

## P-CCS Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Minutes of Regular Meeting

March 22, 2019

### 2018-2019 Officers

<b>President:</b>	Angie Guerin	<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Cathy Vredevelde
<b>Vice President:</b>	Beverly Chetty	<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Julie Ealovega
<b>Membership Coordinator:</b>	Judy Hart		

### Representatives

<b>Bentley:</b>		<b>Discovery:</b>	Julie Ealovega, Andrea Schultz
<b>Bird:</b>		<b>East:</b>	Judy Hart
<b>Dodson:</b>		<b>Liberty:</b>	
<b>Eriksson:</b>		<b>Pioneer:</b>	Betsy Burger
<b>Farrand:</b>		<b>West:</b>	Melisa Burnham
<b>Field:</b>			
<b>Gallimore:</b>	Melisa Burnham	<b>Canton:</b>	Angie Guerin, Julie Ealovega, Gina Thibault, Sofia Saleem
<b>Hoben:</b>		<b>Plymouth:</b>	Melisa Burnham
<b>Hulsing:</b>		<b>Salem:</b>	
<b>Isbister:</b>	Judy Hart, Pam Cornell-Allen	<b>Starkweather:</b>	
<b>Miller:</b>	Andrea Schultz	<b>EEF:</b>	Gretchen Ward
<b>Smith:</b>	Laura Anne VanSickle	<b>Board of Ed:</b>	Kate Borninski
<b>Tonda:</b>	Betsy Burger		
<b>Workman:</b>			

**School Administration:** Nick Brandon

**Guests:** Tanya Mackrain-Skwirsk, George Belvitch, Mark Salzer

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

- Attendance was taken by Julie Ealovega.
- Andrea Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes, Judy Hart seconded the motion. Minutes approved.
- **Old Business – Officer elections** – Final nominations were taken and candidates spoke briefly about their backgrounds and why they chose to run for the position. The members present voted the following people into office for next school year: President – Judy Hart, Vice-President – Pam Cornell-Allen, Recording Secretary – Betsy Burger, Corresponding Secretary – Sofia Saleem, and Membership Coordinator – Andrea Schultz.
- **K-12 Math & Science/K-8 STEM Curriculum** – Tanya Mackrain-Skwirsk, K-12 Mathematics/Science/STEM Curriculum Coordinator – **1)** The elementary schools currently use Everyday Math. The district is researching other programs to be piloted in 2019-20. The middle schools currently use Connected Math Project, which was developed at Michigan State and is an inquiry-based program. There are math support classes and summer academy to help struggling students. Advanced students can take 7<sup>th</sup> grade math in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and high school level algebra, advanced algebra, and honors geometry. The high school classes may be taken at the high school as a zero hour class or at the middle school depending on numbers of students enrolled from their school. New next year will be an accelerated math class that covers all of 6<sup>th</sup> grade math and half of 7<sup>th</sup> grade math the first year and the rest of 7<sup>th</sup> grade math and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math the next year. The change is a result of students missing necessary math standards otherwise. The high schools have a variety of pathways for math. Students can take classes up to AP Calculus and AP Statistics. There are also math support classes, summer academy, test outs in January and April, and dual enrollment opportunities. **2)** The science programs are a 3-Dimensional model with less emphasis on memorization of facts. They incorporate disciplinary core ideas, crosscutting concepts that are student-

centered and involve claims based on evidence, and 8 science and engineering practices. The elementary schools will have new units in 2019-20. Every teacher will have his/her own science kits so that grades can teach the same unit together. Middle schools have a new resource called IQWST (Inquiring and Questioning our World through Science and Technology) that was piloted this year. The high schools have a myriad of opportunities and continue to have professional development for teachers in science and engineering practices. **3)** Through generous grants from Bosch, every elementary school has a STEM coordinator, and there are traveling STEM kits (K-2 and 3-5) resupplied each year that rotate 4-5 weeks at each school. There are also STEM days where high school students from the academy come to the elementary schools and do activities. Girls from grades 5, 6, and 7 will be attending an event at Schoolcraft doing work in 6 labs. Every middle school has a dedicated STEM lab. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, about 80% of the students take an introductory class of 10 weeks where they measure, learn to use equipment, and manipulate structures. The class is paired with a 10 week Project-Based Learning course. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, they do design and modeling with a hybrid of Project Lead the Way and use of CNC machines, Autodesk Inventor software, and 3-D printers. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, it is a 10 week class also based on Project Lead the Way using Robotics Vex kits and Robot C software.

- **PGLAG Library Donation** – George Belvitch, PFLAG representative – The Plymouth-Canton chapter of PFLAG began in 2014 to support, educate, and advocate. They bring in speakers and show films at their meetings. They also have a panel discussion at the November inservice for teachers as part of their culturally proficient training. He shared the presentation he did for elementary and middle school teachers in the district. The 15 minute film *What Do You Know? Six-to-Twelve-Year Olds Talk About Gays and Lesbians* showed kids' perceptions of the word gay, where they heard it used, and the negative connotations of it. The kids elaborate more on what it means and share personal experiences. They want teachers to educate kids about it and do something if they hear the words used inappropriately. Some of their advice includes, "Know what it means before you say it," and "love is love; you shouldn't turn love into hate." A TED talk showed a transgender person sharing her experience with transitioning from male to female at age 14. She advised "loving and accepting those who are different because different is the new frontier." We received handouts about how to address questions and teasing within LGBTQ issues and other statistical info on transgender students. Through a generous PFLAG grant to the district, each building could choose up to six books from a list of 45 different books from the Welcoming Schools project. We received lists of the books each school chose.
- **Technology Update** – Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology – **1)** Last year's bond update video is still available on the district's technology page. The technology department is continuing to support teachers in professional development; last week the high school learned how to do thoughtful integration of technology. Teachers are attending the Michigan Association of Computer Users conference to bring back ideas to share. Elementary K-2 staff received new iPads and training on Apple Classroom. They can monitor students' individual choices on the iPads. The district purchased LanSchool for use mostly by middle schools, but also 3-5, so that teachers can see all the students' screens, can send messages, and can lock down to one site as needed. The department is listening to student requests and is responsive where they can. **2)** In January, the district changed the broadcast network to the higher frequency of 5.2 GHz to increase connection speed. Parents and staff can purchase an adapter for \$15 to allow older devices (beyond 9 years old) to connect. Students no longer have to use the guest network if they have their own device. There are directions on how to connect on the technology website page. Remember, there are filters in place on the district network that will affect how your device can be used. The filters will probably be adjusted a year from now, shifting to block all except what they identify as acceptable and harmless. They are getting info now on what teachers commonly use. The district was aware of the Momo challenge, and What's App was never available on our network. They use Common Sense Media, Netsafe, and other sources to teach students how to surf the internet safely. **3)** Of the 13,000 Chromebooks in use, 8,500 will have the warranty expire in September. Because of that, the district will begin collecting them about two weeks earlier this year to be able to review and repair them by then. They may try to allow high school students to retain their Chromebooks over the summer again.
- **Education Excellence Foundation (EEF)** – Gretchen Ward, Executive Director – They have been presenting a video to schools about the foundation and why to donate to the Our Children Our Future campaign. This year's Uncorked Wine Tasting event will be at Fox Hills on Friday, April 26 from 7-10 pm. Tickets are \$60 and are available on the website and at Busch's. Please attend and help raise money for the foundation so they can continue to help schools with classroom grants.

- **P-CCS Communications Update** – Nicholas Brandon, P-CCS Executive Director of Communications and Marketing – The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in partnership with the district will be hosting a free, open community event on Weds., May 1, at 7:00 p.m. in Logan Auditorium at Salem. The presentation will be similar to what the staff has done. Each building should be sharing info from the vision meetings that have been happening at the elementary, middle, high school, athletics and activities levels. All principals and a parent representative have attended these meetings that are open to the public. The district's 4<sup>th</sup> annual K-12 Insight Survey will begin this year on Monday, April 8, right after spring break. It will be available to everyone on the website and through email for two weeks. They received 106 responses from the Budget Survey. They will present a summary of the discussion of findings at the next Board of Ed meeting on Tuesday, March 26.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 26 at 9:30 a.m. We will be meeting at the P-CCS Clothing Bank at Salem High School. There being no further business, Judy Hart made a motion to adjourn and Kate Borninski seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Ealovega  
Recording Secretary

**Resources:**

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

EEF email address: [eef@pccsk12.com](mailto:eef@pccsk12.com)

EEF promotional video: <https://youtu.be/keBh8ZDmz8Q>

LGBTQ, Gender, and Family resources: [www.welcomingschools.org](http://www.welcomingschools.org)

[www.glsen.org/safespace](http://www.glsen.org/safespace)

[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

<http://www.welcomingschools.org/our-films/what-do-you-know>

Bring Your Own Device info: <https://sites.google.com/a/pccsk12.com/always-on-learning/byod?authuser=0>

Chromebook questions: [technology@pccsk12.com](mailto:technology@pccsk12.com)

**Contact Information:**

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