

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2024

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 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 7:01 p.m. in the Boardroom.

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

Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
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
Mr. Matthew Lents, Director of Capital Programs and Facilities

Others Present: Ms. Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board
Ms. Sae Pawar, SVA Student Co-Chair
Mr. Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair

Josh Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action Item #25-10-21: It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Kehoe to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Retirements, Regular Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2024, First Reading Policies, Final Reading Policies, Out-of-Country Field Trips, a Tentative Agreement with the Plymouth-Canton Association of Education Office Personnel (PCAEOP), and a Tentative Agreement with the Plymouth-Canton Plant Engineers (PCPE).

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

Nays: None

The motion was carried 7-0

New Hires

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Taggart, Deborah | Resource Room Eriksson Elementary School | Effective 10-7-24 |
| Vankrevelen, Samantha | Cognitive Impairment Bentley Elementary School | Effective 9-30-24 |
| Gasparovich, Abbigail | Accounting Specialist-Accts. Payable Administrative Building | Effective 10-7-24 |
| Vance, Lisa | Assistant to the Executive Director of Special Education Administrative Building | Effective 10-8-24 |

Retirements

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mackrain-Skwirsk, Tanya | Curriculum Coordinator Science, Health & Physical Ed Educational Support Center | Retirement Effective 11-30-24 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2024, and Special Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2024, were approved as presented.

First Reading Policies

- Policy #9150 - School Visitors

Final Reading Policies

- Policy #6520 - Payroll Deductions

Out-of-Country Field Trips

- Hawaii - Salem High School (Grades 9-12)

B. Celebrating Success

Member McCoin proudly presented the STARS Award (Students with Tenacity Achieving and Reaching Success) to three exceptional students: Evan Zhen, Simon Reed, and Rawan Hammad. Their impressive performance at the Canton Chamber of Commerce Civics Bee Competition earned them high qualifying scores, advancing them to the state competition. Remarkably, Evan was named Michigan's top finalist and will represent the state at the National Civics Bee Championship in Washington, D.C.

C. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresidents Report – Lauren Christenson

President Christenson officially welcomed Aamina Ahmed, who was appointed to the vacant Board of Education seat during the special meeting on October 1, 2024. She also shared details from today's special meeting, during which the Board and district administrators received training on student discipline procedures. Additionally, President Christenson encouraged her fellow Board members to attend the Wayne RESA general membership meeting on October 10, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., where updates on legislative priorities will be discussed.

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

Member Sidhu shared that the SPA Committee met on October 2, 2024, and reviewed elementary and middle school program highlights. The committee also reviewed course proposals and an out-of-country field trip. The next SPA meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2024, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, and everyone is encouraged 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 October 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Collaboration Room at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, and everyone is encouraged 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 October 17, 2024, at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee – Lauren Christenson

Saeer Pawar and Josh Patterson, SVA student co-chair, shared that the SVA committee has not met since the last Board meeting. They announced that 60 students had applied for membership during the open enrollment period. The next SVA committee meeting will be held on October 21, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at Discovery MS auditoria, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

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

Superintendent Merritt highlighted the Wayne RESA Millage Renewal, which will appear on the November 5 ballot. This renewal provides critical funding for career technical education and special education, reduces class sizes, and improves school safety for all Wayne County Schools. This renewal is not a new tax but rather an opportunity for voters to continue supporting their schools without any tax increase.

She congratulated Plymouth High School students Olivia Grant and David Howell on their appointments to the Michigan Department of Education Student Advisory Council. This council will meet monthly with state officials to provide valuable student perspectives on educational initiatives.

In addition, Superintendent Merritt announced that Plymouth High School has received a new automated external defibrillator (AED), made possible through a grant from the National Football League and the efforts of Michigan State Representative Ranjeev Puri. She expressed gratitude for their commitment to student safety. She also thanked Michigan State Representative Jason Morgan for visiting the P-CCS Security Command Center to learn about the district's advanced safety and security systems.

Superintendent Merritt also shared that she was honored to attend the annual Sikh Heritage Banquet this past weekend. The banquet celebrated diversity, culture, community outreach, interfaith understanding, and youth involvement.

In closing, she congratulated the newest members of the P-CEP National Honor Society and shared her excitement about attending their annual induction ceremony, where more than 200 new members were welcomed and recognized for their achievements.

Teaching and Learning - Beth Rayl

Middle School Program Highlights (Presentation)(Strategic Goals A & B)

Mr. Anthony Ruela, Executive Director of Middle School Education, gave a presentation to provide an overview of P-CCS middle-level programs, highlighting the significant role that Deans of Student Success play in the district's multi-tiered system of support. His presentation showcased the positive impact of their work on student outcomes. A series of slides were displayed detailing the various programs and opportunities available to P-CCS middle school students throughout the school year.

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-10-22:** It was moved by Member Sidhu and seconded by Member Westra to Approve a Resolution for High School ELA Course Materials for Multicultural Literature. The curriculum team recommends the Latin American novel *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo as a first-semester whole-class text. Implementing this novel into the Multicultural Literature course will be free of additional cost since it is currently available in the P-CEP bookroom. This recommendation was discussed extensively at the SPA committee and would be implemented for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: Member Picard

The motion was carried 6-1

Finance and Operations – Jill Minnick

First Reading Resolutions

Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Purchase of a Chiller Unit for Plymouth High School. Ms. Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, provided details of this recommendation, which is being brought forward to replace a chiller that was damaged beyond repair during a storm in June 2024. Trane U.S. Inc. is the recommended vendor at a cost of \$178,582.04. The cost of this purchase will be funded with insurance claim proceeds from SetSeg, the district's liability insurance carrier. (First Reading)

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

Final Reading Resolutions

- **Action Item #25-10-23:** It was moved by Member Kehoe and seconded by Member Sidhu to Approve a Resolution for a Custodial Contract Renewal with ABM Industries. This two-year contract renewal will be effective from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026, following the completion of their initial three-year contract. Adjustments to the contract result in a total increase of \$468,950 over two years. (Final Reading)

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

Nays: Member McCoin

The motion was carried 6-1

E. Citizens' Comments

- Ms. Mary Lockwood and Mr. Sebastien Ostertag spoke on Policy #2410

F. Follow-up Board Questions

- Senate Bill 567 regarding Dyslexia - Clarity was requested to determine whether this bill referenced all students or only those identified in this group.
- A Board member asked for clarity on the bid threshold for purchase services and Board approval.

G. Adjournment

President Christenson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 10-22-24/dr