

# PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** **March 12, 2024**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 7 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 7:10 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Present: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, and Wilson

Absent: Members Picard, Sidhu, and Westra

Administrators Present: Dr. Monica L. Merritt, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student & Family Engagement  
Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer  
Ms. Bethany Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer  
Mr. Abdul Madyun, Chief Human Resource Officer  
Ms. Carly Rays, Assistant Director of Marketing and Promotion  
Dr. Denise Lilly, Executive Director of Elementary Education

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

Sae Pawar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Action Item #24-03-58:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member McCoin to adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, Tenure Recommendations, Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024, First Reading Policies, and Final Reading Bylaws/Policies.

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, and Wilson

Nays: None

The motion was carried 4-0

#### New Hires

Campbell, Ashley	Early-on Service Provider Allen Early Learning Academy	Effective 3-18-24
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#### Leaves

Johnson, Carolanne	ECDD-Special Education Teacher Allen Early Learning Academy	Childcare Leave of Absence 2-28-24 through 5-31-24
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#### Resignations

Bolz, Kelsey	Math Plymouth High School	Resignation Effective 2-26-24
Carr, Vernon	Student Success Specialist Eriksson Elementary School	Resignation Effective 6-19-24
Miller, Jasmine	Social Studies Canton High School	Resignation Effective 3-8-24
Pettovello, Stephanie	Computer Technician Educational Support Center	Resignation Effective 3-15-24

Shutt, Jocelyn	(0.6) Music Elementary Field Elementary School	Resignation Effective 2-20-24
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Retirements

Konyha, Ann-Marie	Social Studies Liberty Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-12-24
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Tenure Recommendations

Deady, Holly	Elementary Classroom Hulsing Elementary School	Tenure Effective 3-2-24
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Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024, were approved as presented.

First Reading Policies

- Policy #3131 - Reduction in Certified Staff
- Policy #9140 - Citizens' Advisory Committees
- Policy #9140.01 - Facilities Utilization and Boundary Study

Final Reading Bylaws/Policies

- Bylaw #0122 - Board Powers
- Policy #1420 - School Administrator Evaluation
- Policy #3120 - Employment of Personnel
- Policy #3139 - Staff Discipline
- Policy #3140 - Termination and Resignation
- Policy #3220 - Professional Staff Evaluation
- Policy #3244 - Individualized Development Plan

**B. Celebrating Success**

Member Christenson presented the VIPS Award (Volunteers in Public Schools) to the Isbister Elementary School PTO board committee members, acknowledging their dedication to advocating for students and staff through their time, talents, and efforts. The recipients of this recognition are Ms. Erica Hudson, Ms. Amy Boyer, Ms. Judan Flanagan, Ms. Megan Vickers, Ms. Carrie Hyman, and Ms. Jessica McGrath. Principal Emily Hawthorne expressed heartfelt appreciation on behalf of the Isbister staff and students for the many ways the PTO supports its school community through fundraising and creating unique and engaging ways to connect staff and students.

**C. Board Committee Reports/Action**

Presidents Report - Shawn Wilson

President Wilson thanked members Kehoe, Picard, Sidhu, and Westra, who recently attended the P-CEP Lightning Robotics opening competition, where the latest robot was unveiled. Member Kehoe provided a recap of this event and wished the team good luck as they began their competition season.

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

Ms. Bethany Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer, shared that the SPA committee met on March 6, 2024, and reviewed the elementary English Language Curriculum and an out-of-country field trip. The next SPA meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024, at 5 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 to review policies related to the Teaching and Learning Department and alternative education policies. The committee's structure and processes were also discussed. The next policy meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2024, 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 March 7, 2024, and reviewed bid awards for the P-CEP tennis court replacement. The committee also reviewed the annual budget survey responses and a draft of the ADA accessibility report focusing on providing equity for all students. The next F&O meeting will be held on April 4, 2024, at 5 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 has not met since the last meeting. The next SVA meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2024, in the Canton High School Media Center, and everyone is welcome to attend.

**D. Administrative Reports/Recommendations**

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Merritt conveyed sincere appreciation to the community on behalf of P-CCS for its continued support of the district, demonstrated by the resounding approval of the non-homestead millage renewal proposal at the polls on February 27, 2024.

She also invited community members to attend the annual P-CEP Athletics and Activities Extravaganza scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024, from 6–7:30 p.m. This event provides an excellent opportunity for students and families to meet with representatives from our athletic programs and explore the more than 100 clubs and organizations offered at P-CEP.

While highlighting recent student and staff accomplishments, Superintendent Merritt congratulated Madison Morson, a member of the Salem High School girls' basketball team, who was recently named a finalist for this year's *Mick McCabe Miss Basketball Award*, recognizing the best high school players in the state. Additionally, Ms. Brenda Johnson, a resource room teacher at Discovery Middle School, was recognized for her recent selection as *Teacher of the Month* by Michigan State Representative Ranjeev Puri, recognizing her efforts to help every child feel valued and supported.

A shout-out was also given to the P-CEP Science Olympiad team members for the awards and achievements received during recent team competitions. Additionally, she spoke about the award-winning P-CEP Lightning Robotics team, which recently unveiled "Rhapsody," the latest addition to their impressive line of robots, positioning them as one of the top teams in the world as they begin their competition season.

Superintendent Merritt thanked students of Ms. Hirsch's second-grade class at Isbister Elementary School for warmly welcoming her as their guest reader during the district's kickoff to *March Is Reading Month*, celebrating the importance of reading for young learners.

In closing, she spoke about the P-CCS Virtual Academy, which recently opened enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. This innovative remote learning program offers flexibility for students who learn best outside the traditional classroom. Enrollment will remain open until April 5, 2024. Additional information is available on the P-CCS website.

**Teaching and Learning – Bethany Rayl**

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #24-03-59:** It was moved by Member Christenson and seconded by Member McCoin to Approve a Resolution for New Course Materials for Other Worlds of Science Fiction & Fantasy. It is recommended that the district purchase 465 copies of *The Emperor's Soul* by Bryan Sanderson as a whole-class text for this class, which will not exceed \$6,300. These books will be purchased from the 2023-2024 budget and implemented during the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year and beyond. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, and Wilson

Nays: None

The motion was carried 4-0

Elementary Program Highlights (Presentation)

Ms. Bethany Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer, and Dr. Denise Lilly, Executive Director of Elementary Education, gave a presentation to showcase key aspects of P-CCS Elementary School Programming during the 2023-2024 school, aligning with the district's Dynamic Plan and Learner Profile. The presentation emphasized

how P-CCS elementary schools foster a sense of belonging among students, focusing on student engagement and cultivating a positive culture and climate. The "Peer Buddies" program, which pairs kindergarten students with older student mentors, was highlighted. Additionally, they provided an update on the highly successful K-5 innovation period and shared positive feedback received from parents throughout the year. Ms. Rayl expressed appreciation to the Bosch Corporation for their generous grant funding, which helps to support innovation programming.

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

### **Finance and Operations - Jill Minnick**

#### **First Reading Resolutions**

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Bid Package #P-CEP-2 Tennis Court Replacement. Mr. Brian Gesaman, McCarthy and Smith Senior Project Manager, and Mr. Derek Dinkeloo, TMP Architecture, Inc. Senior Associate, provided an overview of the proposed P-CEP tennis court replacement project, being requested due to the deteriorating condition of the existing courts. The project's scope of work includes replacing asphalt courts with post-tensioned concrete, a much more durable material, coaching alleys, fencing replacement and updated stormwater detention. After receiving bids from 17 vendors across four bid divisions, the recommended contract awards total \$3,188,150 and will be paid from the 2020 and 2023 bond funds. (First Reading)

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

#### **Final Reading Resolutions**

- **Action Item #24-03-60:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to Approve a Resolution for Bid Package #MS-2 East and West Middle School Furniture Purchase. All furniture vendor quotations were procured through purchasing consortiums, resulting in a positive variance for the two buildings. The total cost for the recommended furniture and equipment at both buildings is \$1,121,934.69, which will be paid from 2020 and 2023 bond funds. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, and Wilson

Nays: None

The motion was carried 4-0

- **Action Item #24-03-61:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to Approve a Resolution for Bid Package #T-8 e-Rate Structured Cabling and Network Infrastructure related to 2020 Bond program additions and renovations at Canton High School, Plymouth High School, East Middle School, West Middle School, and the new P-CEP stadium. It is recommended that contracts be awarded to People Driven Technology in an amount not to exceed \$145,622.10 and to Nerds Xpress in an amount not to exceed \$142,157.70. The total award will not exceed \$287,779.89, net of reimbursements for \$100,809.04, through the federal e-Rate Universal Service Fund (USF) program. These purchases will be funded using 2020 and 2023 bond funds. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, and Wilson

Nays: None

The motion was carried 4-0

- **Action Item #24-03-62:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Christenson to Approve a Resolution for Bid Package #T-9 Technology Related to 2020 Bond Projects HS-2A, HS-4, MS-2, and HS-4A. This recommendation will include the technology equipment needed for learning, office, and activity/athletic spaces at Canton High School, Plymouth High School, East Middle School, and West Middle School. It is recommended that contracts be awarded to TEL Systems in an amount not to exceed \$205,441.39, to SoundCom Systems in an amount not to exceed \$120,147.50, and to Security 101 in an amount not to exceed \$414,321.57. The total award for BP #T-9 in the three awarded categories will not exceed \$748,610.46 and will be paid for with 2020 and 2023 bond funds. (Final Reading)

Ayes: Members Christenson, Kehoe, McCoin, and Wilson

Nays: None

The motion was carried 4-0

2024-2025 Budget Assumptions (Presentation)

Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance & Operations Officer, presented an overview of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget Assumptions. The presentation outlined a tentative budget timeline, reviewed the state budget, and discussed initial budget assumptions with a review of historical financial data utilized to create the initial budget. Throughout the budgeting process, the district prioritizes fiscal responsibility to align with the objectives of the P-CCS Dynamic Plan. Initial assumptions include an anticipated 2.5% increase in the state foundation and categorical funding. Going forward, close monitoring of state budget developments and enrollment projections will remain a priority. P-CCS remains committed to offering 500 seats through the School of Choice option and will ensure class sizes remain consistent with the previous year. An estimated 4.1% hard cap increase in benefit costs is foreseen, with an MSPERS base contribution rate projected at 31.34%.

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

Budget Community Forum (Presentation)

Member Kehoe, Treasurer of the Board of Education, reviewed district stakeholder feedback and results from the Budget Community Forum, which included input from staff and community members. The survey gathers feedback to help identify priorities as the district goes through the budget transformation process for the 2024-2025 budget year. 46 survey responses were received.

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

**E. Citizens' Comments**

- Jen Vos spoke on the recent P-CEP Culinary Arts competition and teacher support
- Chris Vos spoke on facility conditions

**F. Discussion**

- None

**G. Follow-up Board Questions**

- None

**H. Adjournment**

President Wilson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:12 p.m.

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Anupam Chugh Sidhu  
Secretary, Board of Education

\*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 4-9-24/dr