

PLYMOUTH-CANTON

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 28, 2023

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 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 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

Sae Pawar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #24-11-29: Member Picard requested that Policy #5223 and Policy #8531 be removed from the consent agenda to allow for additional discussion. It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to adopt the Agenda and the **Amended** Consent Agenda after the removal of Policy #5223 and Policy #8531, as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Resignations, Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2023, and Final Reading Policies.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

New Hires

Rasmussen, Lisa	Executive Assistant - Human Resources Administrative Building	Effective 12-4-23
Richards, Sarah	Technical Coordinator - Pupil Accounting Educational Support Center	Effective 11-27-23

Resignations

Anderson, Jessica	Music Elementary Farrand Elementary School	Resignation Effective 11-27-23
Grenier, Mark	Resource Room Bentley Elementary School	Resignation Effective 11-14-23

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2023, were approved as presented.

Final Reading Policies

- Policy #1540 New Administrative Staff Reductions-Recalls
- Policy #5120 Assignment within District

B. Celebrating Success

Member Christenson presented the Volunteers in Public Schools Extra Miler Award (VIPS) to Mr. Michael Klozik, a P-CCS Volunteer who has been a dedicated and amazing advocate for the P-CEP Choir Program for almost a decade. His passion and commitment to this program are truly admirable. Ms. Megan Daniel was also honored with a VIPS Award for her countless hours volunteering at Bird Elementary School. Megan is extremely thoughtful, considerate, and selfless. She goes above and beyond every week to ensure all students feel loved and have fun.

C. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresident's Report - Shawn Wilson

President Wilson reminded his colleagues of the Roberts Rules Board Workshop scheduled for tomorrow, November 29, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom. He also extended an invitation to any community members who might be interested in sitting down with him for a conversation to ask questions or express their points of view.

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

The SPA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next SPA meeting is scheduled for December 11, 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 policy updates related to Ad-hoc and Citizen's Advisory Committees with the assistance of district legal counsel. A representative from Neola, Inc. was also present. Neola monitors state and federal legislative changes and provides recommendations to the district regarding necessary policy updates to comply with current laws. The next policy meeting is scheduled for December 12, 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 Christenson shared that the F&O Committee met on November 16, 2023, and reviewed updates related to the sale of the Tanger property and Bid Package #HS-4. She also gave a shout-out to SVA student liaisons who attended this committee meeting. The next F&O meeting will be held on December 7, 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 – Josh Patterson and Sae Pawar

Josh Patterson and Sae Pawar, SVA co-chairs, shared that the SVA Committee Meeting met on November 20, 2023, and discussed future committee agendas. They also spoke about SVA student liaisons attending Board committee meetings. The next SVA committee meeting will be held on December 18, 2023, in the Canton High School Media Center, and everyone is welcome to attend.

D. Administrative Reports/Recommendations**Superintendents Report**

Superintendent Merritt shared highlights from the recent Superintendent of the Year Gala, where she proudly represented P-CCS and the State of Michigan. She was honored to engage with state and national educational leaders, including U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, who had positive things to say about our district.

She also announced that Gallimore Elementary School has been recognized as the No. 1 Elementary School in Michigan this year by U.S. News and World Report. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, and staff. She also provided highlights from the ceremony she recently attended, along with Gallimore Principal Aimee Bell and teacher Kristy Berry, to celebrate Gallimore Elementary being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2023. Gallimore was one of 353 nationwide recipients of more than 98,000 schools and one of only 11 in Michigan to receive this prestigious designation.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt took a moment to express gratitude and reflect on the numerous districtwide student successes and staff accomplishments from the past year. She highlighted an impressive list of achievements and provided updates on the current renovations happening across the district, which were made possible by the 2020 Bond. She expressed how proud she is to lead and advocate for P-CCS and conveyed optimism for continued success and growth in 2024.

Finance and Operations – Deborah Piesz

First Reading Resolutions

Consider Approval of a Resolution for Awards for Bid Package #HS-4 P-CEP-1, Canton High School Addition, Renovation, and New Stadium. Mr. Derek Dinkeloo, TMP Architecture Senior Associate, reviewed site plans for the proposed Canton High School Phase III addition and new stadium. Mr. Brian Gesaman, McCarthy & Smith Senior Project Manager, reviewed bid summaries, which include 28 bid divisions within the scope of work. Proposed construction schedules were reviewed. The recommended awards total \$11,352,256. (First Reading)

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

Student Services – Kurt Tyszkiewicz

31aa Grant Funding (Safety, Security, and Mental Health) (Presentation)

Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, & Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student and Family Engagement, gave a presentation to provide an overview of 31aa Grant Fund opportunities provided by the State of Michigan to support mental health, wellness, and school safety resources. The district plans to build on mental health and wellness programs initiated last year and implement additional services to address the evolving needs of students. The presentation also highlighted examples of improvements for school safety and security, both in terms of programming and physical infrastructure. Goals for utilizing grant funds in 2024 were reviewed and are aligned with the objectives outlined in the P-CCS Dynamic Plan.

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

Teaching and Learning - Bethany Rayl

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #24-11-30:** It was moved by Member Christenson and seconded by Member Kehoe to Approve a Resolution for a Course Name Change – Honors Photography to AP 2-D Art & Design Portfolio. This course already follows the AP 2-D Art and Design curriculum. Changing the title will allow students who complete this course to have the Advanced Placement (AP) designation on their high school transcript. The course name will take effect beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

E. Citizens' Comments

- Steve Gentilia spoke on the new Canton Mascot Selection
- Steve Levine spoke on the Dynamic Plan and preparing students for future careers
- Jennifer Vos spoke on the new Canton Mascot Selection and district facilities
- Phi Venables spoke on the P-CEP student walkout

F. Action Items/Discussion

Discussion

- President Wilson referenced the policies removed from the consent agenda for additional discussion, reminded Board members that policy committee materials are available for review in advance of Board meetings, and encouraged members to bring forward questions as they arise. He also reminded the community that Policy Committee meetings are open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend.
- The Roberts Rules Workshop scheduled for tomorrow, November 29, 2023, was discussed and will provide clarity for a shared understanding of meeting procedures.

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution to Adopt "Cobras" as the new mascot for Canton High School. Mr. Hal Heard, Executive Director of High School Education, and Mr. David Reed-Nordwall, Canton High School Principal, provided an overview of the two-phase mascot selection transition plan and the process followed to bring forward the ultimate choice of "Cobras" as the recommended new Canton High School mascot. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Policies

Action Item #24-11-31: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member McCoin to Approve Policy #5223-Absences for Religious Instruction. An opportunity for additional Board discussion related to this policy was provided prior to voting. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: Member Picard

The motion was carried 6-1

Action Item #24-11-32: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member McCoin to Approve Policy #8531-Free and Reduced Priced Meals. An opportunity for additional Board discussion related to this policy was provided prior to voting. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

G. Follow-up Board Questions

- Related to the 31aa Grant Fund Presentation:
 - Member Sidhu would like to know what resources are currently being used and the number of students receiving services. Additionally, what programs will be purchased with new grant funds.
 - Member Kehoe asked if any unmet needs or services could be filled with additional funding.
- Member Wilson requested an update showing what the district is doing to encourage minority and women-owned businesses to place bids for construction work.
- Related to the Canton Mascot Selection Presentation:
 - Board members would like to receive a summary of the recommended mascot to show how it fits the guidelines used during the mascot name selection process
 - Member Christenson asked if the student participation rates were available from when the Liberty MS and Plymouth HS Mascots were chosen.
- Member Picard asked a question about the student-led walkout that took place at P-CEP last month. Superintendent Merritt reiterated that the district did not endorse the walkout and stated that P-CCS policies dictate that while a walkout is officially prohibited, administrators must meet with students considering such actions, making them aware of the potential consequences, unexcused absences, and alternative ways to express their First Amendment rights. The policy aims to ensure students understand the rules and consequences. Any inappropriate behaviors were addressed according to the student code of conduct. Student safety is the number one priority. She emphasized that security and law enforcement partners were prepared and on-site to implement safety procedures, not to facilitate the walkout.

H. Adjournment

President Wilson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:48 p.m.

Anupam Chugh Sidhu
Secretary, Board of Education