

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2023 - 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; Matthew Decort; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; Todd Dishong, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent was Tina Latoche.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Tammy Rodgers, elementary art teacher, updated the board on recent projects and upcoming art shows for elementary students. The SAMA art show will be held in Altoona this year at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. Opening day is February 4, 2023 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Dr. Dishong introduced Bubba Fatula from Threat Preparedness to the board and noted that the administration and board have been looking at security for some time and he appreciated Mr. Fatula coming to the meeting to address these concerns. Mr. Fatula discussed with the board its options for hired school security officers. He went into detail about the three types of school security personnel: school resources officers, school police officers and school security officers. He described the training and certifications necessary for each of these positions and the potential benefits to each type of personnel. Mr. Fatula noted that the district should have a fairly detailed job description of what type of officer they want in the district to best serve their needs.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Indoor majorette team at Forest Hills School District. Mr. Burkett reported that he had no idea that a few of our students were attending until he was contacted by Forest Hills personnel. This is for information purposes only and there is no costs to the district.
2. Update on football stadium renovation. Mr. Vasilko reported that there will be a delay with the stadium renovations and the center sections of the grandstands will again be roped off and the temporary trailer locker rooms will remain for the 2023 season. This could be an opportunity for the district to explore building a general purpose facility which could be used for football, baseball and softball and make the current locker room under the grandstands storage. Mr. Vasilko noted that he and Mr. Squillario have talked about this with Kyle Fritz from The EADS Group who suggested that if this is the direction the board wishes to go, a structural feasibility/estimate should be done. The board will consider his matter during the regular meeting.
3. School calendar revisions/snow days. Dr. Dishong noted that to date, we've had 1.5 snow days which will be added on the end of the school year. At this point, the last day of school/graduation will be May 31, 2023.

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ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Accelerated Budget Opt Out Option. Mr. Vasilko noted that this is a yearly matter and the Resolution states that the district will not raise taxes above the index.
2. Fund transfers. Mr. Vasilko had sent the board an email explaining that money would need to be transferred and where best to put the money.
3. Activities Clubs and Advisors. This is a routine annual matter for board consideration. Any changes of advisors and clubs was reviewed.
4. Policy revisions and retiring policy. Dr. Dishong reported that this is the first batch of policies that are being reviewed by PSBA for update and revision.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 7:04 p.m. to 7:23 p.m.)

1. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda.

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 7:21 p.m.