

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 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: Jason Corte; Matthew Decort; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Tina Latoche; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; 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. Absent were Susan Berardinelli and Erik Thrower.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Addison Holyfield, high school music teacher and band director, introduced himself to the board and thanked them for the opportunity to work in the district. He was pleased to note that membership has increased on both junior high and varsity band and chorus and that lessons are proving effective in that the students are becoming better musicians. He also reported that he is bringing back the jazz ensemble. The band will also be participating in the Johnstown Halloween Parade. He planned an assembly in the elementary school for 5th and 6th grades to encourage students to join band. The board congratulated him and thanked him for the great effort he's been putting in the music program.

INFORMATION ONLY

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. New and revised board policies. Mr. Zelanko reported on this item as well as items 3 and 4 under routine matters since they all deal with district policies. He noted that in regard to the new and revised board policies, the policies are recommended by the PSBA to either be adopted or revised to be in line with changes to school code. Most of the policies deal with the creation of a threat assessment team and the pandemic. As new laws go in to affect, the policies are either adopted or revised to reflect the changes.
2. Officials' rate for basketball. Mr. Burkett noted that the district should increase rates in order to be able to keep up with demand. He noted that the district's rate is below the average and it has become difficult for the athletics office to secure officials for games when they could go to another district and get paid more. This would be a \$10 increase in the per game rate.
3. PSBA Policy Maintenance Program. Mr. Zelanko reported that the district participates in this program which provides new policies and revisions to existing policies as the necessary to comply with current school code. He noted that many years ago, each board member had a large binder containing the policies but now it has been streamlined and on the district's website. The PSBA helps maintain the policies and provides guidance on changes. The board will consider this item during the regular meeting
4. PSBA Policy Review and Update. Mr. Zelanko continued his discussion of board policies by mentioning that he would like the board to consider engaging PSBA to

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conduct a review and update of our board policies. He noted that although the administration does its very best, there are most likely policy revisions or even new policies that need to be included in our manual. He noted that a representative from PSBA will review our entire manual for necessary updates. The cost of this would be approximately \$6,800 but Mr. Zelanko feels it is well worth the cost.

5. Portage Area Joint Parks and Recreation Commission Agreement and Resolution. Mr. Zelanko reported that this is the formation of a new joint parks and recreation commission including Portage Borough, Portage Township and the school district to promote recreational activities in our district. He noted that the district will not be required to contribute funding unless it is able to. He further noted that although the joint commission is listed as having "Tier 2" rights to the district's facilities, all requests to use the facility will have to be approved by the school board. The commission will not take precedence over district events. Mr. McGlynn added that the agreement before the board is not the first draft and that he and Mr. Zelanko are comfortable with the language in the agreement. Mrs. Hough noted that in her attendance at joint rec commission meetings she as stressed to the commission that the school's money is for education, not recreation. She further noted that
6. Agreements for Pressley Ridge and Children's Behavioral Health. These are routine renewals for board consideration.
7. Proposal from CJL Engineering. Mr. Zelanko reported that this proposal is for the study of the HVAC and possible UB systems in the high school gym and the wellness center. He noted that with winter sports season coming up, the air quality of these spaces is a concern. He also noted that the Corsi-Rosenthal air filters that have been stationed in classrooms and office spaces have received national and international attention via various news outlets. He noted that the filters appear to be working well and that each unit cost around \$52 to produce.
8. Signatory on elementary activities fund. Mr. Zelanko noted that this is simply changing names due to Julie Borlie retiring.
9. Sick Leave Bank MOU. Mr. Zelanko reported that the MOU before them were changes that the PAEA wanted to update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:44 p.m. to 7:13 p.m.)

1. Staff matters

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 7:14 p.m.