

# PLYMOUTH-CANTON

## COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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### **BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**September 26, 2023**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Superintendent Merritt started the meeting with a moment of silence to honor the life of Kristen Hennessey, longtime P-CCS Director of Food & Nutrition Services, who recently passed away. Kristen was a beloved part of our district for many years and a dear colleague to many. Her dedication to the well-being of students has left a lasting impact on countless families in our community.

President Wilson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 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

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

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Action Item #24-09-12:** 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, Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023, and Out-of-Country Field Trips.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

#### New Hires

Forrester, Ashley	ELL Teacher Discovery Middle School	Effective 10-5-23
Lewis, Suzanne	Behavior Support Specialist Bird Elementary School	Effective 10-2-23
Mierzejewski, Holly	Behavior Intervention Canton High School	Effective 9-18-23

#### Leaves

Barlow, Jacqueline	Teacher on Special Assignment-MS East Middle School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-29-23 until 10-24-23
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Blaesser, Amanda	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-28-23 until 11-24-23
Gilo, Kayleigh	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 9-5-23 until 11-24-23
Horvath, Lauren	(0.6) Language Arts West Middle School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-28-23 until 1-26-24
Lewis, Patricia	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence for the 2023-2024 School Year

Resignations

Dishmon, Molly	Spanish Plymouth High School	Resignation Effective 9-15-23
Ireland, Amy	Co-Teach with General Ed Teacher Discovery Middle School	Resignation Effective 9-29-23

Retirements

Hensel, Donna	P-CEP Registrar Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 11-30-23
Schmoekel, Renee	ASD Coach Plymouth (Goals)	Retirement Effective 9-29-23

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023, were approved as presented.

Out-of-Country Field Trips

- Ireland - Salem High School (Grades 9-12)
- Costa Rica - Plymouth High School (Grades 9-12)

**B. Celebrating Success**

- Member Sidhu presented the Extra Miler Award to Dawn Schaller, P-CCS Employee Benefits Supervisor, for going above and beyond every day to assist staff members with the best possible healthcare options. Dawn spends hours researching healthcare plans, patiently answers countless questions from staff members, and is a deserving recipient of this award.
- The students, staff, and volunteers at Gallimore Elementary School were also honored and received awards for being named a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School and recognized as one of the country's highest-performing schools. Students, staff, and volunteers spoke about the special school community at Gallimore, where everyone is seen, valued, and heard. Principal Aimee Bell was praised for her leadership, vision, positive impact, and unflinching dedication to students and staff. P-CCS is proud of our amazing Gallimore family.

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

President Wilson spoke about the Special Meeting held yesterday, September 25, 2023, where Board members met to establish Board goals for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

The SPA committee met on September 13, 2023. The next SPA meeting will be held on October 4, 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 continued their work to review all district policies in the 5,000 section. Two technology policies scheduled to be on this evening's agenda for final readings were removed to allow Board member questions to be addressed before approval. The next policy meeting is scheduled for October 24, 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

Member Kehoe shared that the F&O Committee met on September 21, 2023, and reviewed a presentation for a band room addition and Salem High School operable partitions. He spoke about the multiple 2020 bond construction projects taking place across the district and encouraged the community to view the district website, where weekly construction update photos can be viewed. The next F&O meeting will be held on October 5, 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, Student Voice in Action co-chairs, spoke about the last SVA meeting held on September 18, 2023, where the group discussed ways to increase member participation and diversity. The next SVA Committee meeting will be held on October 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Canton High School Media Center, and everyone is welcome to attend.

**D. Administrative Reports/Recommendations****Superintendent's Report – Dr. Monica Merritt**

Superintendent Merritt asked everyone to join the district as it celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic-American champions who have inspired others. Guided by the district's Dynamic Plan, P-CCS continues to honor our community's diversity and the varied cultures of our student body. She encouraged everyone to visit the district's website to read more about this month's celebration.

She also highlighted some of the outstanding upcoming events being presented by the Department of Student and Family Engagement. The department offers workshops and events every month that are designed to help district parents support their children's learning and social-emotional needs. She invited families to visit the Student and Family Engagement page on the district website to learn more.

Finally, she gave a shout-out to the P-CCS Human Resources Team as they continue to work hard to hire champions for our district. She encouraged community members to attend the P-CCS Job Fair scheduled for October 25, 2023, from 3:30-6:00 p.m. in the Canton High School cafeteria.

**Finance and Operations – Deborah Piesz**First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Awards for Bid Package #HS-2a - Band Room Addition and Salem Auditorium Operable Partitions. Mr. Brian Gesaman, McCarthy Smith Senior Project Manager, Mr. Joe Ross, McCarthy & Smith, Project Manager, and Mr. Derek Dinkeloo, TMP Architecture Senior Associate, provided an overview of the items included in this resolution. Bid division #123 (Operable Partitions) is part of this package, but the totals have been separated out on the bid tabulation for clarity at a cost of \$265,645 and will be paid for with funds from the 2019 bond series. The Plymouth High School Band Room addition, with a total cost of \$3,031,746, will be paid from 2019 and 2020 Bond funds. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #24-09-13:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for the Purchase of Two GMC Terrain SUVs for the Safety & Security Department through Todd Wenzel Buick GMC in Westland, MI, at a cost not to exceed \$70,388, including lights, radios, and reflective lettering for both vehicles. The purchase is recommended to replace a 2015 truck that is in disrepair and a single-cab truck that does not accommodate the transport of students. The cost of this purchase will be paid with funds from the Michigan School Aid Act Section 97. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

- **Action Item #24-09-14:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for the Purchase and Implementation of Voice-Over (VoIP) Equipment for Nine District Elevators. This purchase is necessary to transition to VoIP phone lines to comply with state elevator requirements. It is recommended to award the supply and installation of VoIP lines to each of the nine district elevators for \$35,083.65, which is consortium pricing. This purchase would be funded from the Maintenance Department budget. (Final Reading)

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

## **Teaching and Learning - Bethany Rayl**

### **First Reading Resolutions**

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Course Materials for African-American Literature. The novel "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi is being recommended as a whole-class novel by the ELA Curriculum Team members who developed P-CEP's 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade yearlong elective African American Literature Course. The total cost for 125 copies of this novel will be approximately \$1,450. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Course Materials for Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science. A high school team of administrators, teachers, and students had an opportunity to review all available AP Environmental Science resources and overwhelmingly chose the AP Environmental Science for AP, Fourth Edition textbook above the others. The total cost for this purchase, consisting of textbooks and a six-year digital license for students to access the eBook, interactive activities, and practice exams online, will be \$53,664.19. The price includes all materials for 275 students. (First Reading)

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

## **E. Citizens' Comments**

- Steve Gentilia spoke on bond construction priorities
- Kevin Shankie spoke on the Canton Mascot Transition
- Karen Gorny spoke on school rankings and construction bids
- Jody Hurtubise spoke on the Canton Mascot Transition
- Rocky Johnson spoke on AEDs at P-CEP

## **F. Action Item**

**Action Item #24-09-15:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding for a Plymouth Township School Resource Officer, which defines the roles and responsibilities and fosters a positive relationship between students and law enforcement. (Final reading)

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

## **F. Follow-up Board Questions**

- Board members requested there be a presentation at a future Board meeting to highlight and remind the community of timelines for upcoming construction projects and improvements
- Member Wilson requested that security be present at future Board meetings.

## **G. Adjournment**

President Wilson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:21 p.m.

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Anupam Chugh Sidhu  
Secretary, Board of Education

\*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 10-10-23/dr