

P-CCS Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Minutes of Regular Meeting

January 18, 2019

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:	Aamina Ahmed
Farrand:		West:	Laura Anne VanSickle
Field:			
Gallimore:		Canton:	Julie Ealovega, Angie Guerin
Hoben:		Plymouth:	
Hulsing:		Salem:	Cathy Vredeveld
Isbister:	Judy Hart	Starkweather:	
Miller:	Andrea Schultz	EEF:	Gretchen Ward
Smith:	Laura Anne VanSickle	Board of Ed:	
Tonda:			
Workman:			

School Administration: Nick Brandon

Guests: Jay Obsniuk, Luke Swanson, Alicia Fenstermacher, Pamela Batcho, Cheryl Klobucar, Peggy Tomlinson

The meeting was called to order by President Angie Guerin at 9:35 a.m.

- Attendance/Roll call was taken by Julie Ealovega.
- Minutes held until next meeting for approval.
- Old Business – The P-CCS Clothing Bank will not be accepting clothing until February due to the overwhelming response to the need for donations in December. If you have time on MWTH mornings anytime during 9:30-11:30 to help them sort clothing, they would appreciate it. We are planning on helping them out in April for our end-of-the-year tour.
- **Robotics** – Jay Obsniuk, Teacher and Lightning Robotics Coach – He is a STEM and CTE teacher. The Lightning Robotics team is based in Canton HS back by the auto shop. It is a student-led program. The group started in 1999 with 7 students and 2 mentors. Now they have 163 students and 15 mentors (8 full, 7 part-time). Visteon sponsors them. The team mentors 13 middle school teams along with Workman, Dodson, and Tonda. Would like to see teams at every building in the district. Their main goal is to build a robot to compete in games. They receive their kit and instructions in January each year. Then they have six weeks to build the robot. Can spend up to \$400 on extra parts from a list of allowed ones. This year's theme is Destination: Deep Space in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Lunar Landing. The robot will have to load "spacecraft" with cargo. The matches have 3 teams from different schools in an alliance to compete against 3 other different teams. Each team has a robot, and the alliances are not known until right before the match. They were National Champions two years ago and were Best in State for their business plan last year. After the competition season ends in April, they do pre-season prep for the next year until June. All summer, once a week on Weds., there is student leader training at Bosch. From Sept. to Dec., the leaders take over to train the other students. Besides competing and mentoring, the group is committed to STEM and other community service projects (Robots in the Park, Rotary Chicken Dinner, United Way, Relay for Life, IKEA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Digital Divas for 8th grade girls, Tour D' Robots where seniors go to the elementary schools). Team member commitment includes meeting M-F from 6-10 at night and

Sat. from 8-4 from Jan. to Apr. During Sept. to Dec. they meet twice a week, along with twice a week with MS groups and Sat. with special events like scout exploration of robots.

- **Extracurricular Activities and Sports** – Luke Swanson, Plymouth Assistant Principal, Athletics and Activities – He taught for 7 years at P-CEP and has also been the basketball assistant coach, activities director, and mock trial advisor. There are literally 100s of activities students can do at the **high schools** (see link to google document in Resources at end of minutes). The goal is to have all students participate in an activity, club, or athletic team. Nationwide statistics show that students involved in extracurricular activities have higher academic achievement. They will build college and career-ready skills. Many activities stem from academics as an extension of the classroom (like Model UN) or as academic intervention. Many groups have leadership training. The clubs and activities are student created and run. There are 33 varsity athletic programs and many sub-varsity ones. Sports are held in fall, winter, and spring seasons. There are both cut and no-cut sports opportunities. Some teams are combined from all the schools. There is also a Unified Sports team which pairs Special Olympics athletes with general ed students for training and competition. This exists for bowling, basketball, and bocce. At the **middle schools**, there are 15 clubs and activities (i.e. NJHS and Student Congress). There are also 6 athletic programs (2 cut and 4 no-cut). At P-CCS grades are checked every 5 weeks for athletic eligibility. Students failing one course much have a 2.0 average in the rest of their courses. If not, they miss competition until grades are brought up. Students are guided to appropriate resources and interventions such as math or writing lab. Our programs and students have multiple state achievements every year.
- **Community Ed Extracurricular Activities** – Alicia Fenstermacher, Coordinator P-CCS Community Education – Community education classes are in various categories for ages Preschool, Youth, and Adult. The fall classes run from Sept. to Dec., winter/spring from Jan. to May, and summer from June to Aug. The majority of the classes are held in the district buildings, and since gym space is in high demand, that limits the number of offerings available. Having enough people interested in a class also contributes to its possible offering. Besides Arts, Enrichment, Health and Fitness, Camps and Clinics, they also run the popular basketball league for grades 3-12 in the winter, safety town for K-1 in the summer, ski and snowboard club at Mt. Brighton, and a youth dance program that meets once a week from Sept. to May. They maintain two websites with info about the programs, and you can register online, by mail, by phone, or in person at their office at Tanger Center in Plymouth on 5 Mile, door #18. They are currently working with EEF to try to set up a fund for low-income students to be able to participate in the programs.
- **Educational Activities** – Cheryl Klobucar (Secretary/Treasurer), Pamela Batcho (President), Peggy Tomlinson (Committee Member), **Plymouth-Canton Optimist Club** – The club began in Plymouth in 1949 and added Canton in 2014. Their goal is “Bringing out the best in kids!” They promote positivity, good citizenship, and community health, and they strive to form partnerships in each of the schools to support educators and reinforce the curriculum being taught in the classrooms. They want to know what teachers’ needs are so they can bring the programs in to do. They have done team spelling bees at Bentley for grades 3-5, where each grade studies their classroom spelling lists and then has an evening spelling bee event. The kids work together to figure out how to spell the word, and then they take turns presenting the spelling. This teaches teamwork, leadership, and public speaking skills. They’ve also done “Kids Speak Out” which entails students speaking on topics about which they are passionate. Another school example is doing a Math-a-thon. These are fun and engaging activities that match the curriculum. They also raise money for children with cancer. In the community they host bike safety rodeos at Heritage Park in June, do the pet show at Fall Festival, and match sponsors with food vendors to help groups raise money at the Fall Festival. Each year they sponsor the Chuck and Betty Childs essay contest where one student receives \$1000 college scholarship. This year they will have a new essay competition (themed around optimism) open to elementary through high school students, with a winner at each level. Next year they hope to participate in the national Oratorical Contest with a \$2500 scholarship award. They would love to organize a Jr. Chef competition in the future.
- **Education Excellence Foundation (EEF)** – Gretchen Ward, Executive Director – The EEF manages several scholarships for schools throughout the district. Information is posted near the counselor offices at each of the high schools, and each counselor has a binder of the info. They are brainstorming better ways to get the word out since many times only two or three students apply. For the scholarships where EEF chooses the recipient, a committee reviews the applications. They usually come out in January with an April deadline. On January 27, EEF will receive 15% of the revenue generated from the Dine to Donate event at Fiamma, Compari, and Sardine Room restaurants. Enjoy a meal and help them raise money for our schools! The winter grant application deadline was today, Jan. 18, for teachers. In November, Giving

Tuesday raised over \$1100 for EEF. On the topic of athletic activities, the EEF has a pay-to-play fund to help students with financial hardships have opportunities to participate.

- **District Update** – Nicholas Brandon, P-CCS Executive Director of Communications and Marketing – In regards to the recent lawsuit against the district, he could not comment specifically on the lawsuit, but said the district does not tolerate bullying or harassment. The policies are stated in the student handbook and each building has a chain of command for reporting incidents which includes teachers, counselors, and principals. Anyone can report issues to the state through OKAY2SAY. The next Coffee with Monica is January 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Plymouth District Library. High school senior, Elizabeth Lu, won the NAIAS poster contest and the \$1000 grand prize. Her poster will be on display at the auto show. On Monday, January 21, there will be many Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activities sponsored by Canton Twp. There is also an upcoming Michigan music conference where many of our students will be participating.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 22 at 9:30 a.m. with a focus on math/science curriculum and STEM programs. There being no further business, Cathy Vredevelde made a motion to adjourn and Laura Anne VanSickle seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Ealovega
Recording Secretary

Resources:

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

EEF email address: eef@pccsk12.com

P-CEP Clubs and Activities List and Descriptions: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tvGW-okSDJMWBc45TvvURpq2n4oqX3qhy8wpQ553A0/edit?usp=sharing>

Community Education Classes: <http://pcceregister.com/>

Optimist International Clubs: www.optimist.org

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