

# PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** **September 10, 2024**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 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 7:02 p.m. in the Boardroom.

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

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. Frank Ruggirello, Director of Partnerships and External Affairs  
Mr. Jonathan Flukes, Director of Data, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation  
Mr. Dave Turrill, Tonda Elementary School Principal

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

Josh Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Action Item #25-09-08:** It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Picard to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Resignations, Tenure Recommendations, Special Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2024, and First Reading Policies.

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 6-0

#### New Hires

Bechtel, Joshua	Counselor (Non-Instructional) West Middle School	Effective 9-16-24
Butske, Kayla	Cognitive Imp (EMI Cat Classroom) Bentley Elementary School	Effective 8-26-24
Calomino, Elizabeth	Elementary Classroom Eriksson Elementary School	Effective 9-3-24
Cole, Alyssa	Social Studies East Middle School	Effective 8-26-24
Harkaway, Sheila	Speech Pathologist – Early on Allen Early Learning Academy	Effective 9-16-24
Kalinsky, Breanna	(0.5) Elementary Classroom Hoben Elementary School	Effective 8-26-24
Munro, Christine	Speech Pathologist Discovery Middle School	Effective 9-17-24
Otemuyiwa, Cassandra	ELL Teacher Salem High School	Effective 8-26-24
Royal, Rachel	Business Education Canton High School	Effective 9-3-24

Rundhaug, Ashley-Marie	Math Salem High School	Effective 9-3-24
Wisniewski, Kristy	Art Elementary Workman Elementary School	Effective 8-27-24
Green, Justin	Student Success Specialist Eriksson Elementary School	Effective 9-3-24
Mitchell, Rozalyn	Student Success Specialist Field Elementary School	Effective 9-3-24

Resignations

Peters, Lisa	Elementary Classroom Tonda Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-27-24
Raven, Andrew	Music Secondary Plymouth High School	Resignation Effective 9-13-24
Wysocki, Lisa	Elementary Classroom Eriksson Elementary School	Resignation Effective 8-23-24

Tenure Recommendations

Jones, Melissa	Elementary Classroom Farrand Elementary School	Tenue Effective 9-3-24
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Approval of Minutes

The Special Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024, the Special Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2024, and the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2024, were approved as presented.

First Reading Policies

- Policy #6350 – Prevailing Wage

**B. Celebrating Success**

Member Westra presented Ms. Antoinette Jackson with the Volunteer in Public Schools (VIP) Award for her ongoing support of P-CCS. Antoinette is the former president of the Parent Council. She has also exhibited unwavering dedication and contributions to the district over the years and is a deserving candidate for this award.

**C. Board Committee Reports/Action**Presidents Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson extended a warm welcome to students returning to school across the district and expressed gratitude to the staff for their hard work in making the first week of school a great success. She shared that several Board members are registered for MASB courses and thanked her colleagues for their commitment to professional development. She also spoke about the vacant school board seat and encouraged qualified candidates to apply. Application instructions will be posted on the district website and social media outlets starting tomorrow. Interested candidates are asked to submit their resumes by 4:30 p.m. on September 25, 2024. A special meeting will be held on October 1, 2024, at 6 p.m., where the Board will interview applicants to fill the vacancy.

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 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 has not met since the last Board meeting. 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 met on September 5, 2024, and reviewed security upgrades and exterior signage. The committee also discussed air conditioning challenges and upgrades. The next F&O meeting

is scheduled for September 19, 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

Josh Patterson and Sae Pawar, SVA student co-chairs, shared that the SVA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next SVA committee meeting will be held on September 16, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at Canton High School, room #201. They encouraged students in grades 6-12 to attend to learn more about this committee.

### **D. Administrative Reports/Recommendations**

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Merritt spoke about the energy and excitement she observed across the district when she visited classrooms as students returned for the new school year. She expressed appreciation to the dedicated teachers and staff members who worked tirelessly to ensure that classrooms were welcoming and ready for learning from day one.

She also invited the community to join the fun at the rescheduled Back to School Bash on Thursday, September 26, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the P-CEP bus loop. This event provides an opportunity for families to connect with school and district leaders, learn about the various programs P-CCS offers to our students, and celebrate a successful start to the new school year.

Superintendent Merritt also shared that WDIV Channel 4 will visit P-CEP tomorrow morning to feature a story on the innovative security initiatives we have implemented throughout the district. She expressed pride in the district's safety and security department and the significant investments made to ensure our schools remain safe environments for learning and growth.

Additionally, she mentioned that spots are still available in the district's Community Education Stay and Play Program. This program provides an opportunity for our two-year-old early learners to interact in a relaxed classroom setting once a week from September through May. Additional information can be found on the Community Education page of the P-CCS website.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt addressed emails recently received regarding elementary specials such as field day, 5th grade graduation, and music concerts. She reassured families that the district greatly values its visual and performance arts, physical education, and electives and has no plans to reduce or eliminate these important experiences for our students.

#### **Student Services – Kurt Tyszkiewicz**

##### High School Draw (Presentation)

Mr. Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, introduced a proposal to move the High School Draw from the 6th grade to the point where students first enter the district. He reviewed the district's current assignment process and highlighted the benefits and additional opportunities of informing students and families of their high school assignment at an earlier stage. This proposal was initially discussed at P-CCS Spirit Team meetings, where the committee expressed strong support, believing that this change would enrich the overall educational experience, strengthen community ties, and promote a smoother transition to high school for district students. Spirit Committee members Ms. Katie Bennett and Ms. Shay Bailey spoke about the committee's mission to improve local pride by building excellent and competitive programs. Community input was also gathered to ensure a wide range of perspectives were considered.

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

#### **Communications and Marketing – Frank Ruggirello**

##### K-2 Focus Groups (Strategic Goal C) (Presentation)

Mr. Frank Ruggirello, Director of Partnerships and External Affairs, Mr. Jonathan Flukes, Director of Data, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation, and Mr. Dave Turrill, Tonda Elementary School Principal, gave a presentation to provide data results from the K-2 focus group interviews. These interviews gathered valuable feedback from kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students, a group not included in the district's Panorama surveys for older students. Initially piloted at Tonda Elementary School during the 2022-2023 school year, this program was presented to all elementary schools in 2023-2024, with 85 students participating. A diverse group was selected to ensure representation from across multiple demographic areas. The results included positive feedback and important insights from the district's youngest learners. The data will be shared with school leaders to support ongoing improvement efforts, and the focus groups are expected to continue next year.

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

## **Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick**

### **First Reading Resolutions**

- Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Purchase of a GMC Terrain SUV for the Safety and Security Department to meet the expanded needs and provide safer transportation for students and staff. One of the existing department trucks will be retired due to age and increased expenses. It is recommended that this purchase be made from Todd Wenzel Buick GMC in Westland, MI, for an amount not to exceed \$34,079, including lights, radios, and security lettering. The cost of this vehicle will be funded from the State School Aid Act Section 31aa funds and the Security Department operating budget. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution to Purchase Building Entry Intercom Systems. The P-CCS Safety and Security Department has identified the need to replace outdated building entry intercom and access control systems, which have been failing and lack compatibility with existing security cameras. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to Safeware, with installation managed by Security 101, in an amount not to exceed \$153,904.62. This project will be funded from the State School Aid Act Section 31aa funds. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution to Purchase Additional Building Access Control Points. The P-CCS Safety and Security Department seeks to enhance security by adding access control points across the district. Each access point will be equipped with a card reader, compatible hardware for the upcoming encrypted system, and 3,000 new proximity cards. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to Safeware in an amount not to exceed \$88,113.44. The project will be funded from the State School Aid Act Section 31aa funds. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Purchase of Two Avigilon AVR Servers. The P-CCS Safety and Security Department seeks approval to purchase two AI NVR Avigilon Video servers for visible weapon detection. This technology will enable existing and new cameras to identify visible firearms and alert the security operations center, enhancing overall safety. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to Safeware in an amount not to exceed \$95,174.35. This project will be funded from the State School Aid Act Section 31aa funds and 2020 and 2023 bond funds. (First Reading)
- Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Purchase of Two Electronic Signs. This recommendation requests approval to purchase two Daktronics Galaxy Outdoor Electronic Message Centers based on pricing from Sourcewell Contract 030223-DAK. The cost of the two signs will be \$44,336, and the installation, masonry, and electrical work for both signs is estimated at an amount not to exceed \$24,000 and includes a contingency amount of \$10,000. The new signs will replace existing outdoor signage, matching the style and capabilities of recent installations at other district locations, and includes a ten-year Venus Control Suite software subscription. The total cost for this project will not exceed \$78,336 and will be paid with 2020 and 2023 bond funds. (First Reading)

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

## **E. Citizens' Comments**

- Ms. Peyton Schafer, Ms. Grace Monty, Ms. Jasmine Lee, Ms. Rachel Stevens, Ms. Brooklyn Stevens, Mr. Arhaan Patel, and Ms. Melinda Monty spoke about elementary specials at their school.
- Ms. Natalie Sharpe spoke about students walking and riding bikes to school
- Ms. Jennifer Vos spoke about the proposal to change the high school draw process

## **F. Action Items/Discussion**

- **Action Item #25-09-09:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the Canton High School Cobra Mascot Logo Design. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: Member Picard

The motion was carried 5-1

- **Discussion:** The Board reviewed the final versions of the 2024-2025 Board and Superintendent Goals, which will be returned to the Board meeting on September 24, 2024, for approval.

- **First Reading Policies:** Policy# 2410 (Rescind) Prohibition of Referral or Assistance. This policy update is being recommended by the policy committee following the repeal of the state law on which it was based. It was removed from the consent agenda to provide an opportunity for additional Board discussion. (First Reading)

### **G. Adjournment**

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:27 p.m.

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Judy Westra  
Secretary, Board of Education

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