

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Kathy Hough, board president, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Members and others present were: Susan Berardinelli (7:03 p.m.); Jason Corte; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; Dr. Todd Dishong, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were Tina Latoche, Matt Decort and Pete Noel.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Purchase of a district vehicle. Dr. Dishong stated that the dealership could not provide the district with a Suburban as originally voted upon. There is potential to get a 10-passenger van using Access money which would be used for autistic support and learning support which would free up the current vans for other uses. The new van could only be used for specific purposes under Access guidelines. Finding a new van for our needs may not be possible and to use the CoStars program, the vehicle would have to be new. The district continues to explore possibilities in order to be accommodate students. Mr. Corte asked if we could look at General Services for a vehicle. Mr. Vasilko said they could look there. Dr. Dishong noted that this is a win-win situation in that if we purchased a vehicle with Access funds, there would be a dedicated vehicle for the AS/LS students, two vans for students use and there would not be district funds used for the purchase.

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. The additions to the agenda were reviewed.
2. Revisions to district policies. Dr. Dishong requested that the board postpone voting on these revisions until he has had further time to review the policies.
3. School-to-Work Transition agreement with Cambria County Association for the Blind. This is a routine matter where the district would only incur costs if it enrolled a student in the program.
4. ESL Agreement with Appalachia IU8. This is an annual agreement with the IU for English as a Second Language services.
5. Substitute teacher agreement with Ignite Education Solutions. Dr. Dishong noted that he requested that the contract be amended so that Ignite would not be our exclusive provider and allow the district to use substitutes that are not employed by Ignite.
6. Purchase box trailer. This matter is on the agenda as it was tabled last month. Dr. Dishong reported that they are making due with using a van for now.
7. Athletic Trainer. Dr. Dishong informed the board that they are doing the best they can right now covering games. Siarra Crum has been covering games as her schedule allows and the district is very appreciative of her time and abilities. He is hopeful that Chan Soon Siong will soon have some new trainers and in the meantime, we will make due with the situation. Mr. Corte asked if we were still paying Winder Hospital for

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services. Mr. Vasilko replied that they are prorating the fee and we pay Ms. Crum \$100 per game.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:43 p.m. to 7:14 p.m.)

1. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda.

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

1. Concession stand beverages. Mr. Squillario stated that the concession stand at the football stadium was selling G-Fuel supplied by Sheetz to students. He said that it has to be discontinued because its not healthy.

Time: 7:14 p.m.