-26
Schmatz, Emily	Elementary Classroom Miller	Effective 8-25-26
Schmittou, Ryan	History Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Segerson, Sarah	Elementary Classroom Dodson	Effective 8-25-26
Sexton, Caroline	Co-Teach with General Ed Teacher Pioneer - Resource Room	Effective 8-25-26
Weak, Jodi	Elementary Classroom Tonda	Effective 8-25-26
Williams, Sonya	Assistant Principal Plymouth	Effective 8-26-26

Leaves

Ford, Alexis	Math Discovery	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-26 to 11-16-26
Frisco, Athena	Elementary ASD Classroom Tonda	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-26 to 11-30-26
VanValkenburg, Lauren	Counselor (Non-Instructional) Canton	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-26 to 10-27-26

Resignations

Bazzi, Aziza	Social Worker Farrand	Resignation Effective 8-10-26
Kane, Alaura	Elementary Classroom Hulsing	Resignation Effective 8-13-26
Lengyel, Ashlee	Literacy Interventionist Bentley	Resignation Effective 8-24-26

Monacelli, Breanna	Elementary Classroom Bentley	Resignation Effective 8-10-26
Moore, Kristin	Elementary Classroom Bentley	Resignation Effective 8-13-26
Moriarty, Christine	(0.5) Speech Pathologist Bentley	Resignation Effective 8-5-26
Murphy, Taylor	Elementary Classroom Field	Resignation Effective 8-12-26
Piraine, Kristen	Elementary Classroom Field	Resignation Effective 8-3-26
Powell, Alesha	Elementary Classroom Field	Resignation Effective 8-11-26
Southwick, Derek	High School Assistant Principal Salem	Resignation Effective 8-11-26

Minutes

The Board of Education Special Meeting from August 4, 2026, and the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 4, 2026, were approved as presented.

Action Items

- Approved a Resolution for a Tentative Agreement with the Plymouth-Canton Education Association (PCEA) (First and Final Reading)
- Approved a Resolution for a Tentative Agreement with the Plymouth-Canton Security Officers Association (First and Final Reading)
- Approved a Resolution for a Tentative Agreement with the Plymouth-Canton Extended Day Association (PCEDA) (First and Final Reading)

B. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Anupam Chugh Sidhu

President Sidhu welcomed everyone to the start of the new school year and thanked the staff members who have been working hard in preparing for a successful opening week. She also recognized the negotiation teams for their efforts in reaching tentative agreements. She highlighted recent Board engagement in the community, including attendance at the P-CEP Lightning Robotics team's Robots in the Park event and meeting with Lincolnshire Village community members to discuss ways to support students. She also noted that she and other Board members planned to attend the district's staff Welcome Back event on Wednesday.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Sidhu 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 met this evening and reviewed a wireless communications device policy. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 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. The next F&O Committee Meeting will be held on 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

Arjan Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair, shared that the SVA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next SVA Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School. Everyone is welcome to attend.

C. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt provided an update on the district's sinking fund proposal, which will not appear on the November 2026 ballot. She shared that the district and Board are regrouping as a team to work on a future sinking fund proposal and will keep the community informed every step of the way.

She also recognized the P-CEP Lightning Robotics team for hosting its annual Robots in the Park event at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, which offered hands-on STEM activities and opportunities to learn more about FIRST robotics programs.

Additionally, she highlighted the district's WEB and Link Crew orientation programs, which support students transitioning to middle and high school. Eighth-grade WEB leaders welcomed incoming sixth graders, while junior and senior Link Crew leaders helped P-CEP freshmen become familiar with their new schools and build connections.

She also welcomed more than 100 new teachers who attended New Teacher Orientation, where they learned about district programs and resources and received ALICE safety and CPR training.

Superintendent Merritt shared information about the district's annual Welcome Back Celebration, which will bring staff together at Salem High School and feature returning guest speaker Dr. Adolph Brown, student performances, 88.1 The Park, food trucks, and opportunities for staff to reconnect before the start of the school year.

Families were reminded to complete the required Back-to-School Check-in through MISTAR Parent Connection, which includes transportation registration for students who plan to ride the bus.

Finally, Superintendent Merritt welcomed students and families to the 2026-2027 school year, which begins Monday, August 31, with a half-day for all K-12 students.

D. Citizens' Comments

- Rachel Hayes and Michelle Moustakas spoke about working together to support all students
- Steve Gentilia spoke on the construction work and timelines at Salem High School
- JJ Lockwood spoke about the collaborative efforts involved in reaching a tentative agreement for the PCEA
- Scott Milam spoke in support of the ChemEd Conference for local chemistry teachers
- LITTLECE Jones spoke in support of the Lincolnshire Village Tenant Association

E. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

F. Discussion

- President Sidhu spoke on the sinking fund proposal and shared that the Board will be reviewing information and discussing next steps for bringing this initiative forward. Following that review, the Board will present the information at a public Board meeting for further discussion and action.
- President Sidhu provided information regarding the MASB Delegate Assembly, scheduled for October 15, 2026, during the MASB Annual Conference. The district may appoint up to four voting delegates, and Board members interested in serving as delegates were asked to express their interest at the next Board meeting. The Board will select its delegates at the September 22 meeting. Members interested in attending the MASB Annual Conference, scheduled for October 15-18, 2026, were also asked to contact President Sidhu and Diane Robertson to arrange registration.
- The Board and Superintendent Merritt discussed presentation topics for the 2026-2027 Board meeting calendar in alignment with the district's Dynamic Plan. Board members shared feedback on proposed topics, and topics with support from two or more members were scheduled on the master calendar throughout the school year. The Board also agreed to hold a workshop following the September 8, 2026, Board meeting to finalize its Board governance document.

G. Follow-up Board Questions

None

H. Adjournment

President Sidhu adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education