

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2022 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Erik Thrower, board president, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Members and others present were: Susan Berardinelli; 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; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Dennis M. McGlynn, Esquire, Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent was Erik Thrower.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Extended School day. Mr. Zelanko discussed with the board his proposal for extending the school year by one half-hour next school year. He noted that the cost would be approximately \$730,000 and paid for out of ESSER III funds. The additional time would amount to 90 hours, or about 15 days, of added instruction to the school year. Start and ending times in terms of transportation as well as other issues would need to be addressed.
2. Work from home proposal from the PAEA. Mr. Zelanko noted that the PAEA had sent a proposal to the board for their consideration.
3. Flexible Instruction Days (FID). Mr. Zelanko advised that the board that FIDs are not working out for the district. They are not good for education. He listed as examples the following: students do not take their devices home every day and many have internet issues; some staff members have internet issues; lost revenue in the cafeteria; and transportation costs even though students are transported. He added that the students are not benefitting by remote instruction and therefore in the event there is inclement weather; he would rather have a traditional snow day.
4. Football Stadium. Mr. Zelanko updated the board on the issues at the football stadium. An engineering firm has looked at the stadium and could submit a proposal for renovations and manage the project. The estimate for the repairs is \$283,000 per side and could be a CoSTARS project eliminated the need to bid it out and saving the district some advertising costs. With contingencies, administration and engineering fees, it is estimated to cost about \$355,000 per side. Mr. Zelanko noted that the board should move as quickly as possible as there is a 6 to 7 month lead time required for the repairs to begin and delaying could impact the upcoming football season.

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. New and revised board policies. The new policies have been read at three public meetings and should be approved. The revised policies deal with the bidding process with the revision being bid amounts.
2. Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution. Mr. Vasilko reported that the district does not plan to raise taxes above the Act One Index and that the Resolution states that. The board will consider adopting the Resolution during the regular meeting.

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3. Single Audit report. Mr. Vasilko noted that as the auditors from Wessel and Company presented at the December meeting, the district received a clean audit for the prior fiscal year. The board should now consider approving the Single Audit Report.
4. Activities clubs and advisors. This is a routine matter that the board will consider at the regular meeting.
5. Grand piano. Mr. Zelanko noted that Mr. Holyfield and Mr. Vasilko are still looking at model prices to determine which piano best fits the needs of the district. He asked that the board consider tabling the item.
6. Solar radar speed signs. Mr. Zelanko reported that this signs could be placed near the district parking lots to provide a non-threatening reminder to drivers to slow down. There has been an issue with drivers speeding.
7. Custodial and Cafeteria Contracts. The board has reviewed the contract and will consider them during the regular meeting.
8. Health and Safety Plan. Mr. Zelanko began by thanking the administrators for working very hard on tracing and staying on top of COVID issues. The protocols change very often and they are on the front lines of dealing with isolation and quarantine protocols as well as trying to keep the students and staff safe and healthy. He also noted that in the last seven days, there had been 98 positive cases in the 15946 ZIP code area. The revisions to the Health and Safety Plan reflect CCD recommendations for isolation, quarantine and test to stay procedures.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:58 to 7:13 p.m.)

1. Staff matters

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 7:13 p.m.