

P-CCS Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Minutes of Regular Meeting

November 30, 2018

2018-2019 Officers

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

Representatives

Bentley:		Discovery:	Julie Ealovega
Bird:	Amanda Krinke	East:	Judy Hart
Dodson:		Liberty:	
Eriksson:		Pioneer:	
Farrand:		West:	
Field:			
Gallimore:	Preethi Kondur	Canton:	Julie Ealovega, Angie Guerin
Hoben:		Plymouth:	
Hulsing:		Salem:	Cathy Vredeveld, Preethi Kondur
Isbister:	Stacy Grzelak, Judy Hart		
Miller:		EEF:	Gretchen Ward
Smith:		Board of Ed:	
Tonda:			
Workman:			

School Administration: Maureen Molloy, Anthony Ruela, Hal Heard, John Walker, Nick Brandon

The meeting was called to order by President Angie Guerin at 9:33 a.m.

- Attendance/Roll call was taken by Julie Ealovega.
- **Elementary Testing** – Maureen Molloy, Director of Elementary Education – Gave us a K-5 assessment overview. All grades take the NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) three times a year – Sept/Oct, Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr. There is a three week spread during which every student is assessed. For K-1, the test is more auditory-based. This nationwide assessment shows teachers what a child knows right now and is ready to learn. They pay special attention to students who score below 60%. Instead of the DRA, teachers this year are using the Fountas and Pinnell BAS (Benchmark Assessment System) to learn specific reading skills students know and need to learn. By assessing all five components of reading, especially reading comprehension, teachers determine if a student would benefit from an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP). This is the plan used for the “Read by Grade Three” law. This assessment is also given three times a year during the same timeline as the NWEA. It takes about 25 minutes per child. To help with home involvement in reading, they have held several evening meetings that were well-attended and gave parents ideas to use that fit into various home lifestyles. The yearly summative test is the M-Step, given in the spring. Grades 3-8 all take the math and ELA portions, while the science and social studies are only taken in grades 5, 8, and 11. It is an un-timed computer test.
- **TAG Testing** – Anthony Ruela, Executive Director of Middle School Education, Data, & School Improvement – This year students will take two tests. The screening assessment is the NWEA in reading and math, which is given to every student already. Students who score 60% or higher in the fall or winter will be invited to take the qualifying assessment, which will be the CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test). This percentile has proven to be a good predictor for proficiency on the M-Step. Once a student has met the threshold of 60% on the NWEA, they will notify the parents by email that in **grades 2-3** they can **opt out** of further testing and in **grades 4-7** they can **opt in** for further testing. The timing of the NWEA is important to determine the percentiles. He has to report the number of weeks of school before the test was taken. The RIT score doesn't change by time so that is what they use. It means different things in a vertical scale in

respect to time (similar to comparing a certain height at age 6 to that same height at age 10). After students take the CogAT, parents of qualifying students are invited to informational meetings about the TAG program. (A link to the most current meeting's presentation may be found on the TAG page of the P-CCS website and is linked in the resources section at the end of the minutes.) They switched to the CogAT, which is a computer assessment similar to the M-Step but timed, because they wanted to look more at quantitative, abstract reasoning in reading and math. It is one of the most widely used assessments for TAG qualification in the nation. The CogAT has three test batteries: verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal. There are national norms for grade and age. The district uses age-level norms since they break down by month. Testing of second graders will be done in their own schools. Grades 3-7 will be tested on Saturdays at Canton High School in the computer lab and administered by trained staff. It takes about two and a half hours with breaks between test batteries. Students within the district's boundaries but not attending our schools can be nominated by their parents for testing, and the parents have to pay for the testing. The wait-list procedure is to use standard age score to rank students. They are looking for well-rounded students; meaning competent in all areas of the test. They are able now to use past data to determine the profile for successful candidates to the TAG program.

- **SAT/PSAT Testing** – Hal Heard III, Director of High School Education – Students in grades 8-10 take the PSAT and in grade 11 take the SAT, ACT Workkeys, and MME (Michigan Merit Exam, which includes science and social studies). All tests will be administered during the testing window of April 9-23, 2019. The high score for the PSAT is 1520, and the test takes about two hours and 45 minutes. The high score for the SAT is 1600, and it takes about three hours. Both tests have sections in reading, writing, language, and math (with a calculator part and a non-calculator part). Since College Board revamped the SAT in 2015, wrong answers no longer count against you. The SAT has an optional, argumentative essay that our students take. For the first time, all 8th grade students will be taking the PSAT 8. This will show baseline readiness, as does the PSAT 9 for grade 9. In grade 10, the PSAT 10 shows student progress. Grade 10 students also take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery), which is administered by members of the military with PCEP staff present. It is not intended for military recruitment but to provide feedback for the students about their career skill set. The grade 11 tests are a graduation requirement. The SAT test is done for free. Last year's average score was 1130. There is also a PSAT NMSQT administered in the fall to 11th grade students who pay to take it for practice and to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship. The best way to prepare for all these tests is to read 30 minutes each day. Let your kids read whatever they find interesting. The goal is to get them reading. There are free PSAT/SAT practice tests at Khan Academy, and if you link your child's College Board account, they will personalize the practice sessions according to their test results. Other good resources are Kaplan and www.shmoop.com.
- **Safety Update and Introduction** – John Walker, Director of School Safety and Security – He was hired by the district in August after working in local law enforcement for 25 years. He was a lieutenant when he left, and he specialized in security administration, training, crisis management, and emergency preparedness. The district was doing very well already. He comes with a different perspective, and his ideas have been readily welcomed by the staff and administration. His first change in August was to add severe weather notifications to staff, and he will continue to monitor that during the year. He has a six-tier strategy including training, awareness, communication, environmental design, security systems, and emergency preparedness. These important principles guide him as he develops common forms and processes for staff across the district and as he implements various changes to infrastructure, such as installing cameras and Sally ports. He has also been meeting with a cohort of ten high school students to determine their needs. Their first concern was with mental health, citing how many students are stressed out and frustrated. As a result, he is looking at how to support interpersonal social skills K-12. This will impact safety and security along the line as the district considers threat assessment and social/emotional learning. As he visits each school every week, he is determining the procedural, physical, and environmental things we can do to help promote students' social/emotional well-being and safety. He is trying to be more creative to bring in more staff (maybe include college interns). He meets often with community first responders. He has spoken to all counselors at the high schools. Because students said they wouldn't go to counselors individually when upset or grieving, he has been trying to reach students through students by inviting them to attend their group meetings.
- **Education Excellence Foundation (EEF)** – Gretchen Ward, Executive Director – The EEF awarded nine fall grants. There were fewer this year, but they were for larger amounts of money. The past three cycles

have had more grant requests for social/emotional supports. Gretchen will be a guest associate on December 12 from 9:30 am to 8:00 pm at Jacob Matthew Jewelers on Canton Center (new location on opposite side of road and further north by Goddard School). 10% of the sales will go to EEF.

- **P-CCS Communications Update** – Nicholas Brandon, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing – Current Board of Education member, Patricia Mullen, resigned at the last Board meeting, effective December 10. She cited concerns over time and energy necessary to fulfil her duties well. The Board now needs to appoint a person to fill the vacant position for the next two years until the next general election in November 2020. Applications are now being accepted (include letter of intent and resume) by Elizabeth Adams until Monday, December 10, by 4:00 pm. The Board is looking for strong leaders. At the next Board meeting on December 11, they will discuss interview dates. They are hoping to have the position filled by the January 8 meeting so that all new members can begin at the same time.
- Judy Hart made a motion to approve the minutes, Stacy Grzelak seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Our **next meeting** is scheduled for **January 18, 2019** at 9:30 a.m. with a focus on extracurricular activities K-12. There being no further business, Julie Ealovega made a motion to adjourn and Beverly Chetty seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Ealovega
Recording Secretary

Resources:

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

EEF email address: eef@pccsk12.com

TAG Presentation from Parent Meetings: <http://www.pccsk12.com/home/showdocument?id=18833>

SAT/PSAT info: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

SAT Practice site: <https://www.shmoop.com/>

Contact Information:

Nick Brandon: nicholas.brandon@pccsk12.com

Monica Merritt: monica.merritt@pccsk12.com

PCCS Parent Council: pccsprescouncil@gmail.com

Maureen Molloy: maureen.molloy@pccsk12.com

Anthony Ruela: anthony.ruela@pccsk12.com

Hal Heard: hal.heard@pccsk12.com

John Walker: john.walker@pccsk12.com

Elizabeth Adams: elizabeth.adams@pccsk12.com