

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MAY 11, 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; Jason Corte (6:46 p.m.); Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; Todd Dishong, Superintendent-Elect of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were Matt Decort and Tina Latoche.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Dominique Gailey introduced herself as the president of the Friends of the Band organization. She encouraged the board to reach out to her at her school email address with any questions or concerns and wanted to keep good lines of communication open with them.

Tammy Rodgers, elementary art teacher, reported that the art show will be opening on May 12, 2022 at the Community Arts Center of Cambria County in the Log Cabin. About ten elementary students and six or seven high school students have pieces in the show. Five students will be receiving awards. Mrs. Rodgers believes that the show will continue for about two weeks.

INFORMATION ONLY

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. Mr. Zelanko reviewed the changes to the agenda with the board.
2. Tentative budget, tax structure, federal and state funds and board appointments for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Vasilko reviewed the proposed budget with the board noting that the two biggest budget items are expenses for cyber/chart schools and sending students to the vo tech. He added that the district will need to start looking at a fund balance account. Mr. Zelanko commented that Jeff did a great job on the budget and reiterated that cyber/charter school tuition is the wild card; that reimbursement to cybers is a joke. Mr. Zelanko feels that cyber/charter schools will be the end of public schools as we know them. He stated that cyber/charter schools are paid directly by local tax dollars. He also reviewed with the board the basic education funding formula and how that affects our district in terms of state dollars. He noted that the district is the second lowest taxing district in the state and that will come to hurt the district in that our local effort is low and that will affect what funding we receive from the state. He noted that the BEF is a joke and overly political. The district is in better shape than others and had good financial leadership.
3. Approving bids for coal, milk and bread. Mr. Vasilko reported that he received only one bid for coal and no bids for bread. He asked the board to add to the agenda to re-advertise for bread bids and possibly coal in the fall.
4. Repairs at the football stadium. Mr. Zelanko stated that the stadium is a part of Portage history and it needs repaired. The EADS Group was on site today to look over the stadium grandstands. It will be necessary to close the center sections. The board will consider the repairs during the regular meeting.

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5. Transportation contract. Mr. Zelanko reported that this is a six year contract with an option for another six with a slight increase in costs. Mr. Bob Koban added that the escalation clause stays the same.
6. Americorps positions. The board will consider approving application for three volunteers for the elementary school.
7. Dishwasher in the high school cafeteria. Mr. Vasilko reported that CSIU did the bid specs for this appliance and sought bids through the Keystone Purchase Network, which is similar to CoStars, saving the district advertising costs. A local electrician will install it. The board will consider this purchase during the regular meeting.
8. Actuarial services. Mr. Vasilko stated that the company the had done the district's actuarial services had been bought out by Contra Seigel. This service is a requirement of GASB 75. The board will consider this item during the regular meeting.
9. 2022-2023 APTV budget. Mr. Vasilko reviewed the vo tech budget with the board. He noted that it is slightly less than last year. Mr. Corte added that they had eliminated the granting writer position.
10. Contribution to the Portage Volunteer Fire Company. Previously the district has contributed \$200. The board will consider this item during the regular meeting.
11. Fitness equipment service contract. Mr. Zelanko explained that this agreement covered the cardio equipment in the fitness center. The board will consider this item during the regular meeting.
12. 2022-2023 school calendar revision. Mr. Zelanko reported that the Spring Valley Network date needed to be revised. The board will consider this during the regular meeting.
13. Student teaching assignments agreement. This is a renewal agreement to be considered during the regular meeting.
14. Transportation Plan for Foster Care Youth. This is a renewal agreement to be considered during the regular meeting.
15. School board director. Attorney McGlynn advised that the board cannot fill this vacancy at this time. It will remain vacant. He further explained the process for filing a Petition before the Court to have an individual appointed. He stated that this can be taken off the agenda.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:58 p.m. to 7:31 p.m.)

1. School Safety Report – Mr. Cecere presented the School Safety Report for the 2021-2022 school to the board during this executive session.
2. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda.

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 7:31 p.m.