

# PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** **August 29, 2023**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 29, 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, Westra, and Wilson  
Absent: Member Sidhu

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

Others Present: Ms. Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board  
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 #24-08-05:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, Recalls, Regular Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2023, and Special Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2023.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

#### New Hires

Bess, Casey	Teacher on Special Assignment-HS Canton High School	Effective 8-28-23
Blackford, Katherine	Resource Room – ASD Smith Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Brandon, Phyllis	Instructional Coach Miller Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Briere, Benjamin	ELL Teacher Salem High School	Effective 8-28-23
Brunson, Bryan	Social Studies Discovery Middle School	Effective 8-28-23
Budziak, Sarah	Counselor (Non-Instructional) Canton High School	Effective 8-28-23
Cirella, Laura	Elementary Classroom Eriksson Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Deluna, Kayla	Elementary Classroom Eriksson Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Ghanem, Aziza	Social Worker Workman Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23

Griffin-Alexander, Veeda	Teacher Consultant/Resource Room East / MS Virtual Academy	Effective 8-28-23
Hart, Judith	(0.2) French East Middle School	Effective 8-28-23
Kafantaris, Kristin	Pre-K (GSRP) Gallimore Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Keblaitis, Alyssa	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
King, Ronald	Elementary Classroom Hulsing Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Kollar, Kevin	Physics Plymouth High School	Effective 8-28-23
Kronk, Dana	Elementary Classroom – EL Teacher Miller Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Lehmann, Andrew	Culinary Arts Salem High School	Effective 8-28-23
Llewellyn, Chelsea	Resource Room Dodson Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Long, Emily	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Lopez, San Juanita	Elementary Classroom – EL Teacher Hulsing Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Perris, Sarah	Elementary Classroom Farrand Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Rea, Kaytlynn	Art Elementary Workman Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Siersha, Susan	Speech Pathologist Salem High School	Effective 8-28-23
Strecker, Rachel	Math Intervention Teacher Hulsing/Miller Elementary Schools	Effective 8-28-23
Stubbs, Ann	Counselor (Non-Instructional) Starkweather Academy	Effective 8-28-23
Trujillo, Tara	Elementary Classroom Miller Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Tsakoff, Christopher	Health/Physical Education Secondary Plymouth High School	Effective 8-28-23
Wade-Minor, Amanda	Elementary Classroom-EL Teacher Isbister Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Ward, Katelyn	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Wright, Eric	Physics Canton High School	Effective 8-28-23
Yuchuck, Kathryn	English Canton High School	Effective 8-28-23
Nickel, Cynthia	Elementary Principal Miller Elementary School	Effective 8-21-23
Marsh, Samuel	Dean of Student Support Discovery Middle School	Effective 8-15-23
Thomas, Brittani	Human Resource Coordinator Administration Building	Effective 8-28-23
Amabile, Joseph	Curriculum Coordinator-Math Educational Support Center	Effective 9-11-23

Leaves

Rieboldt, Brianna	Counselor (Non-Instructional) West Middle School	Childcare Leave of Absence for the 2023-2024 School Year
Williams, Alexandria	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School	Professional Growth Leave of Absence for the 2023-2024 School Year to Accept an Administrative Position with P-CCS

Resignations

Atwood, Megan	EI Categorical Classroom West Middle School	Resignation Effective 8-21-23
Cook, Bridgit	Music Elementary Smith Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-15-23
Hartwig, Megan	Elementary Classroom Hulsing Elementary School	Resignation Effective 6-14-23
Incarnati, Kristen	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-25-23
Khorbalty, Mayssam	ELL Teacher Discovery Middle School	Resignation Effective 8-25-23
Long, Cindy	Behavior Management Specialist East Middle School	Resignation Effective 8-10-23
Nimene, Stephanie	Student Success Specialist Dodson Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-29-23
Tomasaitis, Alison	Elementary Classroom Farrand Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-21-23
Tubaro, Jordan	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-15-23
Welton, Bethany	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-9-23

Retirements

Lester, Katherine	Media Specialist East Middle School	Retirement Effective 9-15-23
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Recalls

Sutherland, Caelin	Healthcare Technician Building - TBD	Recall Effective 8-28-23
Wallace, Amber	Healthcare Technician Hoben, Eriksson, Tonda, & Miller	Recall Effective 8-28-23

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2023, and the Special Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2023, were approved as presented.

**B. Board Committee Reports/Action**President's Report - Shawn Wilson

President Wilson thanked Vice President Christenson, who spoke on behalf of the Board of Education at this morning's P-CCS Staff Welcome Back Event, which Trustee Picard and Treasurer Kehoe also attended. President Wilson welcomed P-CCS students back, spoke about their importance in our educational community, and encouraged students to take advantage of the resources and guidance available at P-CCS.

He also referenced the book on Roberts Rules provided to each Board member, which serves as a guide to ensure Board meetings are conducted efficiently, orderly, and with maximum productivity. He stated that this book will be reviewed further at the next Board workshop on September 25, 2023, as the Board works to establish a framework to obtain goals while allowing all voices to be heard and progress to be achieved collectively.

He also spoke about the Chief Mascot transition process and explained the steps that took place to reach this decision. He indicated that there is no mandate, policy, or directive that punishes students for using the Chief

name during the transition period and stated that the Board will support the administrative team as they work through the transition period.

Finally, he gave a shout-out to eight P-CEP students who worked at the Boys and Girls Club this past summer and shared positive feedback received from staff members regarding the students' maturity and kind nature.

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

Member Westra 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 met this evening and reviewed student and staff technology use policies. She shared that Mr. Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems, will attend the next meeting to explain AI and ChatGPT. The committee also continues to review the policies in the 5,000 section. The next policy meeting is scheduled for September 26, 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 has not met since the last Board meeting. The next F&O meeting will be held on September 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the E.J. McClendon 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. The next SVA Committee meeting will be held on September 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Canton High School Media Center, a new location for this school year. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*Plymouth-Canton Educational Foundation (PCEF)* -Christina Johnson

Member Kehoe, the Board representative for the Plymouth-Canton Educational Foundation, shared that PCEF Board members will be visiting schools throughout the district and attending PTO meetings under a newly created ambassador program to ensure teachers and administrators are aware of the grant funds available during the upcoming school year. He also encouraged everyone to attend the rescheduled Back to School Bash, to which PCEF is a significant donor.

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

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

Superintendent Merritt spoke about the severe weather that affected our community last week and impacted some of our district school buildings and facilities. She expressed appreciation to the district's maintenance, construction, and bond teams, which stepped in to address flooding and restorations needed to ensure school buildings are safe and ready for students to return. She also thanked our neighboring communities for sharing their facilities, allowing some P-CEP athletic teams to relocate while our flooded turf fields were assessed and repaired.

Due to last week's storms, the Back to School Bash was rescheduled until the first day of school, September 5, 2023, from 1-4 p.m. in the Salem bus loop. She encouraged district families to stop by and take advantage of the opportunity to meet school and district leaders, tour the P-CEP campus, learn about P-CCS programs, and enjoy food, fun, and games.

She also spoke about the Teacher Welcome Back Event held this morning in the Gloria Logan Auditorium, where educators from across the district engaged in professional learning and participated in activities centered around the district's 2023-2024 theme, "*Reach Higher.*" She also gave a shout-out to the P-CEP Park Players and the P-CEP Unified Dance Team for their outstanding performances, which were enjoyed by all.

She also acknowledged the significant donation of a 2022 Ford Bronco Raptor to the Canton High School CTE Department. She expressed appreciation to Ford Motor Company for this generous donation to be used for student training and instruction purposes at P-CEP.

Finally, she provided an update on the 2020 Bond construction projects underway throughout the district.

## **Teaching and Learning Beth Rayl**

### **2023 Summer Learning Programs (Presentation)**

Ms. Beth Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer, gave a presentation to provide updates on the 2023 Summer Learning Programs, which supported the enrollment of 7,398 students. Summer programs successfully mitigate the learning loss effects of summer break, address an increased need for academic, social-emotional, and mental health support, provide opportunities to enhance student voice, and support higher levels of student engagement. She provided an overview of the multiple summer learning opportunities available to students, including K-12 Academic and Enrichment Camps, K-8 Summer Academies, EL Jumpstart Program, Extended School Year Special Education Classes, SLIDE Speech and Language Program, tutoring, 9-12 Credit Advancement and Credit Recovery Courses, and Transition Support for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>-grade students. She also spoke about the summer curriculum and the connection to the Dynamic Plan's strategic goals.

She thanked the dedicated staff members who worked diligently this summer and stated that she is very proud of the team that led this work to provide various summer learning opportunities for P-CCS students.

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

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

### **Final Reading Resolutions**

- **Action Item #24-08-06:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to Approve a Resolution for an Elementary School Playground Three-Year Mulch Agreement. 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. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #24-08-07:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to Approve 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 and will be paid from the general fund operations budget. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

## **D. Citizens' Comments**

- Rocky Johnson spoke on Salem High School athletic facilities
- Shannon Balog spoke on the Canton High School mascot transition, flooding at Plymouth High School, and athletic facilities
- Nathan Morris spoke on board relations, athletic facilities, and district staffing
- Bob McCurdy spoke on the Canton High School Mascot

## **E. Action Items/Discussion**

- **Action Item #24-08-08:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution to Appoint Anupam Chugh Sidhu, Patti McCoin, and Judy Westra as MASB Assembly Voting Delegates at the 2023 Assembly, which is held on November 9, 2023. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

- **Action Item #24-08-09:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to Adopt the Superintendent 2023-2024 Goals. (First and Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCain, Picard, Westra, and Wilson

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

**F. Follow-up Board Questions**

- Member Kehoe asked if the Board could be provided with historical numbers of students who have engaged in credit recovery compared to the 2023 Summer Program data.

**G. Adjournment**

President Wilson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:01 p.m.

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Anupam Chugh Sidhu  
Secretary, Board of Education

\*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 9-12-23 / dr.