

**P-CCS Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 25, 2019**

2019-2020 Parent Council Board Officers

President: Judy Hart

Vice President: Pam Cornell-Allen

Membership Coordinator: Andrea Schultz

Recording Secretary: Betsy Burger

Corresponding Secretary: Sofia Saleem

School Representatives

Bentley: present

Bird: present

Dodson: present

Eriksson:

Farrand: present

Field:

Gallimore: present

Hoben:

Hulsing: present

Isbister: present

Miller: present

Smith:

Tonda: present

Workman: present

Discovery: present

East: present

Liberty: present

Pioneer: present

West: present

Canton HS: present

Plymouth HS: present

Salem HS: present

Starkweather:

EEF: (Educational Excellence Foundation): Gretchen Ward, Executive Director

Board of Education: Kate Borninski, P-CCS School Board Member

School Administration: Nick Brandon, Executive Director of Comm. & Marketing

Monica Merritt, P-CCS Superintendent of Schools

Guest Speakers: Beth Rayl, Chief Academic Officer, P-CCS

Jan Douglas, Principal - Bentley Elementary School

Sharida Lewis, Principal - Canton High School

The meeting was called to order by President, Judy Hart at 9:32am.

- Attendance was taken by Recording Secretary, Betsy Burger
- Andrea Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes from September 27, 2019; Janelle Franchovian seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Speakers:

Beth Rayl, the new P-CCS Chief Academic Officer, was introduced by Superintendent Monica Merritt. Ms. Rayl has been in Education for over 25 years as a teacher, school leader, district administrator, and now Chief Academic Officer for the past two months. She gave a very informative and interesting talk.

Strategic Objective:

- Culturally responsive practices
 - All schools will be culturally responsive by 6/30/2022.
- Comprehensive MTSS framework (Multi-tier System of Support)
 - Regarding Academics and Behavior
 - Plans to develop a system for implementation by 2020/2021
 - Increased MTSS support
 - 5 additional Social Workers
 - 2 additional Clinical Behavior Specialists
 - Increased EL (English Language) staff support
- Pre-K to 12th Grade vertically aligned/Standard-based Curriculum
 - Plans to implement this by school year 2020/2021.
 - There is a 5 year curriculum cycle

“Read by Grade 3” Legislation:

- This law affects a “subgroup” of Level 1 (Not Proficient) students with MSTEP scores between 1203-1279
- Of the students that scored between 1203-1279, this law separates scores even further into 3 different categories:
 - Scores of 1272 or higher: Meets the Grade 3 reading requirement
 - Scores of 1253-1271: Additional reading supports are recommended, but not required.
 - Scores of 1252 or lower: Will be retained, unless they have a Good Cause Exemption (see below for examples)
- Good Cause Exemptions:
 - An IEP (Individualized Education Program)
 - Section 504 Plan
 - Limited English (With less than 3 years of instruction in ELL: English Language Learners)
 - Have been enrolled in their current school for less than 2 years.
 - Parent or Legal Guardian has requested that they not be retained.
- The State thinks that only 5% of students will fall into the category of retention.
 - For example, within P-CCS, of 1112 students tested that fall into the “retention” category, only 9 students would be eligible to be “looked at” for retention. So, under the law, 7 students would qualify for a “Good Cause Exemption”, which would mean that only 2 students of 1112 students would be “in discussion” for retention.

***Please note, if your student is struggling or falling in a category that requires intervention, you will be notified. It is also in your child’s best interest for families to offer some support at home (reading 20 minutes at home, etc.). For further clarification or questions regarding the legislation, please contact Beth Rayl at beth.rayl@pccsk12.com.**

Jan Douglas, the new **Principal at Bentley Elementary School**, has been with the district since 1995. She has taught 5th and 1st grades at Field; taught at West Middle School for 1 year and Pioneer Middle School for 10 years. She has also worked in the Curriculum Department, has been a Student Support Coordinator and is now the Principal at Bentley.

- Ms. Douglas' first order of business as the new Principal was to create Mission and Vision statements and Legacy definition. She asked the teachers and staff, "Why do we do what we do?" Collectively, they came up with Bentley's Vision and Mission Statements.
- Mission Statement: *"We, at Bentley are dedicated to creating a positive environment where quality programs and instruction empower students to become lifelong learners. The key to success at Bentley will be achieving the high standards set by the school staff, parents and community working together to ensure success. It is understood that to be successful in a global society, children must experience learning in a variety of ways, communicate effectively, and approach problem solving skillfully."*
- Ms. Douglas and the teachers and staff are working towards their Mission and Vision by:
 - Selecting Character Education Framework; choosing from:
 - "The Leader in Me" program
 - PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support)
 - Zones of Regulation
 - Beginning to plan activities for the school year
 - Family Science Night: A Night of Discovery
 - March is Reading Month activities
 - Forming their School Improvement Plan
 - Examining data
 - Selecting research-based strategies to respond to the data
 - Ensure that the strategies promote the development of relationships within a learning community.

Sharida Lewis, the new **Principal at Canton High School**, has brought a positive buzz to P-CEP.

- Ms. Lewis is looking at ways to support students emotionally, socially and academically. She wants all students "to feel loved" and is so excited to be a part of P-CEP and P-CCS!
- She is working with the teachers and staff and having them create Professional Development for each other as a creative way to keep them engaged.

EEF Update:

Gretchen Ward, Executive Director, Educational Excellence Foundation

EEF belief: *"We believe that every student should be able to come to school ready to learn. By supporting P-CCS students with nutrition, clothing or other needs, all students will come to school ready to learn, prepare and thrive."*

*****All Donations to EEF (Educational Excellence Foundation) are tax-deductible.**

Donor Advised Funds:

1) Nutrition and Clothing:

- P-CCS Clothing Bank (at Salem HS) - students (and their families) in need of clothing can be referred by any school staff member. The P-CCS Clothing Bank has served the community since 1976. It is now managed by volunteers with support through the Education Excellence Foundation and tax deductible donations by community members.
- No Child Hungry (Gleaner's Weekend Backpack Program)
 - Nearly 300,000 children in our area receive 2 out of 3 meals at school. Some of these meals are free or at a reduced cost to the family. On the weekend, these children often go without meals. Gleaners partners with local schools to distribute backpacks filled with nutritious food for children who rely on free or reduced priced meals during the week. Backpacks contain:
 - Shelf stable milk
 - Canned protein
 - Canned fruit
 - Canned vegetables
 - Whole grain cereal or crackers
- P-CCS School Lunch Fund
 - You can choose to donate to this fund in order to help pay down P-CCS students' outstanding school lunch balances.

2) Athletic Hardships:

- To participate in club and team sports at P-CCS Middle Schools and High Schools, there is a "Pay to Play" fee. These fees are waived if there is financial hardship. (Hardship determinations are made at the building level.)
- You can donate to the "Pay to Play" fund by choosing "Middle Schools" or a specific High School.
 - Middle School fund
 - Canton High School
 - Plymouth High School
 - Salem High School

3) Middle School Intervention Fund

- This fund helps provide educational resources, activity fees and field trip expenses. The building Principal or Assistant Principal is the fund advisor and submits the request.
- The EEF Executive Director has the responsibility to ensure funds are being spent appropriately.

To donate to any of these EEF funds, go to www.eefforkids.org

- Click on "Donate" (top right of page)
- Click on "Causes"
- Choose "Level the Learning Field" and click "Make a Donation"
- Choose "Designation" from the drop down menu
- Click on the donation amount

There is a Crossover Charity Event on Friday, November 8 at 6:30pm. This is a decathlon-style competition where staff and selected students participate. Everyone is invited to attend this family-friendly event. All proceeds will support the 3 EEF funds listed above - Nutrition & Clothing, Athletic Hardships, and Middle School Intervention.

District Updates:

Ms. Monica Merritt, P-CCS Superintendent

- Ms. Merritt stated, "We want our kids to be safe, respected and valued."
- She discussed the Bond for 2020 and would like to vote for a zero millage increase. \$275 million bond over 10 years without increasing our millage rate.
- She discussed that there is a Boundary Committee ("Facilities Visioning") that is working on getting all of our Middle Schools to 85-90% capacity at building level.
 - These boundary and building capacities are looked at every two years.
 - Ms. Merritt would like for there to be 85% usage of the buildings and this may require boundaries to be adjusted. There is also an increase in housing developments with more neighborhoods. This study looks at birthrates, increases in neighborhoods, etc. If there is a recommendation from the Steering Committee to adjust boundaries, there will be 3 open-community forums. There has not been a decision made. You can find more information on the district website under the "Facilities and Boundary Study" tab.
- It was discussed again that Ms. Merritt would like for all Elementary Schools to have equitable facilities (for example - some elementary schools have separate gyms and cafeterias, some do not). She wants Art, Music and Physical Education to have dedicated spaces in all buildings.
- Many upgrades need to be made throughout the district (classroom furniture, toilets, signage, and there are roofing, cement and landscaping needs, as well).

Nick Brandon, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing
"Celebrating 190 years of P-CCS"

The district newsletter is posted on the website and facebook page
Check out the Podcasts!

SAVE THE DATE - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th; P-CEP Community Open House 6-8pm at Salem High School. There will be tours of all 3 High School buildings.

With no further business, Julie Ealovega made the motion to adjourn and Ann-Marie Gerrity seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 22, 2019 at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Burger
Recording Secretary
P-CCS Parent Council

P-CCS Parent Council comes together once a month to engage parents within the district to discuss important topics, advocate for parents, students and schools, and provide a forum for open communication with P-CCS administration and fellow parents of the district.