

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **April 23, 2024**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7 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 7:01 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
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
Mr. Anthony Ruela, Executive Director of Middle School Education
Mr. Joe Amabile, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator for Math & Innovation
Mr. Josh Meier, Director of Safety and Security

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 Gesaman, McCarthy and Smith Senior Project Manager
Mr. Nick Tindall, McCarthy and Smith Project Engineer

Vice President Christenson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #24-04-69: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Westra to adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of Resignations, Retirements, Special Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2024, Final Reading Policies, and a Tentative Agreement with the Plymouth-Canton Maintenance Association.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Resignations

Lewin, Emily	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Resignation Effective 4-10-24
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Retirements

Abraham, Daniel	Physical Education Secondary Discovery Middle School	Retirement Effective 6-12-24
Cowell, Lynne	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-12-24
Hollandsworth, Donna	Chemistry Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-13-24
Polidori, Janet	(0.8) Social Worker (ASD) Tonda Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-12-24

Steinhauer, Jennifer

Media Specialist
Tonda Elementary School

Retirement Effective 6-12-24

Approval of Minutes

The Special Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024, the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024, and the Special Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2024, were approved as presented.

Final Reading Policies

- Policy #5464 – Early Graduation

Action Items

- Approved a Resolution to ratify a Tentative Agreement between the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education and the Plymouth-Canton Maintenance Association for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years. (First and Final Reading)

B. Celebrating Success

Member McCain presented the STARS Award (Student with Tenacity Achieving and Reaching Success) to Olivia Graham, a Plymouth High School sophomore. Olivia has played a significant role on the Student Advisory Council and was instrumental in forming a Michigan Department of Education resource for creating safe and inclusive places in our schools. Olivia was applauded for her contributions over the last three years to promote this important initiative.

C. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresidents Report - Shawn Wilson

Vice President Christenson spoke about the upcoming Wayne RESA budget presentations, which offer an opportunity for local school boards to review budget details and ask questions before voting to approve the 2024-2025 budget. Zoom sessions are available on May 6, 9, and 14, and an in-person presentation will be held on May 15. Vice President Christenson encouraged her colleagues to attend a budget session and indicated she would forward an email from RESA to provide additional details.

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

Member Sidhu shared that the SPA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next SPA meeting is scheduled for May 1, 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 McCain

Member McCain shared that the Policy Committee met this evening and reviewed policies that will be sent to the full Board for approval and policies awaiting feedback from the SPA Committee and legal counsel. The next policy meeting is scheduled for May 28, 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 April 18, 2024, and reviewed a comprehensive audit regarding ADA accessibility for the P-CEP campus, which is part of a broader audit to identify accessibility needs throughout the district. The committee also reviewed bid awards for security window film and received a budget process update. The next F&O meeting will be held on May 9, 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 met recently in a planning meeting and finalized a memo to share student feedback for breakfast and lunch menu changes. The committee also discussed student dress code suggestions for the Handbook Committee. The next SVA meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2024, in the Canton High School Media Center, and everyone is welcome to attend.

D. Administrative Reports/Recommendations

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt began her report by highlighting the recent accomplishments of the district's amazing students and staff.

She congratulated the P-CEP Winter Percussion Program and its Director, Oliver Rodriguez, for clinching first place at the state championship earlier this month.

She also acknowledged the dedication of the Park Players Theatre Company students, along with Directors Paul Bird and Jennifer Neumann and Orchestra Director Michael Edwards, for their successful production of "Anything Goes" over the past two weeks.

Students from the P-CEP Culinary Program continued their tradition of excellence earlier this month when five students competed at the Skills USA Individual State Championship in Grand Rapids. P-CEP student Madeleine White won the state restaurant service competition and Charlie Salowich took home state champion honors in the culinary competition. Montana Guy also earned a second-place finish in the restaurant service category.

The P-CEP Lightning Robotics Team, led by Jay Obsniuk, continued its tradition of success this past weekend when the team competed at the FIRST World Finals in Houston, Texas, barely missing the world championship playoffs.

Additionally, Superintendent Merritt congratulated the Plymouth High School E-Sports team for qualifying for the Michigan High School E-Sports League playoffs. The league will feature multiple video game playoff events over the next three weeks, including an in-person gaming day at Oakland University on April 27, 2024.

She extended an invitation to 8th-grade students in the community to tour the P-CEP campus during the National Honor Society's annual *Walk the Park* event on April 27, 2024, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Canton High School cafeteria. The tour will provide an opportunity for students to ask questions and become more familiar with the high school campus. Families can RSVP for the tours on the P-CCS website.

She also invited the community to attend the 3rd annual P-CCS Mental Health and Wellness Fair this Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park. Families can enjoy a day full of fun activities at this event and meet community mental health experts and local businesses. The fair is an integral part of the district's mission to help crush the stigma surrounding mental health.

In closing, she spoke about the 2024 SJ5K charity run-walk scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2024. The SJ5K has grown into a cherished annual tradition and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit families facing financial hardships due to medical issues. Further details and registration information can be found on the official race website at SJ5K.org.

Teaching and Learning – Bethany Rayl

Middle School Program Highlights (Presentation)

Mr. Anthony Ruela, Executive Director of Middle School Education, gave a presentation highlighting the initiatives of the P-CCS Middle-Level Programming during the 2023-2024 school year. These programs support and align with the district's Dynamic Plan and Learner Profile. The presentation centered on programs that foster a sense of belonging, promote student engagement, and cultivate a positive culture at all P-CCS middle schools. A series of images were displayed, highlighting the wide variety of educational and extracurricular opportunities available as part of the student support network. Special events such as the Black History Mobile Museum, the P-CCS Band Festival, the Washington D.C. field trip, and the Holocaust Museum were highlighted. Ms. Cheri Steckel, West Middle School Principal, and Mr. Alex Noroyan, Discovery Middle School Interim Principal, were present and recognized along with all the middle school administrators and staff members for their dedicated efforts to support students on a daily basis. Of particular note were the special programs to support incoming 6th-grade students, facilitating early connections with student mentors and trusted adults before transitioning to middle school.

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

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Middle School Math Curriculum Materials. Ms. Beth Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer, and Mr. Joe Amabile, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator for Math and Innovation, provided an overview of this recommendation. A team of teachers and students piloted resources, and based on feedback, the team recommends purchasing Amplify Desmos 6-8 Math as the curriculum resource that

best supports students at P-CCS. This curriculum aligns with the Michigan K-12 Mathematic Standard and Mathematical Practices and emphasizes problem-solving, mathematical modeling, abstract reasoning, and argument construction. Amplify Desmos is an electronic resource with a six-year subscription at a cost not to exceed \$820,441. These resources will be purchased from the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 budgets and implemented during the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #24-04-70:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for Elementary English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum Materials. This recommendation is to purchase the Collaborative Classroom's *Being a Reader* and *Being a Writer* curriculum resources for Elementary English Language Arts (ELA) not to exceed \$1,455,655. These resources would be purchased from the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 budgets of the 35j Professional Development, Curriculum, and Supports Grant from the Michigan Department of Education and be implemented during the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: Member Picard

The motion was carried 5-1

Finance and Operations - Jill Minnick

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for a Property Sale Agreement (Tanger Center Property). Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, provided an overview of this resolution for the sale of the Tanger Center Property, located at 40260 Five Mile Road, to Infinity Homes, Inc., in the amount of \$1,200,000. This agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel, and due diligence requirements have been completed. The Board of Education met regarding this purchase in a closed session, with legal counsel in attendance, as allowed under attorney-client privilege. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for Security Window Film. Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, and Mr. Josh Meier, Director of Safety and Security, provided an overview of this recommendation to purchase approximately 6,000 square feet of security window film to be installed at strategic locations throughout the district. The Safety and Security Department issued an RFP for the purchase and installation of security window film and recommends Safe Haven Defense from Phoenix, AZ, for this purchase, which was the only vendor to meet or exceed the requirements included in the RFP. This project will be funded for an amount not to exceed \$150,000 from the State of Michigan School Aid Act Section 97 funds and an amount not to exceed \$200,000 from the State of Michigan School Aid Act Section 31aa funds. The total project cost will not exceed \$350,000. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #24-04-71:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Picard to Approve a Resolution for Hoben Elementary Drainage Improvements - Bid Package #EL-4a. This work was scheduled as a component of future work of BP #EL-4a; However, the drainage component has been moved ahead in the construction timeline due to flooding issues at Hoben. It is recommended that the award for this work go to the lowest bidder, ILE Excavating, Inc. of Plymouth, Michigan, at a cost of \$196,650.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

E. Citizens' Comments

- Mr. Robert McCurdy spoke on current P-CCS programming and enrollment.

F. Action Items/Discussion

Final Reading Policies

- **Action Item #24-04-72:** It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Kehoe to Approve a Teacher Appreciation Week Resolution. Board members read the resolution and expressed appreciation to the P-CCS teaching staff. (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

Discussion

- Member Sidhu asked Board colleagues to send her committee updates and a list of recently attended events by Thursday for inclusion in the upcoming edition of the Board newsletter.
- Tentative dates for the organizational meeting in July were discussed. Board members will also email their availability for the next superintendent evaluation check-in meeting.

G. Follow-up Board Questions

- Related to the Middle School Math Curriculum Resolution - The Board would like to receive digital links to review the recommended curriculum materials and an overview of the presentation reviewed during the last SPA committee meeting.
- Related to the Security Window Film Resolution - The Board would like the final reading of this recommendation, which will appear on the 5-14-24 Board agenda, to include data showing the minority status of all bidders for this project.

H. Adjournment

Vice President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Anupam Chugh Sidhu
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 5-14-24/dr