

P-CCS Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 26, 2018

2018-2019 Officers

President:	Beverly Chetty	Corresponding Secretary:	
Vice President:	Angie Guerin	Recording Secretary:	Julie Ealovega
Membership Coordinator:	Judy Hart		

Representatives

Bentley:		Discovery:	Julie Ealovega
Bird:	Kara Gavin	East:	Judy Hart
Dodson:		Liberty:	
Eriksson:		Pioneer:	Lisa Wierzbicki, Aamina Ahmed
Farrand:	Lisa Madden, Becky Krupa	West:	Lisa Madden, Laura Anne VanSickle
Field:			
Gallimore:		Canton:	Gina Thibault, Angie Guerin, Sofia Saleem, Julie Ealovega, Marsha Kreza
Hoben:		Plymouth:	Angela Neshov
Hulsing:		Salem:	Julie O'Donnell, Aamina Ahmed, Catherine McClaren
Isbister:	Stacy Grzelak, Judy Hart	EEF:	Gretchen Ward
Miller:	Andrea Schultz	Board of Ed:	Kate Borninski, Anupam Chugh Sidhu
Smith:	Laura Anne VanSickle		
Tonda:	Angela Neshov		
Workman:	Lisa Wierzbicki		

School Administration: Monica Merritt and Nick Brandon

Guests: Kara Gavin, Becky Krupa, Matt Koleszar, Jeff Noble, Darian Moore, Kristy Pagan, Anupam Chugh Sidhu, Leonardo Savage, Aamina Ahmed

The meeting was called to order by President Beverly Chetty at 9:31 a.m.

- Attendance/Roll call was taken by Julie Ealovega.
- Judy Hart made a motion to approve the minutes, Angie Guerin seconded the motion. Minutes approved.
- **PARC Vote Yes presentation** – Kara Gavin – She knows the value of having PARC (Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex) in our community since her child has used the theater and swims there. They are asking voters to approve a single millage of 0.75 mills over 20 years. Half of the increased funds would be used to renovate and maintain the current building, while the other half would go to build a new, 800-seat performing arts center. Activity at the complex over the last three years has shown the vibrancy of arts and recreation and need by the community. Voters now have the chance to make it a public property. The funds would be managed by a board of 7 members, from the city and township and voted in individually, called the Plymouth Area Recreation Authority. On-going operation revenue to pay heat, lights, etc., would come from revenue of the businesses renting space within the complex.
- **PARC Vote No presentation** – Becky Krupa – Vehemently denied the accusations against her and the Vote No group. Has been a part of the community all of her life and watched her mother serve the community as a township trustee. Was amazed that in the articles of appropriation, a 35-page document, there was only one page about PARC. She agrees that it is a great space, but doesn't want the public to have to fund it, being on the hook for the next 20 years to pay \$30 million for a project that may fail. They could go out for bonds for 5 years instead or find other revenue streams. They can't ask for more mills until the 20 years are done. Says that the necessary studies and research weren't done by the city or township to determine the feasibility and traffic flow.

***Non-education-related topics are not being included in the following candidates' statements in the interest of fairness and due to the intended scope of this forum. Anyone interested in candidates' stances outside the educational realm are encouraged to research the candidate-provided resources listed at the end**

Please, remember to vote on November 6

- **District 20 State Representative, Challenger**, Matt Koleszar – Attended Walled Lake Western High School, Saginaw Valley State University for his bachelors, and Eastern Michigan University for his masters. He has worked for twelve years as an Airport High School English and social studies teacher. Always knew that someday he would go into politics. After enduring a full-on, active shooter drill that lasted three hours and ended with them being escorted by troopers to the middle school for safety, he couldn't understand how Jeff Noble could agree to having guns in school. That was when he decided to run against him. He says there is no record level of funding for K-12 schools, as money is instead being shifted to post-secondary education. With SB 574, even more money is getting shifted to for-profit charter schools. We need to fully fund public schools to reach the recommended extra \$2000 per pupil goal. We need to provide a full, rich curriculum that includes technical and vocational education along with college prep classes. Does not agree with the mandatory 3rd grade retention law; it should be a parent option, not mandatory. Would also want extra training of staff that may be in schools with guns.
- **District 20 State Representative, Incumbent**, Jeff Noble – In 1999 came to Michigan to serve his church. Wanted the best education for his children so P-CCS was his top choice. Kids went through Bentley, Discovery and Plymouth. He says that he never supported guns in schools; he supports safety in schools and has never said that teachers should have guns. Wants schools to make their own safety plans so that schools can be proactive. Extra safety funds for schools could help purchase metal detectors or armed officers for schools. He believes in the Constitution and that if the law says you can carry a gun, then you can carry one. He thinks decisions should be made at the local level and schools can decide. He doesn't have an "office"; instead it is the places he meets people for his coffee hours. He wants to meet people since for 25 years he has dedicated his life to help and represent people. Would like to continue as representative since it is difficult to make changes in only two years.
- **District 21 State Representative, Challenger**, Darian Moore – He has been in the community for about 20 years. He has three children—one a U of M grad, one a high school senior, and one in middle school. He has been exposed to the full spectrum of schools, with public schools at Miller, Rawsonville Elementary, Achieve Academy, and Canton Charter, and private school at Plymouth Christian Academy. He believes citizens should have the right to move their children as he did from public schools to private schools if they have problems with situations such as bullying. He has volunteered in P-CCS schools. He will take the same attitude he has had with his community service activities to his life in public office.
- **District 21 State Representative, Incumbent**, Kristy Pagan – She grew up in Canton, graduated from Salem in 2000, and attended Western Michigan University to become a teacher. She knew teachers needed a voice in legislature. She worked with Debbie Stabenow in Washington, D.C. while taking graduate school courses at night. She thinks funding of public schools is our top priority and has worked hard toward that effort as a member of the School Aid Appropriations Committee. The foundation allowance peaked in 2010, and studies show that Michigan schools are significantly underfunded. Part of the problem is the siphoning of money to charter schools (80% of which are for-profit in Michigan) and 12 cyber schools, which all receive the same per pupil funding. She says that privatizing our schools does not work; the for-profit charter schools are making money off of our children. You cannot have the best motivations for children and profit at the same time. She believes in parental choice, but they will be deceived by profit charters. Has no problem with non-profit charter schools. Twenty states have had a cap on charters, but not Michigan. She would like to see hiring of more school counselors, therapists, and social workers and smaller class sizes. She has spoken in opposition to the 3rd grade retention law and wants to make sure to fund early literacy coaches in every school.
- **School Board Candidate, 6-year Term**, Anupam Chugh Sidhu – She has been in P-CCS for 17 years. This is her second year as secretary of the Board of Education and chair of the Student Performance and Achievement Committee. Having a child with a chronic illness, others have reached out to her. She was a Board member during the hiring of our safety director and the raise for our paraprofessionals. She attends school activities such as the SJ5K and district art show. She believes in and values this work. She has spent 25 years in public education as a tutor for homeless children, high school math and science teacher, and as an Instructional Technology manager at Wayne County RESA. She started a math club and multi-cultural alliance club. She is frustrated by the \$4 billion going to higher education that was meant for K-12.

She is most proud of the passing of our security and safety package that was well researched and the recent raises for the paraprofessionals.

- **School Board Candidate, 6-year Term**, Leonardo Savage – He is a retired quality management consultant. He went into large organizations to look at their procedures and suggest changes. He believes that to achieve success, there has to be cooperation and communication between all parties. He thinks the school district should embrace safety and security, discipline, and mental health supports. For example, there should be better training of counselors and helping students be less reluctant to seek help. He asked us to consider what other local districts have that we don't. That is a community college within the school district that would be run by the district. This would help save students money and encourage them to go to college. He ran previously for a Board of Education seat in 2016.
- **School Board Candidate, 2-year Term**, Aamina Ahmed – She has 4 children in the school district—one in elementary, one at Pioneer, and two at Salem. Because each of her children has different needs, she knows that students' needs should be attended to individually. Being a second-generation American helped her learn to embrace inclusivity. She served on the TAG study group, the district-wide school improvement team, and the Board of Ed Policy Subcommittee. We need to empower teachers with better funding. She sees as a strength in the district its focus on a growth mind-set in academic achievement. She would like to see more stability in the administration, as many people have complained about difficulty finding the correct person. She is also proud of Girls to Code and STEM Academy, hoping we could find more funding to expand it.
- **School Board Candidate, 2-year Term**, John Lazarowicz (not present, but submitted statement read) – Currently works for the Wayne County Airport Authority Police. Has worked 26 years for the county. Has been a baseball coach in the area for 13 years. Has one son and is a P-CCS grad himself, having attended Field, Hulsing, Central, and Salem, Class of 1988. He considers the positives in the district as its size and diversity and excellent administrators, teachers and staff. He wants to support the staff and students.
- **Parent Council Elections** – Nominations were once again solicited for the following positions, and the members present voted the following candidates into office for this school year: President – Angie Guerin, Vice-President – Beverly Chetty, Corresponding Secretary – Cathy Vredevelde, Recording Secretary – Julie Ealovega, Membership Coordinator – Judy Hart. Members were encouraged to continue to spread the word about what our meetings entail and to invite others to come to our meetings.
- **Education Excellence Foundation (EEF)** – Gretchen Ward, Executive Director – The Showcase of Grants was this past Wednesday evening and everyone was very impressed by the passion and enthusiasm of the teachers as they presented the results of their grants. Some students were there presenting as well. It was lots of fun with snacks and student-provided music. Children can come, too.
- **P-CCS Communications Update** - Nicholas Brandon, P-CCS Executive Director of Communications and Marketing – The district's new P-CCS Official Mobile App was launched last week and includes unlimited, instant notifications (like the ones you'd get about snow days). It is the quickest way to connect to MiStar. You can find it on Google Play or the Apple App store.
- **Superintendent Update** – Monica Merritt, P-CCS Superintendent – The district has been able to settle nine contracts recently because of our extra funding from the enhancement millage. District student population is increasing. Total number is around 17,500, and we will know the true count in November. The district will be beginning the Facility Utilization Study soon and will be advertising for people to be involved. They will be determining the priorities and the number of classrooms needed to house it all. It will include considerations such as possible new wings on buildings to absorb new students from the growth in housing in southern Canton. It should be finalized in February. The district received the highest rating for finances from Plante Moran. The district's paraprofessionals just received a higher pay-rate and step increases in the latest contract. Frank Ruggirello, in his new job as Director of Partnerships and External Affairs, has been working with MSU and CMU to develop new partnerships for student teaching. He is also re-establishing our partnership with EMU. They haven't gotten to U of M yet, but hope to in the future. We have had fewer student teachers recently because with funding shortages, the task of setting them up got shifted to already busy administrative assistants. Now that administrators are aware of the problem, they are focused to improve it. She is pleased with the vision of our safety director, John Walker. He has been meeting with schools and the school crisis team. He has had many preventative ideas, including starting a student-led committee at the high schools. The students brought up ideas for mental health issues.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 30, at 9:30 a.m. There being no further business, Angie Guerin made a motion to adjourn and Beverly Chetty seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Ealovega
Recording Secretary

Resources:

Educational Excellence Foundation: <http://eeforkids.org/>

EEF email address: eef@pccsk12.com

PARC: www.plymouthparc.org www.plymouthparcproject.com

Matt Koleszar: www.mattformichigan.org

Jeff Noble: www.votejeffnoble.com

Darian Moore: www.moore4us.com (734) 357-0730

Kristy Pagan: www.kristypagan.com

Anupam Chugh Sidhu: www.anupamforpccs.com (734) 417-9472

Aamina Ahmed: www.aaminaforpccs.com

Contact Information:

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Monica Merritt: monica.merritt@pccsk12.com

PCCS Parent Council: pccsprescouncil@gmail.com