

# PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** **August 8, 2023**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

President Wilson called the Regular 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  
Ms. Deborah Piesz, Chief Finance & Operations Officer  
Ms. Bethany Rayl, Chief Academic & Innovation Officer  
Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Mr. Nick Brandon, Executive Director of Communications & Marketing  
Ms. Shonta Langford, Chief Human Resource Officer  
Mr. Tim Gruszczynski, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects

Others Present: Mr. Derek Dinkeloo, TMP Architecture Senior Associate  
Ms. Diane Robertson, Superintendent & Board Executive Assistant  
Mr. Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Action Item #24-08-03:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, and Regular (Organizational) Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2023.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

#### New Hires

Clanton, Scott	Chemistry Salem High School	Effective 8-28-23
deReyna, Karen	Nurse Bird & Miller Elementary Schools	Effective 8-28-23
Gunkelman, Kristin	Chemistry Plymouth High School	Effective 8-28-23
Hawkins, Scott	Music Secondary – Band West Middle School	Effective 8-28-23
Horning, Katherine	English Canton High School	Effective 8-28-23
Jacks, Sydney	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Jastrzembski, Jennifer	Elementary Classroom Workman Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Kolbus, Jennifer	ECDD – Special Education Teacher Allen Early Learning Academy	Effective 8-28-23

Maltby, Nellie	Art Secondary Salem High School	Effective 8-28-23
Margosian-Galindo, Nicole	English Canton High School	Effective 8-28-23
Metzger, Stephanie	Life Management Family and Consumer Science Plymouth High School	Effective 8-28-23
Paxson, Jessica	Elementary Classroom Workman Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Peters, Lisa	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Voigt, Kelly	Media Specialist East Middle School	Effective 8-28-23
Williams, Mackenzie	(0.5) Speech Pathologist Dodson & Farrand Elementary Schools	Effective 8-28-23
Kerr, Sharon	Compliance Manager for Special Education P-CCS Educational Support Center	Effective 8-14-23

Leaves

Gennaoui, Zaina	Elementary Classroom Gallimore Elementary School	Professional Growth Leave of Absence Effective 2023-24 School Year to Accept an Administrative Position with P-CCS
Jocque, Jocelyn	Behavior Support Specialist Dodson Elementary School	Professional Growth Leave of Absence Effective 2023-24 School Year to Accept an Administrative Position with P-CCS
Shutt, Jocelyn	(0.6) Music Elementary Field Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 2023-24 School Year
Zarate, Susan	Elementary Classroom Smith Elementary School	Professional Growth Leave of Absence Effective 2023-24 School Year to Accept An Administrative Position with P-CCS

Resignations

Blanchet, Jessica	Instructional Coach Miller Elementary School	Resignation Effective 7-30-23
Frank, Angela	Social Worker Workman Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-23-23
German, Scott	Elementary Classroom Miller Elementary School	Resignation Effective 7-25-23
Gumber, Wilma	Elementary Classroom Smith Elementary School	Resignation Effective 7-26-23
Sandakli, Dana	Math Intervention Teacher Hulsing Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-2-23
Shropshire, Tamira	Behavior Support Specialist Bird Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-11-23
Martin, Melissa	Counselor (Non-Instructional) Starkweather Academy	Resignation Effective 7-19-23

Retirements

Ray, Renae	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Retirement Effective 10-27-23
Salin Jr., Craig	Technical Coordinator P-CCS Educational Support Center	Retirement Effective 9-29-23

Approval of Minutes

The Regular (Organizational) Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2023, were approved as presented.

## **B. Board Committee Reports/Action**

### President's Report - Shawn Wilson

President Wilson shared that Board Committee chair positions for the 2023-2024 school year will remain the same. He asked each chair member to describe the work that takes place within the committees. Committee administrative liaisons also introduced themselves. Finally, he spoke about the Board Retreat scheduled for August 14, 2023, to finalize 2023-2024 superintendent goals.

### 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 held on September 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, and everyone is welcome to attend.

### Policy Advisory Committee - Patti McCoin

Member McCoin shared that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next policy meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Collaboration Room at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, and everyone is welcome to attend.

### Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Treasurer Kehoe shared that the F&O Committee met on August 3, 2023, and discussed the non-homestead tax renewal process, approved the F&O calendar for the 2023-2024 school year, reviewed upcoming bond projects, and discussed flooding challenges at Hoben Elementary School and timelines for stormwater retention work. Finally, the committee reviewed resolutions on tonight's agenda, including ADA audit materials, radar speed signs, and playground mulch. The next F&O meeting will be held on August 24, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, and everyone is welcome to attend.

### Student Voice in Action Committee - Shawn Wilson

Member Wilson shared that the SVA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. He spoke about the RFP and job opening for a consultant to work with the SVA Committee to help build agendas and support student voice. Additional information and steps to apply for this position are available on the district website. The next SVA Committee meeting will be held on September 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Canton High School Media Center, which is a new location for this school year. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **C. Administrative Reports/Recommendations**

### **Superintendent's Report – Dr. Monica Merritt**

Superintendent Merritt spoke about the success of the P-CCS summer learning programs, where students were provided with expanded enrichment and educational opportunities. She thanked Ms. Beth Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer, and Teaching and Learning Team Members for their work in creating so many unique learning opportunities for students.

She spoke about the multiple construction projects underway throughout the district and thanked the P-CCS community for its continued support.

She also invited community members to join the amazing P-CCS students hosting the annual *Robots in the Park* event on Sunday, August 13, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. This free, day-long event will highlight robotics and STEM through fun, immersive demonstrations and activities encouraging creativity and logical thinking.

She also shared information about the *2023 P-CCS Back to School Bash* planned for Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and encouraged district students and families to mark their calendars for this exciting event to kick off the start of the school year. This year's event will return to the P-CEP bus loop (located behind Salem High School) and will provide an opportunity for families to meet school and district leaders, tour the P-CEP campus, learn about P-CCS programs, and enjoy food, fun, and games.

Finally, she encouraged all P-CCS families to visit the district website to view important back-to-school information in the P-CCS Summer Communication and the P-CEP E-Communicator. This information was also emailed to all families and includes key dates, transportation updates, schedule pick-up details, athletics schedules, and instructions for completing required forms.

## **Communications and Marketing – Nick Brandon**

### **P-CCS Student, Staff, and Community Survey (Presentation)**

Mr. Nick Brandon, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing; Mr. Jonathan Flukes, Director of Data, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation; and Mr. Anthony Ruela, Executive Director for Middle Schools, gave a presentation to provide an overview of the P-CCS Student, Staff, and Community Survey data. This annual survey provides valuable feedback to assist district leaders in developing plans for continued improvement. Mr. Brandon also spoke about the intentional work to align surveys to all five themes of the district's Dynamic Plan. The surveys were created in partnership with Panorama Education, are aligned to national benchmarks, and are customized to the district's goals. This year's surveys were redesigned to capture feedback received regarding the frequency and length of surveys and were available in 23 different languages to provide accessibility to all. Key findings of this year's baseline data were reviewed, including areas of positive impact and areas needing potential focused support. Next steps were outlined and included a comprehensive communication plan to boost participation and a reorganization of the 2023-2024 survey calendar, allowing for midyear modifications based on real-time survey data. Mr. Brandon also thanked Student Voice in Action Committee members for vetting this presentation and providing valuable input.

Board members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

## **Finance and Operations – Deborah Piesz**

### **First Reading Resolutions**

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for an Elementary School Playground Three-Year Mulch Agreement. Ms. Debbie Piesz, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, indicated that approximately 1,290 cubic yards of mulch are needed annually for all district elementary schools. The recommended vendor for this purchase is the only company in the state that offers "blown-in" installation, which frees up P-CCS grounds staff and is a cost savings to the district. It is recommended that Superior Groundcover, Inc. of Grand Rapids, MI, be awarded a three-year agreement with a total cost of \$40,957.50, including mulch and installation. This expense will be paid from the general fund maintenance budget. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for an ADA Audit Agreement. In February 2023, the Operations Department presented an Assistive Door Hardware Standard to the F&O Committee, which will set the standard for all new construction and renovation projects associated with the 2020 Bond and provide an enhanced level of accessibility. To address the areas that are not scheduled to have 2020 Bond updates districtwide, it is recommended that TMP Associates perform an ADA audit of all buildings. The total cost of this audit will be \$52,240. The project is expected to take approximately nine weeks. If approved, the cost for this project will be paid from the general fund operations budget. Mr. Derek Dinkeloo, TMP Architecture Senior Associate and Mr. Tim Gruszczynski, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects, were available to provide additional information and answer questions. (First Reading)

Board members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

### **Final Reading Resolutions**

- **Action Item #24-08-04:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to approve a Resolution to Purchase Radar Speed Warning Signs for use at the P-CEP Campus. The P-CCS Department of Safety and Security recommends purchasing six Solar-Powered Radar Speed Warning Signs due to data received from speed monitoring and traffic control reports. Radarsign, LLC, of Marietta, GA, is the recommended vendor at a cost not to exceed \$32,688. There will be additional costs related to concrete and installation not to exceed \$5,000, for a total cost of \$37,688. This purchase is being requested as a first and final reading since the signs are available now, can be installed before the start of school, and can coordinate with a speed bump installation project. This purchase will be paid from the 2022-2023 State School Act Section 97 grand funds. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

## **D. Citizens' Comments**

- Steve Gentilia spoke on the Canton High School Mascot.
- Amber Spuller spoke about Canton softball fields and bond funds.

**E. Discussion**

- Superintendent Merritt provided information regarding the MASB Delegate Assembly, which occurs at the MASB Conference in Lansing on November 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. P-CCS can select up to four Board delegates who will represent and vote on behalf of the district on various education issues. Board members interested in serving as delegates were asked to email President Wilson and Superintendent Merritt. The August 29, 2023, Board meeting will include a resolution to confirm the delegates representing P-CCS.
- Member Picard spoke about outdoor artwork displayed at Bird Elementary School.
- President Wilson reviewed the procedures for adding topics to Board meeting agendas.

**F. Follow-up Board Questions**

- None

**G. Adjournment**

President Wilson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:08 p.m.

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Anupam Chugh Sidhu  
Secretary, Board of Education

\*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 8-29-23 / dr