

**Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Student Voice in Action Committee Minutes
Monday, May 18, 2026 @ Pioneer Middle School**

Committee Attendees: Aarti Pradhan, Anna Carlesco, Arjun Swaminathan, Eden Wilkerson, Hadi El-Sheikh, Hudson Lloyd, Iniya Mudaliyar, Paige Zirk, Sara Alassi, Sudeeksha Jois, Sylvia Daunoravicius, Tarek Tarmoom, Jessica Lombardi, Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Board of Education President, Lauren Christenson, and Board of Education Trustee, Jennifer Vos

Other Attendees: Joe Tollefson, Craig Olzak

Call to Order, Introductions and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm by Arjun Swaminathan. Arjun welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Review Minutes from April 20, 2026

Arjun Swaminathan asked the SVA committee to review the minutes. The minutes from April 20, 2026 were reviewed and approved. *I, Sudeeksha Jois, approve the minutes as amended. I, Anna Carlesco, second. Motion carries to approve the minutes.*

Citizens Comments

There were no citizens comments.

Introduction of new co-chair

Arjun announced the new co-chair, Krushna Modi. Krushna was unable to attend today's meeting.

ORSA Credit Union

Arjun introduced the Manager of Impact, Austin Golles from ORSA Credit Union. Mr. Golles shared details of the partnership that the ORSA Credit Union shares with P-CCS. The grand opening of the ORSA Hub will be this week. ORSA is looking to grow the partnership. They are looking to expand new programs with the district. Mr. Golles highlighted a proposed middle school program called SparkTank. The thought is that this would be an after-school club that students could be part of. They would work through the following 8 concepts:

- What is Entrepreneurship
- Problems Worth Solving
- How Businesses Make Money
- Budgeting Basics
- Marketing & Branding
- Working as a Startup Team
- Pitch Practice
- The SparkTank pitch competition (the capstone)

Mr. Golles asked if there were any questions or suggestions.

Q: How would you organize the program between all middle schools?

A: Once a month a team member would attend each of the middle schools. The visits would be staggered between all schools.

Q: What would the business idea that they would present be about?

A: The students would present their business budgeting idea.

Q: Would we be taught the difference between a bank and a credit union?

A: Yes. A credit is a non-profit organization and a bank is for profit.

Q: Would there be a prize motivation?

A: They are considering a prize but have not decided yet.

Q: Will we learn about how to sustain a business?

A: They may consider adding that.

Q: Are there only 8 meetings total?

A: They threw around the idea of 5-8 lessons. But they would like it to be focused on participation.

Q: What is the HUB?

A: The HUB is located at Canton HS and will include innovative experiences that all K-12 students can experience. Includes robotics and technology. All students will take a trip to the innovation HUB.

Q: Has there been enough interest from the MS?

A: We hope to have a teacher partnership at each building to help get interested students to participate. Have students look at the district budget and maybe attend the F&O meeting to be exposed to the budget process.

Q: Is this an individual student idea or can it be a group?

A: The thought is that it would be a team of students to help build collaboration.

Suggestion: Business ideas could be tied to an issue that is pertinent to the district or the community. There would be a framework with checkpoints to keep the process on track. Have the HS level students come to the MS level to help. They may condense the program to run October-March.

The ORSA Team is going to take these ideas from the SVA members to help form their final plan.

Update from SVA members who attend subcommittee meetings.

- **Policy:** Debating on the new company to go with. They want to make the policy guidelines more visible to everyone. In the summer the phone policy will be discussed.
- **Finance and Operations:** Items from the board meeting for consideration. Furniture and equipment for new furniture in the computer labs for Discovery. Discussed contract renewal with ABM. Reviewed the financial reports for the month of March. Discussed changing the meetings to accommodate other events. The next meeting is on May 24th.
- **Student Performance and Achievement:** Meeting was cancelled.

SVA Initiative Substance Abuse Awareness

Dr. Vartanian-Gibbs discussed the google form that was created to get honest feedback from the SVA members. The members were asked to respond to the questions so that they have feedback moving forward.

Anna Carlesco shared that she participated in a group that measured the food waste in the lunch rooms at P-CEP. Anyone that bought a school lunch were asked to give the group their trays to include any leftover food into a food waste bucket. Liquids were added to a container and unopened items were put in a share basket. There were 200 people that participated at Canton and there was quite a bit of food waste. The Food and Nutrition Services department is going to share the findings with the SVA group. The trays are compostable.

Arjun Swaminathan adjourned the meeting at 5:24 pm.