

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **September 12, 2023**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Vice President Christenson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Present: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra
Absent: Member Wilson

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. Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems
Mr. Josh Meier, Director of Safety and Security
Mr. Tim Gruszczynski, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects

Others Present: Mr. Brian Gesaman, McCarthy & Smith Senior Project Manager
Ms. Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board
Mr. Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair
Ms. Sae Pawar, SVA Student Co-Chair

Vice President Christenson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #24-09-10: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Kehoe to adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Tenure Recommendations, Regular Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2023, and First Reading Policies.

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

Nays: Member Picard

The motion was carried 5-1

New Hires

Anderson, Jessica	Music Elementary Farrand/Smith Elementary Schools	Effective 8-30-23
Barbosa, Dawn	Resource Room Starkweather Academy	Effective 9-18-23
Fazica, Megan	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Effective 8-30-23
Hazell, Shari	Music Elementary School Field/Bird Elementary Schools	Effective 8-30-23
Livingston, Marie	Elementary Classroom Smith Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Macklin, Kimberly	Elementary School Hoben Elementary School	Effective 8-30-23
Marie, Colleen	Resource Room Salem High School	Effective 8-31-23

Salemassi, Fatima	ELL Teacher Salem High School	Effective 8-28-23
Sater, Nadia	Behavior Support Specialist East Middle School	Effective 9-11-23
Sinacola, Mara	Elementary Classroom Hulsing Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Torey, Lindsay	Elementary Classroom Smith Elementary School	Effective 8-28-23
Washington-Brown, Lowanda	(0.3) Social Worker Plymouth (Goals)	Effective 9-7-23
Womble, Amber	(.65) Elementary Support Teacher Bentley/Tonda Elementary Schools	Effective 9-7-23
Ilijic, Katie	Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Administration Building	Effective 8-21-23
Meyette, Ally	Employment Coordinator Administration Building	Effective 9-14-23
Sturdy, Nichole	Student Support Coordinator Workman Elementary School	Effective 9-17-23

Leaves

Nicastri, Julie	Science Teacher Liberty Middle School	Professional Growth Leave of Absence 2023-24 School Year
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Resignations

Kroeger, Mary	(0.4) Other – Building Substitute East Middle School	Resignation Effective 8-28-23
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Tenure Recommendation

Henry, Cydnei	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School	Tenure Effective 9-12-23
Hammons, Angelina	Resource Room Salem High School	Tenure Effective 9-12-23
Pfeiffer, Katherine	Media Specialist Discovery Middle School	Tenure Effective 9-12-23
Scott, Jessica	Elementary Classroom Farrand Elementary School	Tenure Effective 9-12-23
Harrison, Sarah	Music Elementary Hoben/Bentley Elementary Schools	Tenure Effective 9-12-23
Baker, Vicki	Art Elementary Hoben/Gallimore Elementary Schools	Tenure Effective 9-12-23
Anderson, Nicole	Art Elementary Dodson/Miller Elementary Schools	Tenure Effective 9-12-23
Poniatowski, Laura	Integrated Science Liberty Middle School	Tenure Effective 9-12-23
Soisson, Stephanie	Math Liberty Middle School	Tenure Effective 9-12-23

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2023, were approved as presented.

First Reading Policies

- Policy #7540.03 Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety
- Policy #7540.04 Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety

B. Celebrating Success

- Ms. Maggie Styes, Career Center Coordinator for P-CEP and Starkweather Academy, received an Extra Miler Award for her dedication and continued support to P-CCS high school students. Ms. Barb Lehmann, P-CEP Counselor, spoke about the work Maggie has done to help students prepare for college and beyond by arranging multiple presenters, assisting with college and job applications, and connecting students to resources to support their future careers.
- Ms. Marcia Lizzio, PCEP Forensic Science Teacher and Science Olympiad Coach, received an Extra Miler Award for going above and beyond to mentor students during her 35-year career. Marcia has consistently worked outside of the school day, planning engaging, interactive, and innovative labs for her students. She built a strong Science Olympiad Program, mentored middle school coaches, and helped guide the Olympiad team to be regional champions and state-level competitors. Ms. Jennifer Banach, Salem High Teacher, thanked Marcia for her dedication and provided examples of her devotion to students during her long career.

C. Board Committee Reports/Action

President's Report - Shawn Wilson

Vice President Christenson welcomed students, staff, and families back to the 2023-24 school year, which is off to a great start.

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 has not met since the last Board meeting. 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

Vice President Christenson shared that the F&O Committee met on September 7, 2023, and reviewed presentations on 2023 summer cleaning work and summer bond construction projects. The committee also reviewed resolutions appearing on this evening's agenda, including the purchase of two security vehicles, sound system upgrades at the P-CEP JV field, and elevator voice-over equipment. Member Kehoe also spoke about the maintenance issues at P-CEP that were brought forward at the last Board meeting and provided updates outlining the work that has been completed to address the issues. He also clarified that an outside financial auditing firm reviews all district budgets annually. The next F&O meeting will be held on September 21, 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

Josh Patterson and Sae Pawar, SVA Student Co-Chairs, shared that members of SVA attended the Back to School Bash on the first day of school, and members will also be attending the P-CEP Activities Fair on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, to share SVA information with students who may be interested in joining. 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.

D. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Monica Merritt

Superintendent Merritt provided an update on the Canton Mascot Transition Plan, which was designed to clarify the process that will be used to implement the transition from the retired Canton Chiefs to the new mascot and logo. Current Canton HS students and students slated to attend Canton HS in the classes of 2028 and 2029 will have an opportunity to choose the new mascot. She also reviewed a transition timeline, the estimated costs associated with the change the Mascot Advisory Committee provided, and potential grant sources.

Superintendent Merritt proudly announced that Canton, Plymouth, and Salem High Schools were recently recognized by the US News and World Report, which released their nationwide high school rankings. All three park schools ranked in the top ten percent of high schools nationwide and among the top 40 out of 1,700 public

high schools in Michigan. These rankings are a testament to the quality education available to our students and the professionalism and hard work of our amazing staff, students, and families.

An update was also provided regarding the condition of the P-CEP turf fields, which were affected by recent storms. The East turf field has been repaired and is functional. The West turf field is not playable at this time. District administrators are working with professional turf installers to develop a plan and time frame to remediate the situation.

Last week, automotive history visited P-CEP when the CTE Department hosted a stop on the Old Car Endurance Run. Several cars manufactured in or before 1908 visited the Park on their return trip to Greenfield Village from the state capital in Lansing. This fun event enjoyed by many provided another exciting opportunity for P-CEP students.

Finally, Superintendent Merritt spoke about how much she enjoyed visiting classrooms throughout the district last week as students returned to school. She thanked Nick Brandon, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing, his team, and all the staff members who worked hard to ensure the success of the Back to School Bash, which was held on the first day of school.

Finance and Operations – Deborah Piesz

P-CCS 2023 Summer Bond Construction Update (Presentation)

Mr. Brian Gesaman, McCarthy and Smith Senior Project Manager, gave a presentation to provide updates on multiple summer construction bond projects taking place throughout the district. He reviewed several slides highlighting the renovations and additions in progress at Miller, Bird, Smith, and Isbister Elementary Schools, Pioneer Middle School, and Starkweather Academy. Construction progress on the Plymouth High School Natatorium and Multi-Purpose Addition and estimated project completion timelines were also reviewed.

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

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Purchase of Two GMC Terrain SUVs for the Safety and Security Department. Mr. Josh Meier, Director of Safety and Security, provided an overview of this recommended purchase to replace a 2015 truck that is in disrepair and needs to be replaced. A second vehicle purchase is also recommended to replace an existing single-cab truck that does not accommodate the transport of students. The two older vehicles being replaced can be repurposed elsewhere in the district. Todd Wenzel Buick GMC in Westland, MI, is the recommended vendor for both vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$70,388, including lights, radios, and reflective lettering. The cost of this purchase will be paid with funds from the Michigan School Aid Act Section 97. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Purchase and Implementation of Voice-Over (VoIP) Equipment for Nine District Elevators. AT&T is retiring the copper-wired technology networks across the nation. P-CCS elevators have been using the AT&T network for emergency communication functions and must transition to VoIP phone lines to comply with current state elevator requirements. Mr. Tim Gruszczynski, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects, provided an overview of this recommendation to award the supply and installation of VoIP lines to nine district elevators at a cost of \$35,083.65, which is consortium pricing. This purchase would be funded from the Maintenance Department budget. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #24-09-11:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to Approve a Resolution to Purchase an Athletic Sound System for the Junior Varsity Field and an audio system at the Canton Center Road Soccer field, which is currently using borrowed equipment. Mr. Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems, shared that the sound system on the field near Beck Road is no longer working and has been deemed unrepairable. After reviewing all bids, it is recommended that the equipment purchase be awarded to Rauland SoundCom of Farmington Hills, MI, in an amount not to exceed \$35,450. The athletics, technology, security, and maintenance department budgets will share and fund this purchase. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

E. Citizens' Comments

- Jody Hartbees spoke on the cost of the Canton Mascot change
- Rocky Johnson spoke on recent facility corrections
- Randy Lorenzetti spoke on district transportation schedules

F. Action Items/Discussion

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Memorandum of Understanding for a Plymouth Township School Resource Officer. Superintendent Merritt and Mr. Josh Meier, Director of Safety and Security, provided an overview of this MOU, which defines the roles and responsibilities and focuses on fostering positive relationships between students and law enforcement. The township has done an excellent job being present in recent months, and the district has received positive feedback from staff and families. (First Reading)

G. Follow-up Board Questions

- Member Sidhu asked if the Board could be provided with an end-of-year impact report to provide an overview of the benefits and challenges of the Plymouth Township SRO program.

H. Adjournment

Vice President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Anupam Chugh Sidhu
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 9-26-23/dr.