

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **August 27, 2024**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

President Christenson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 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
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. Hal Heard, Executive Director of High School Education
Mr. David Reed-Nordwall, Canton High School Principal

Others Present: Ms. Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board
Ms. Sae Pawar, SVA Student Co-Chair
Mr. Zane Birchler, Graphic Designer

President Christenson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #25-08-06: It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, Special Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2024, Regular Minutes of August 13, 2024, and Final Reading Policies.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

New Hires

Awadallah-Amer, Amal	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Effective 8-26-24
Bailey, Erika	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Effective 8-26-24
Berbaum, Megan	Physics / Astronomy Plymouth High School	Effective 8-26-24
Fried, Juliana	Elementary Classroom Dodson Elementary School	Effective 8-26-24
Gramza, Derek	Co-Teach w/Gen Ed Teacher-Resource Rm Discovery Middle School	Effective 8-26-24
Kalyanaraman, Padmavathy	Computer Programming/Programmer Salem High School	Effective 8-26-24
Kazen, Jullee	CI – High School Salem High School	Effective 8-26-24
Kohlmann, Kurt	Social Worker Plymouth/Plymouth (Madonna)	Effective 8-26-24

Lee-Hood, Khia	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School3	Effective 8-26-24
McCreery, April	EL Categorical Classroom Workman Elementary School	Effective 8-26-24
Meyer, Carin	Co-Teach w/Gen Ed Teacher-Resource Rm Liberty Middle School	Effective 8-26-24
Sanabria, Jill	Nurse Hulsing/Field Elementary Schools	Effective 8-26-24
Vanner, Tahira	Social Worker Dodson Elementary School	Effective 8-26-24
Vassel, Christopher	EL Categorical Classroom West Middle School	Effective 8-26-24
Wills, Rachel	Early-on Service Provider Allen Early Learning Academy	Effective 8-26-24
Doman, Kimberly	Principal Starkweather Academy	Effective 8-26-24
Zorkot, Hannah	Associate Director of Finance & Accounting Administration Building	Effective 10-1-24

Leaves

Danahy, Diane	Elementary Classroom Field Elementary School	Leave of Absence Effective 8-26-24 through 2-15-25
Meier, Alisa	Art Secondary Liberty Middle School	Leave of Absence Effective 8-26-24 through 1-17-25
Neuhalfen, Jennifer	(0.7) Occupational Therapy Liberty Middle School	Childcare Leave of Absence 8-26-24 through 11-6-24

Resignations

Baker, Vicki	(0.71) Art Teacher Hoben Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-23-24
Hart, Judith	French East Middle School	Resignation Effective 8-19-24
Hicks, Nicole	Language Arts East Middle School	Resignation Effective 8-20-24
Kellman, Traci	Speech Correction Discovery Middle School	Resignation Effective 8-19-24
Parker, Amanda	Resource Room Discovery Middle School	Resignation Effective 8-16-24
Salemassi, Fatima	ELL Teacher Salem High School	Resignation Effective 8-22-24
Schrepferman, Katie	Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-9-24

Retirements

Kwiatkowski, Jennifer	Science Discovery Middle School	Retirement Effective 8-20-24
Mangiapane, Michelle	Math Plymouth High School	Retirement Effective 8-30-24
Orsborn, Lesnie	Business Education Salem High School	Retirement Effective 6-12-24

Approval of Minutes

The Special Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2024, and the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2024, were approved as presented.

Final Reading Policies

- Policy #3220 – Professional Staff Evaluation

B. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresidents Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson extended a warm welcome to district families and staff as they begin a new school year. She spoke about yesterday's Teacher Welcome Back event, which she and fellow board members attended, highlighting the excitement and energy it brought. She also mentioned this week's special meeting, where the Board and Superintendent Merritt participated in evaluation tool training and collaborated on 2024-2025 Board and Superintendent Goals. She emphasized the Board's dedication to supporting students and encouraged the community to reach out if they would like Board members to attend and show their support at district events.

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 September 18, 2024, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee - Patti McCoin

Member McCoin shared that the Policy Committee met this evening and reviewed a few policies that will be sent to legal counsel for review and policies that will be rescinded due to legislative updates. The next Policy meeting is scheduled for September 24, 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 has not met since the last Board meeting. The next F&O meeting is scheduled for September 5, 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 – Lauren Christenson

Member Christenson shared that the SVA committee has not met since the last board meeting. SVA student co-chair, Sae Pawar, shared that the date for the next SVA meeting will be announced soon. The committee will start the year with a focus on student membership.

D. Administrative Reports/Recommendations**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Merritt provided an update on this morning's Teacher Welcome Back Event, held at the Gloria Logan Auditorium. Educators from across the district participated in professional development and were inspired by guest speaker Hamish Brewer, whose motivational message urged staff to continue making a lasting difference in students' lives. She also recognized the P-CEP Saxophone Quartet for their outstanding performance and thanked President Christenson for her uplifting opening remarks.

Superintendent Merritt shared that the P-CCS Back-to-School Bash, previously postponed due to Joy Road construction, has been rescheduled for Thursday, September 26, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the P-CEP bus loop. She encouraged the community to come out and enjoy an afternoon of games, food, and fun and to learn more about the wide range of programs the district offers to students. The event will also feature tours of the high school campus and opportunities to meet district leaders.

Additionally, she expressed gratitude to the Native American Heritage Fund for its generous support as the district prepares to launch the next phase for the new Canton High School mascot. P-CCS applied for a grant and has been awarded \$145,894 to support the rebranding costs of the new Canton High School Cobra Mascot.

In closing, she invited the community to attend the Park Players Theatre Company's first show of the school year, *The Theory of Relativity*. Performances will take place at the Gloria Logan Auditorium on September 13 at 7 p.m. and September 14 at 2 p.m., with tickets available through the Park Players website and at the door.

Teaching and Learning – Beth RaylP-CCS 2024 Summer Learning Programs (Strategic Goal A) (Presentation)

Ms. Bethany Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer, highlighted the 2024 Summer Learning Programs, which supported 7,106 enrollments and served 5,589 individual students. These programs aimed to prevent summer learning loss, provide academic, social-emotional, and mental health support, and enhance student engagement.

Her presentation covered various summer learning opportunities, including Academic and Enrichment Camps, Elementary and Middle School Summer Academy, EL/MLL (K-8) Jumpstart, ASD Center-Based Extended School Year (ESY) Program, Rise-Up Pre-School to Kindergarten Program, School Social Work Sessions, Credit Advancement and Credit Recovery (9-12), and WEB and Link Crew Transition support. Ms. Rayl also discussed how the curriculum aligns with the district's strategic goals outlined in the Dynamic Plan and shared the positive feedback received from families. She expressed gratitude to the dedicated staff who worked tirelessly over the summer and acknowledged the vital support provided by the transportation and food service departments, which contributed to the success of these programs.

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

Canton High School Cobra Logo (Presentation)

Mr. Hal Heard, Executive Director of High School Education, and Mr. David Reed-Nordwall, Principal of Canton High School, presented an overview of the transition plan for the new Canton High School Cobra mascot logo design. They outlined the logo selection process, which involved a student committee that reviewed mascot submissions. Students from Canton High School and incoming 7th and 8th grade students slated to attend Canton voted on the final design. Mr. Zane Birchler, a Canton High School graduate and graphic designer, then elaborated on the design process and showcased the final logo, which was developed from student submissions.

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

First Reading Resolutions

- Consider Approval of a Resolution to Adopt the Canton High School Cobra Logo. (First Reading)

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

D. Citizens' Comments

- Nicole Reid spoke on ADA compliance and funding
- Lisa Capatina spoke on nutrition and school meals

E. Action Items/Discussion

- **Action Item #25-08-07:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Wilson to Approve a Resolution to Appoint Member Sidhu and Member Kehoe as MASB Voting Delegates at the 2024 Assembly (First and Final Reading)

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

- **Discussion:** The following special meetings were scheduled:

November 12, 2024 – Superintendent Evaluation Check-in at 5:30 p.m.

February 6, 2025 – Superintendent Evaluation Mid-Year at 6:30 p.m.

April 8, 2025 – Superintendent Evaluation Check-in at 5:30 p.m.

- **Discussion:** Member Wilson announced that he would be resigning from his position on the Board of Education effective September 9, 2024, due to growing demands in his professional career. President Christenson expressed appreciation for Member Wilson's service to the district.

G. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education