PLYMOUTH-CANTON
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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 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, Christenson, Kehoe, Sidhu, Tollefson, and Vos
Absent: Member Westra

District Staff: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Jen Curry, Chief Academic Officer
Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer
Pamela Anstey, Interim Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board

Others Present: Peter Roderique, Finance and Operations Citizen Committee Member
Arjun Swaminathan, SVA Student Co-Chair
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 #27-09-11: It was moved by Member Christenson and seconded by Member Tollefson to adopt the agenda and the consent agenda as presented.

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

New Hires

Jacobsen, Alex	Math Salem	Effective 9-9-26
Purgar, Brittany	(0.4) Language Arts Discovery	Effective 9-16-26
Slaker, Alyssa	Occupational Therapy Salem/Canton	Effective 9-15-26
Waugh, Meghan	Nurse Smith/Bird	Effective 9-8-26
Chuang, Reagan	Assistant Principal Salem	Effective 9-10-26
Kaur, Baljit	Adult Education Supervisor Starkweather	Effective 9-28-26
Markovich, Megan	Records Specialist P-CEP	Effective 10-5-26

Leaves

Vezina, Anastacia	Elementary Classroom Miller	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-26 to 12-18-26

Resignations

Opfermann, Scott	Social Studies Starkweather	Resignation Effective 9-25-26

Minutes

The Board of Education approved the September 8, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Out-of-Country Field Trips

Belize – Plymouth High School – Grades 9-12 Students

B. Celebrating Success

Member Christenson presented the STARS Award to Pioneer Middle School students in recognition of their exceptional success in Esports competitions. Pioneer's Mario Kart team captured the 2026 State Championship, while the Super Smash Bros. Ultimate team earned State Runner-Up honors, adding to Pioneer's impressive statewide Esports record.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Anupam Chugh Sidhu

President Sidhu expressed her hope that everyone had a great start to the new school year and thanked Member Westra for attending a recent Lincolnshire Community meeting. She highlighted her meeting with a Plymouth Township Trustee focused on strengthening community relationships and shared notes from a MASB workshop she attended at Wayne RESA on running effective Board meetings. She thanked Board members for submitting suggestions for the Board governance document and indicated that a draft would be shared for a first reading at the next meeting. She also reminded members of the September 28 special meeting to discuss 2026-2027 Board and Superintendent goals and asked each member to submit two proposed goals by Friday to help identify common themes and priorities.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Vos reported that the SPA Committee met on September 9, 2026, and held an orientation for Trustee Tollefson, reviewed updates from the Digital Advisory Committee, and reviewed an out-of-country field trip. The next SPA Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 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. She shared that the district is scheduling workgroup meetings to prepare for the transition to a new policy provider. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 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 Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 5 p.m.in the Boardroom. Community members are encouraged to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) – Anupam Sidhu

Arjun 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. Community members are encouraged to attend.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt reflected on the 25th anniversary of September 11 and remembered P-CCS graduate Meredith Whalen, who lost her life that day. She highlighted Meredith's lasting legacy through the Canton Community Foundation's Meredith Whalen Memorial Scholarship. She thanked P-CCS educators for helping students understand the events of September 11 through the personal stories of those who experienced it, ensuring the events of that day and the lives lost are not forgotten.

She congratulated 29 P-CEP students named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition after scoring among the top one percent nationwide on the PSAT. The students will continue through the selection process, with finalists and scholarship winners announced later this school year.

Superintendent Merritt reminded families to discuss school safety with students and the serious consequences of making or sharing threats of violence, even when intended as a joke. She encouraged students to report concerning information to a trusted adult, law enforcement, or the state's OK2SAY line rather than sharing or reposting it.

She highlighted fall programming available through P-CCS Community Education, including a variety of enrichment and athletic opportunities for youth and adults.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt also recognized student leaders from the three P-CEP high schools for hosting the "Purple for a Purpose" Tailgate on September 18. The event brought students together for an evening of school spirit and activities while supporting mental health awareness.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Laurie Mayers spoke on Student Clubs and GSAs
- Kelly Giromini spoke on the district's Credit Recovery Program
- Nancy Faerber spoke on the upcoming League of Women Voters School Board Candidate Forum
- Rachel Hayes spoke on district communication
- Michelle Moustakas spoke on the importance of voting in the upcoming election

F. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

G. Action Items/Discussion

- **Action Item #27-09-12**: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Vos to Consider Approval of a Resolution to appoint Members Ahmed, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra as MASB Voting Delegates at the 2026 MASB Delegate Assembly on October 15, 2026, in Lansing. Member Kehoe will serve as a backup voting delegate. (First and Final Reading)

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

- **Action Item #27-09-13**: It was moved by Member Christenson and seconded by Member Kehoe to Consider Approval of a Resolution to Establish a Sinking Fund for District Capital Improvements. Member Kehoe provided an overview of the proposed sinking fund as a funding source for capital repairs, renovations, and improvements that would help offset General Fund expenses. He also explained the processing error that prevented the proposal from appearing on the November 2026 ballot, and the Board reached a consensus to proceed with the sinking fund proposal for the May 2027 election. Peter Roderique, a citizen member of the Finance and Operations Committee, presented an economic forecast reviewing key economic trends, inflation projections, and market conditions to help assess the timing of the proposal. (First and Final Reading)

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

H. Follow-up Board Questions

None

I. Adjournment

President Sidhu adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:09 p.m.

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Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 10-13-26/dr