

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2021 - 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 vice president, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Members and others present were: Susan Berardinelli (6:33 p.m.); Jason Corte; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Tina Latoche; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; Erik Thrower; Eric A. Zelanko, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Pete Noel, Elementary School Principal; Dennis M. McGlynn, Esquire, Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were Matthew Decort and Jeff Vasilko

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Tim Palesch, resident and parent, addressed the board regarding academic start times in the elementary. Mr. Palesch feels that this decision was made without parent input and that there was no communication between the district and the parents as to whether the later start times in the elementary would be inconvenient for parents. He further noted that the later start time will not work for most parents due to their work schedule which is no long a "9-5 job" for most. He also noted that while it may be beneficial to older students, the later start time may not have a positive impact on elementary students. He felt that the school should consult with parents/guardians prior to making these decisions.

INFORMATION ONLY

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Approving bond amounts. This is a routine annual line item for board consideration.
2. Approving memorandum of agreement with Cambria County Drug & Alcohol Program. This is a routine matter for board consideration.
3. Approving bus drivers, vehicles and runs for the 2021-2022 school year. This is a routine matter for board consideration.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:34 p.m. to 7:39 p.m.)

1. Staff matters
2. Grievance

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 7:40 p.m.