

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
AUGUST 14, 2024 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Members and others present were: Susan Berardinelli; Jason Corte; Matthew Decort; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Jacob Myers Nancy Sherbine; Brian Shope; Christian Smith; Pete Noel, Superintendent of Schools; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Troy Eppley, Director of Special Education; Jeremy Burkett, Junior Senior High School Principal; Jennifer Pisarski, Elementary School Principal; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Eric Petrazio, Josh Grant and Damian Zampogna from the McClure Company presented their Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement Project Overview to the board explaining how the district could benefit from a solar project.

**INFORMATION ONLY**

1. Locker room update. Mr. Noel reported he and Jeff will meet with the contractors and EADS to do a final meeting and walk through of the locker rooms to ensure that everything is complete. Then the county inspector will come in and issue an occupancy permit.
2. Grants update. Mr. Noel updated the board on school grants for upgrades to the coal boilers and energy solutions, safety and security and the Ready 2 Learn grant, the money for which partially supplements the salaries of kindergarten staff.
3. Portage Area Cyber Education information packet. Reviewed a brochure for the district's cyber-based program. He discussed the program and how it will benefit students and the district.
4. Pathways to Graduation. Mr. Noel reviewed with the board information he provided with the advance agenda which outlined the different way a student can graduate.
5. FID Application. Mr. Noel advised the board that the state has approved the district's use of FID for inclement weather. The administrators are working out the logistics of implementing FID and how they could be best utilized. He noted that the best scenario would be when there is advance knowledge of inclement weather. Mr. Noel also stated that the district still has the option of traditional snow days.

**ROUTINE MATTERS**

1. Bond amounts. This is insurance coverage to safeguard the district.
2. Payment applications. These are payments due to the contractors on the new locker room project.
3. Routine annual Agreements. These are routine agreements for student resources, support services and staffing agreements.

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4. Advertising for bids. The district is asking to advertise for the privacy pods that will be funded by grant money.
5. Tax exoneration. Since the Water Authority purchased a property on Caldwell avenue, they are asking that it be removed from the tax roles.
6. Junior high activity club account. This account was requested to provide behavior-based incentives to junior high students.
7. Ambulance service at football games. The ambulance association has requested an increase to \$400 per game for varsity home games, which is what other local services are receiving.
8. District policy revisions. These are revisions to policies that have been suggested by the PSBA.
9. School bus vehicle and drivers list for 2024-2025. Tri-County has provided lists of bus drivers and an inventory of the vehicles utilized by the district.
10. Student handbooks for 2024-2025. The principals have provided the student handbooks for the board's approval.
11. Board affirmation statement. This form needs board approval and submitted to the state for the ATSI plan.

**PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 7:16 p.m. to 7:51 p.m.)**

1. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda.

**BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES**

**POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD**

Time: 7:51 p.m.