

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR (ORGANIZATIONAL) MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2023

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Superintendent Merritt called the Regular (Organizational) Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Present: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. Monica L. Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student & Family Engagement
Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Mr. Nick Brandon, Executive Director of Communications & Marketing
Ms. Shonta Langford, Chief Human Resource Officer

Others Present: Ms. Diane Robertson, Superintendent & Board Executive Assistant
Mr. Josh Patterson, SVA Student Representative

Josh Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Adoption of the Organizational Meeting Agenda

It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member McCoin to adopt the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

2. Discussion of Officer Positions

3. Election of Officers 2023-2024

Nominations for **President** were called.

It was moved by Member Kehoe to nominate Member Wilson for President of the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

Member Wilson was declared to be President.

President Wilson immediately commenced responsibilities as President of the Board of Education and conducted the remainder of the July 11, 2023, Organizational Meeting.

Nominations for **Vice President** were called.

It was moved by Member Sidhu to nominate Member Christenson for Vice President of the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

Member Christenson was declared to be Vice President.

Nominations for **Secretary** were called.

It was moved by Member Westra to nominate Member Sidhu for Secretary of the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

Member Sidhu was declared to be Secretary.

Nominations for **Treasurer** were called.

It was moved by Member McCoin to nominate Member Kehoe for Treasurer of the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

Member Kehoe was declared to be Treasurer.

2023-2024 Board of Education Officers

President: Shawn Wilson
Vice-President: Lauren Christenson
Secretary: Anupam Chugh Sidhu
Treasurer: Patrick Kehoe

4. By-Laws Nos. 0164.1 and 0164.2 - Time, Place, and Notification of Meetings

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to adopt the following By-Laws:

By-Law Nos. 0164.1: Regular Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Exceptions: There will be only one meeting in July (July 11), the second August meeting will be held on the 5th Tuesday (August 29), there will be one meeting in December (December 12), and one meeting held in March (March 12) beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the following location (except as agreed herein) unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the members:

E. J. McClendon Educational Center
454 South Harvey Street
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

By-Law No. 0164.2 Special Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Special meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, may be called by the President of the Board, or any two members thereof, by serving on the other members a written notice of the day, time, and place of such special meetings, or by a majority vote of the Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE of each meeting of the Board of Education shall be given by posting a copy of the NOTICE on the message board by the front entrance to the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time of the meeting. The Executive Assistant to the Board of Education or other Central Office staff, in her absence, shall be appointed the designee for posting notice of meetings.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to direct the Board of Education Executive Assistant to advertise By-Laws Nos.0164.1 and 0164.2 in the Plymouth and Canton Observer newspapers.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

5. Authorized Signatures for School District Business:

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member McCoin to authorize the following signatures for School District business.

<u>Documents</u>	<u>2023-2024 Authorized Signatures</u>
A. Administrator Contracts	President, Secretary, or Superintendent
B. Teacher Contracts	
(1) Probationary	President, Secretary, or Superintendent
(2) Continuing Tenure	President, Secretary, or Superintendent
C. Motor Vehicle Titles	Superintendent, Chief Finance, and Operations Officer
D. Land Contracts	President, Secretary, or Superintendent
E. Deeds to Real Estate	President, Secretary, or Superintendent
F. Leases and Easements	President, Secretary, Superintendent or Chief Finance and Operations Officer
G. Deposit and Investment Accounts	President, Treasurer, Superintendent, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, Director of Finance & Accounting
H. Vendor Contracts	Superintendent, Chief Finance and Operations Officer

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

6. Consider the Following Resolutions:

A. Naming Depository, Investment of Moneys, and Naming Signatories for all Funds

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra that the TREASURER and/or Chief Finance and Operations Officer be authorized to deposit all monies for all funds of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools in the following banks:

- Comerica
- Community Financial Credit Union
- Fifth Third Bank
- Flagstar Bank
- J. P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.
- Michigan Liquid Asset Fund
- PFM Asset Management, LLC
- PNC Bank and PNC Capital Markets, LLC
- Public Trust Advisors, LLC
- U.S. Bank

and further, to invest all monies of all funds of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools in investments authorized under Section 1223 of the Michigan School Code of 1976, as amended,

and, further, that these banks be requested, authorized, and directed to honor checks, drafts, and other orders for the payment of money drawn in the name of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools against the named funds when bearing facsimile signature of TREASURER Kehoe and the facsimile signature of the PRESIDENT Wilson,

and, further, that the Huntington National Bank, Bank of New York Mellon, and UMB Bank, N.A., be designated as the paying agents for bonds of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools as required,

and, further, a Blanket Position Bond is required for all School District employees in the amount of \$100,000, and the cost of the Bond be provided by the School District.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
Nays: None
The motion was carried 7-0

B. Naming General Counsel

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to appoint legal counsel for the 2023-2024 school year.

Collins and Blaha Law Firm, P.C. (General Counsel)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

C. Naming Other SPECIFIC LEGAL COUNSEL as appointed by the Board of Education

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to appoint other specific legal counsel as appointed by the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year. In addition, the Board of Education has the right to name other legal firms during the course of the year as they deem necessary.

Clark Hill, P.L.C.

Lacey & Jones, LLP

LaPointe and Associates, P.C.

Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, PLC

Thrun Law Firm, P.C.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

D. Naming School District Auditor

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to appoint Plante Moran, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, as the School District auditors for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

E. Naming School District Bond Financial Advisor

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to appoint PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, as the School District's Bond Financial Advisor for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

7. Designate Routine Advertisement

It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu that the Plymouth and Canton Observer, the Detroit Newspaper Agency, or the Michigan Chronicle newspapers be designated for the following routine advertisements:

- (A) Notice of Budget Hearing and Truth in Taxation Hearing
- (B) Invitation for Bids
- (C) Request for Proposals

And, that The Plymouth and Canton Observer or The Bond Buyer or the Detroit Legal News, as required, be designated for publication of:

- (A) Call for Redemption of Bonds
- (B) Sale of Bonds
- (C) Sale of Tax Anticipation Notes

And, that Invitation for Bids for Major Renovations, Additions, and New Construction- P.A. 232 of July 21, 2004, requires schools to post-construction solicitations for a minimum of two (2) weeks on the State of Michigan's "SIGMA Michigan" website.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
 Nays: None
 The motion was carried 7-0

Without objection, President Wilson adjourned the Organizational Meeting at 7:16 p.m. and called the Regular Meeting to Order in the Boardroom.

Present: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
 Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. Monica L. Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
 Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student & Family Engagement
 Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
 Mr. Nick Brandon, Executive Director of Communications & Marketing
 Ms. Shonta Langford, Chief Human Resource Officer

Others Present: Ms. Diane Robertson, Superintendent & Board Executive Assistant
 Mr. Josh Patterson, SVA Student Representative

A. Adoption of the Agenda/Approval of the Consent Agenda

Action Item #24-07-01: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Resignations, Regular Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2023, and Final Reading Policies.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson
 Nays:
 The motion was carried 7-0

New Hires

Gennaoui, Zaina	Student Support Coordinator Gallimore Elementary School	Effective 7-1-23
Thompson, Fatima	Student Support Coordinator School T.B.D.	Effective 7-12-23
Jocque, Jocelyn	Student Support Coordinator Dodson Elementary School	Effective 7-1-23
Zarate, Susan	Student Support Coordinator Smith Elementary School	Effective 7-1-23
Karr, Kevin	Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction Assessment, & Professional Development P-CCS Educational Support Center	Effective 7-31-23

Resignations

Biecker, Dian	(0.8) Culinary Arts Salem High School	Resignation Effective 6-27-23
Weaver, Heather	Assistive Technology Specialist/S.E. Curriculum Center	Resignation Effective 7-13-23

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2023, were approved as presented.

Final Reading Policies

- Policy #7434 – Use of Tobacco on School Premises

B. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report - Shawn Wilson

President Wilson will provide an update at the next Regular Board meeting.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) - Anupam Chugh Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the SPA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next SPA meeting will be announced and posted on the district website when committee chair positions for the 2023-2024 school year have been determined.

Policy Advisory Committee - Patti McCoin

Member McCoin shared that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next Policy meeting will be announced and posted on the district website when committee chair positions for the 2023-2024 school year have been determined.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Member Kehoe shared that the F&O Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next Finance and Operations meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 3, 2023, and community members are welcome to attend. The 2023-2024 committee meeting date calendar will be reviewed and approved at the August 3 meeting.

Student Voice in Action Committee - Shawn Wilson

Mr. Josh Patterson, SVA Committee Student Co-chair, shared that the Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next SVA meeting will be announced and posted on the district website when 2023-2024 meeting dates are scheduled.

C. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Monica Merritt

Superintendent Merritt provided updates and shared pictures to highlight 2020 Bond construction work taking place throughout the district. Summer building upgrades include:

- A 9,333-square-foot addition at Isbister Elementary School consisting of a new gymnasium, two additional classrooms, and a new playground. The school will also see restroom remodels and mechanical equipment replacements.
- Pioneer Middle School construction is in full swing with architectural and civil site work, interior renovations, a remodel of the main office and exterior canopy, and a new bus loop.
- Starkweather Academy's work continues and includes a new addition, as well as interior architectural and mechanical renovations, exterior concrete flatwork, parking lot renovations, and a new food service line.
- Construction continues at Plymouth High School on the new 35,000-square-foot addition, which includes an 8-lane swim Natatorium with a diving well, a multi-purpose room, a gymnasium, and a two-story grand corridor.

Superintendent Merritt expressed continued gratitude to community members for supporting this Bond, allowing the district to make essential upgrades at many of our facilities.

Finally, she shared good news regarding the recently released 2023-2024 State Budget, which includes a historic 5% foundation increase. The new budget also includes universal free breakfast and lunch for all students regardless of income level, 100% special education reimbursement, and additional funding for transportation, at-risk initiatives, and grow-your-own programs.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Cameron Miller, Howard Ring, Rodolfo Palma, Chris Bejczy, Gabriel Jim, Nathan Morris, Phil Venables, Alexis Dakota Fernimos, Steve Robb, Shannon Balog, and Edward Borninski spoke on the Canton High School Mascot.

F. Discussion / Action Items

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #24-07-02:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member McCoin to approve a recommendation to retire the Canton High School Chief Mascot and Arrowhead Logo and allow for a new mascot to be chosen by the student body. Additionally, it is recommended that the red and white color scheme

currently in use by Canton High School will remain the same. Board members were provided an opportunity to comment and ask questions. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Sidhu, Westra, and Wilson

Nays: Member Picard

The motion was carried 6-1

F. Follow-up Board Questions

- None

H. Adjournment

President Wilson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Anupam Chugh Sidhu
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 8-8-23/dr