

PLYMOUTH-CANTON

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 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
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs - Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Jen Curry, Chief Academic Officer
Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board

Others Present: Krushna Modi, SVA Student Co-Chair

Krushna Modi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #27-09-10: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Tollefson 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

Brandt, Sarah	Elementary Classroom Miller	Effective 8-31-26
Brighton, Kelly	Elementary Classroom Miller	Effective 8-27-26
Brown, Kevione	Elementary Classroom Eriksson	Effective 8-31-26
Burling, Isabella	English Canton	Effective 8-27-26
Cook, Grace	Business Education Canton	Effective 8-31-26
Dantzer, Katherine	Elementary Classroom Hulsing	Effective 8-25-26
Dennison, Timothy	Elementary Classroom Field	Effective 8-31-26
Donahue, Jacqueline	Elementary Classroom Bentley	Effective 8-31-26
Hamilton, Mary	Elementary Classroom Bentley	Effective 8-31-26
Ickes, Rylie	Elementary Classroom Workman	Effective 8-25-26
Lewis, Patricia	Elementary Classroom Bentley	Effective 8-27-26
Lindsey, Yvonne	Elementary Classroom Field	Effective 8-25-26

Oatney, Peter	Math Salem	Effective 8-25-26
Page, Sydney	Social Studies Liberty/Bentley	Effective 8-31-26
Sassak, Emma	Elementary Classroom Bentley	Effective 8-25-26
Shropshire, Tamira	Social Worker Farrand	Effective 8-28-26

Leaves

Kaptanowsky, Brittany	Pre-K (GSRP) Canton	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-26 through 1-14-27
Popp, Jacqueline	Language Arts (.40 READ 180 31a) Liberty	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-24-26 through 11-16-26
Thompson, Ainsley	Speech Pathologist Salem	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-26 through 12-4-26

Resignations

Beaulieu, Steven	English Canton	Resignation Effective 8-20-26
Minnick, Jill	Chief Finance & Operations Officer Administration Building	Resignation Effective 9-11-26

Minutes

The Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes from August 25, 2026, were approved as presented. The Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes from August 25, 2026, were approved with a correction to the meeting start and end times.

B. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresident's Report – Anupam Chugh Sidhu

President Sidhu welcomed everyone back for the new school year and thanked staff members for their hard work in navigating recent weather-related challenges. She shared how much she enjoyed attending the district's Welcome Back Opening Day and thanked Board colleagues who attended as well. She also spoke about attending the Lincolnshire Village Tenant Association's back-to-school event with fellow Board members and thanked the community for sharing opportunities for Board engagement. In closing, she noted the Board workshop scheduled this evening following the regular meeting, and invited the community to attend.

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 – 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, 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 met on September 3, 2026, and discussed the Sinking Fund proposal. The committee explored potential dates and options for bringing the proposal back to voters, since it will not appear on the November 2026 ballot. The committee will discuss this topic further during this evening's workshop. The next F&O Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom. Community members are encouraged to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) – Anupam Sidhu

Krushna Modi, 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 reflected on the excitement of the new school year and welcomed back students and staff members. She shared highlights from her school visits and spoke about the well-attended open houses and parent nights. She thanked staff members for creating a positive start to the year and for navigating several early challenges, including HVAC issues, a tornado warning, and electrical outages, while keeping student safety and learning at the forefront.

She also shared that all three P-CEP high schools earned statewide and national recognition in U.S. News & World Report's 2026 Best High Schools rankings, placing among the top 50 in Michigan and top five percent nationally. All three also ranked among the nation's top 400 high schools for STEM education. She congratulated students and thanked the district's outstanding educators for their continued dedication.

Superintendent Merritt also highlighted the district's efforts to expand access to extracurricular activities through significantly reduced athletic pay-to-participate fees at both the high school and middle school levels. P-CCS is also increasing district support for athletics, clubs, performance groups, competitions, and other student activities.

Superintendent Merritt closed by sharing that NEA President Princess Moss will visit P-CCS to tour the P-CEP Innovation Hub and learn more about the district's work and Dynamic Plan. She highlighted the significance of the visit and the opportunity to showcase P-CCS's leadership and innovative work in education.

D. Citizens' Comments

- Rachel Hayes, Michelle Moustakas, and Debra Finkenbinder-Pepper spoke on the Sinking Fund and communication
- Karen Schmidt spoke on transportation recording technology

E. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

F. Discussion

The Board discussed the MASB Delegate Assembly scheduled for October 15, 2026, during the Fall Leadership Conference. The district can have up to four voting delegates, and Members Sidhu, Vos, and Westra expressed interest in representing P-CCS. The Board will vote to confirm delegates at the meeting on September 22.

G. Follow-up Board Questions

None

H. Recess

President Sidhu called for a recess at 7:35 p.m. to transition into a Board workshop. The meeting was reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

Special Meeting – Workshop

Sinking Fund Discussion and Board Governance Document

The Board of Education and Superintendent Merritt met in a workshop to discuss next steps for the district's sinking fund proposal, which will not appear on the November 2026 ballot. The Board discussed the continued importance of pursuing a sinking fund and considered potential election dates in May, August, and November 2027, as well as options in 2028.

The Board reviewed the Epic MRA community survey results, received an economic outlook update from Finance and Operations Citizen Committee Member Peter Roderique, and evaluated the potential election dates, based on timing, economic conditions, election costs, and opportunities for community engagement. After considering these factors, the Board reached consensus to bring forward a resolution at the September 22 meeting to place the proposal on the May 4, 2027 ballot and highlighted the importance of ongoing community education and outreach leading up to the election.

The Board continued the workshop with a review of the Board Operating Manual. Board members reviewed each section, provided feedback, and discussed revisions as they worked toward a final updated document. The review included the Board's vision and core values, roles and responsibilities, officer and committee guidelines, meeting protocols, communications and ethics, and Board development. The revisions will be incorporated into an updated version of the manual for further review and finalization.

I. Adjournment

President Sidhu adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:24 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 9/22/26-dr