

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 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; 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. Absent was Christian Smith.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Denise Keithley, resident and parent of a second grade student, addressed the board concerning a discipline incident involving her son. She provided documents to the board of emails as well as a newspaper article. She asked the board to consider her situation and offered some possible ways to better handle it in the future. The board thanked her for coming and speaking with them and told her they would discuss.

Tammy Rodgers reported to the board that the SAMA Artists of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century exhibit would open February 7, 2024 in Altoona. Thirty pieces of art were accepted. She encouraged the board to visit the exhibit to see what the art students are doing.

**INFORMATION ONLY**

1. Board appreciation month. Mr. Noel recognized the board for the dedication they exhibit throughout the year.
2. Stadium update. Mr. Noel provided an update to the renovation/rehabilitation project saying that the outside bleachers are installed and inside, the beams and braces are getting done. The bids for the new locker room structure will be bid out soon with bid opening to be in February and approved at the February meeting.
3. Johnson Controls future upgrade. Mr. Noel referred this to Ryan Clouse who stated that the Johnson controls are outdated and that he would like the board to consider updating and simplifying the system. He had a quote of \$35,000 and is looking at other options. The new system would be a cloud-based system to provide easy access for temperature control. Mr. Noel added that the current system is antiquated and it sets off alerts because the two systems are not talking to the newer servers.
4. School calendar for 2024-2025. Mr. Noel reviewed the proposed draft 2024-2025 school calendar. He noted that he wants to ensure that the vo tech students are in class as much as possible. Because of the snow day, the last PAC meeting was rescheduled and he will bring the calendar back to the board after he's talked with the vo tech.

**ROUTINE MATTERS**

1. IDEA-B Federal Awards. This is a routine matter to be considering during the regular agenda.
2. Single Audit report. Cara Ferrante from Wessel & Company presented the audit report which will be considered during the regular meeting.

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3. Fund Transfers. Mr. Vasilko reported to the board that the district can hold only a percentage of it's fund in an unassigned account so those funds over that percentage will be transferred to an assigned account and capital projects to be used for upgrades and renovations (capital projects) such as updating the HVAC controls, sidewalks and doors at the high school.
4. Van purchase. Mr. Noel reported that since the bidding process was unsuccessful, the district is now able to purchase the vans.
5. Contribution to the library. The board will consider this item at the regular meeting.
6. Proposal for student information system. Mr. Noel noted that our current system is maxed out that it will not interface with our other platforms. Mr. Clouse talked to the board concerning the current student information system and the proposed PowerSchool system. He explained the benefits of the new system. This item is on the agenda for board consideration.
7. Proposal for mental health care coordination. Mr. Noel discussed with the board the proposal from Care Solace to coordinate health care services for students, family and staff. This item will be considered during the regular meeting.
8. K-12 Guidance Plan. Mr. Noel noted that the district made some clarifications to the report and resubmitted it. It now has to be board approved.
9. Activity Clubs and Advisors. This is an annual line item for board consideration.
10. District policies. Mr. Noel noted that the board will not see the 800 section of the policies right away as the administration is reviewing them a little more closely.

**PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 7:07 p.m. to 7:38 p.m.)**

1. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda.

**BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES**

**POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD**

Time: 7:38 p.m.