PLYMOUTH-CANTON
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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2026

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 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, and Vos
Absent: Members Christenson and Westra

District Staff: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer
Pamela Anstey, Interim Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board
Matthew Lents, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects

Others Present: Brian Gesaman, McCarthy and Smith Senior Project Manager
Nick Tindall, McCarthy and Smith Assistant Project Manager
Anna Read, TMP Architecture, Inc. Principal Project Manager
Kathleen McBride, Arch Environmental Group, Inc. Stormwater Team Manager

Member Sidhu led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #27-10-14: 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, and Vos
Nays: None
The motion was passed 5-0

New Hires

Bailey, Alyssa	Resource Room Bentley	Effective 10-12-26
Johnson, Nicolle	Science Liberty	Effective 9-28-26
Munwar, Aqsa	Nurse Plymouth (Goals)	Effective 9-23-26
Swanson, Amanda	Counselor (Non-Instructional) Canton	Effective 10-12-26

Leaves

Kania, Krystina	Elementary Classroom Isbister	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 9-28-26 to 1-18-27
Kaur, Baljit	Adult Education Supervisor Starkweather	Professional Leave of Absence Effective 9-28-26 to 6-9-27
Maples, Samantha	Resource Room Canton	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 10-5-26 to 1-8-27
Mills, Mallory	Clinical Behavior Specialist Bentley	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 9-28-26 to 1-28-27
Richardson, Lindsay	Elementary Classroom Farrand	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-26 to 6-9-27

Resignations

Nea, Lindsay	Cognitive Impairment Bentley	Resignation Effective 10-2-26

Retirements

Brinston, Terri	Voc – Health Science Occupations Canton	Retirement Effective 9-30-26

Minutes

The Board of Education approved the Special Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2026, the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2026, and the Special Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2026, as presented.

Out-of-Country Field Trips

Norway – Salem High School – Grades 9-12

B. Celebrating Success

Member Tollefson presented the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award to Julie Jones, Gallimore Elementary Media Specialist, in recognition of her dedication and commitment to enriching student learning. Julie was recognized for creating a welcoming media center that inspires students to explore new interests. As leader of the Gallimore Green Team, Julie has also transformed the school's outdoor spaces, creating inviting grounds that reflect her passion and heart, even intentionally planting flowers in the school's colors. She brings genuine care to everything she does for the Gallimore School community and is greatly appreciated.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report – Anupam Chugh Sidhu

President Sidhu congratulated SVA Student Co-Chair Arjun Swaminathan on his selection as Vice President of the Midwest Region for the National School Boards Association's student advocacy group. She also shared information about the upcoming MASB Annual Leadership Conference, which she will attend along with Members Westra and Vos, with plans to provide a conference update at the next Board meeting.

President Sidhu also highlighted the opening of the Rock Café, which recently earned prestigious accreditation from the American Culinary Federation. She invited Board members to join her for lunch at the café in the coming weeks.

She recognized Board members for recent community engagement, including attending the Canton Community Diwali Festival of Lights, the grand opening of the new Meijer store in Plymouth, P-CEP football games, and the NASB Federal Scholarship webinar.

President Sidhu also shared highlights from recent meetings, including the MASB Legislative Priority Setting Meeting and a recent PCEA meeting, where she updated members on Board initiatives and encouraged them to attend Board and committee meetings. She reminded her Board colleagues of the upcoming Wayne County General Membership Meeting at Wayne RESA on November 5, with details included in last week's Board Notes.

In closing, President Sidhu acknowledged Board of Education candidates Craig Olzak, Dan Lemieux, Lester Booker Jr., Joe Tollefson, and Aamina Ahmed, who were in attendance. She thanked them for their time and effort throughout the election season.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Vos shared that the SPA Committee met on October 7, 2026, and reviewed a Spring Data Attendance Presentation as well as an update from the Sex Education Advisory Council. The committee also discussed an out-of-country field trip. The next SVA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, and everyone is welcome 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 work has begun transitioning to the new policy provider, and she encouraged Board members to contact her with any

questions. 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 reported that the Finance and Operations Committee met on October 8, 2026, and received an update on completed summer construction projects and upcoming work. The committee also reviewed an update to the Salem High School fire suppression system, ABM summer cleaning inspection results, the stormwater management plan, and a minor property line adjustment at Smith Elementary School. The next F&O Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 5 p.m.in the Boardroom. Community members are encouraged to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the SVA Committee met on September 28, 2026, with strong student participation and engaging discussions on networking, team building, and committee norms. The committee also reviewed projects and opportunities for the new school year. The next SVA Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt recognized October as Principal Appreciation Month. She thanked principals across the district for their exceptional leadership. She highlighted their important role in supporting students, staff, and families and the amazing work they do every day to advocate for students with dedication and compassion.

She shared information about the first Parent Forum meeting of the 2026-2027 school year, scheduled for October 21 at 9:30 a.m. Formerly known as Parent Council, the forum gives families a chance to connect with district leaders, learn about educational programs, ask questions, and share feedback.

She also highlighted the first *Coffee with Monica* gathering of the year, scheduled for October 15 at 5:30 p.m. at Fourgrounds Coffee in downtown Plymouth. These informal gatherings give families and community members another way to connect with district leadership, discuss district initiatives, and share their perspectives.

Superintendent Merritt shared that Field Elementary School will be featured in a Channel 4 special highlighting efforts to improve elementary reading achievement. Reporter Nick Monacelli spoke with second-grade teacher Cydnei Henry about the district's literacy curriculum and its use of the UFLI systematic phonics program to strengthen foundational reading skills.

She also invited everyone to the Orsa hub at Canton High School on November 3 at 4:30 p.m. to unveil a mural by artist Tony Roko, created in partnership with Orsa Credit Union.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt spoke about her attendance at the National Honor Society ceremony, where nearly 100 P-CEP students were inducted in recognition of their academic achievements, character, leadership, & commitment to making a positive difference.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Rachel Hayes spoke on the district's process for reporting hate and bias.
- Sandra Galvan shared a bullying concern
- Daniel O'Karma shared information on Student Hybrids, an AI Study, and the latest edition of the Plymouth Express
- Michelle Moustakas spoke on providing a safe environment for vulnerable students

F. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Finance and Operations – Pamela Anstey

Summer Bond Program Updates (Presentation)

Representatives from McCarthy & Smith, Inc. and TMP Architecture provided an update on summer 2026 construction projects throughout the district, highlighting completed improvements and ongoing work at several schools. Highlights included renovations at Gallimore, Hoben, and Farrand Elementary Schools, including

classroom and restroom upgrades, new furniture, playground improvements, and progress on building additions.

Discovery Middle School improvements included HVAC upgrades, interior renovations, and parking lot and tennis court improvements.

At the high school level, updates included extensive renovations at Salem High School, progress on new athletic and support facilities, parking lot and sidewalk improvements at Plymouth High School, and turf replacement at P-CEP.

The presentation also outlined upcoming projects at Bentley, Workman, and Tonda Elementary Schools, Plymouth and Canton High Schools, and future baseball and softball facility improvements.

In closing, appreciation was expressed to the community for its support of the 2020 Bond, which made these improvements possible, and to the principals, staff, parents, and students for their cooperation throughout the summer construction projects.

Board members were provided an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Stormwater Management Plan Renewal. Matthew Lents, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects, and Kathleen McBride, Arch Environmental Group, provided an overview of the proposed resolution in support of the district's commitment to maintaining compliance with Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) requirements, including preventing illicit discharges and managing stormwater runoff from construction and redevelopment projects. Board approval of the resolution is required to maintain compliance with the district's stormwater discharge permit requirements. (First Reading)

Board members were provided an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

None

H. Action Items/Discussion

- **Action Item #27-10-15**: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Tollefson to **amend** the agenda to reflect revisions to the 2026-2027 Superintendent Goals Resolution following Board discussion regarding increased survey participation and language clarifying how the impact of Student and Family Engagement Services could be demonstrated.

  Ayes: Members Ahmed, Kehoe, Sidhu, Tollefson, and Vos
  Nays: None
  The motion was passed 5-0

- **Action Item #27-10-16**: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Vos to adopt the 2026-2027 Superintendent Goals **as amended**.

  Ayes: Members Ahmed, Kehoe, Sidhu, Tollefson, and Vos
  Nays: None
  The motion was passed 5-0

- **Discussion** – Board Goals: Board members reviewed and discussed the proposed 2026-2027 Board Goals, offering feedback and recommendations for revisions. An updated draft reflecting the Board's input will be brought forward at the next Board meeting for consideration.

I. Follow-up Board Questions

None

J. Adjournment

President Sidhu adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:09 p.m.

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Anupam Chugh Sidhu
President, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular meeting of the Board of Education on 10-27-26/dr