

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2024**

The Regular 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; Christian Smith; 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.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

NOTICE TO PERSONNEL

There may be reductions and/or reassignments of personnel due to fiscal circumstances.

DISTRICT POLICIES

First Reading 916 Volunteers

ROUTINE MATTERS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held **September 11, 2024**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the elementary school auditorium, 84 Mountain Avenue, Portage, PA with the Regular Meeting immediately following.

APPROVING THE MINUTES

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving the June meeting minutes. A copy of the minutes was distributed with the advance agenda.

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ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Board moves to approve the written agenda with any noted additions, deletions or corrections as discussed.

Routine Matters, ADD Line Item 13, Approving Ambulance Service at Home Football Games

REPORTS

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** was unable to attend the meeting. **Mrs. Kathy Hough** went and reported that at the meeting the new director and assistant director were named and that these two individuals had been doing a good job as interim administrators.

Superintendent **Mr. Pete Noel** reported that it is a hectic/exciting time. Staff will report back on Monday with students returning Thursday. The PAES Lab is up and ready to go. The autistic support classroom is ready in the high school. During in-service, the staff will look at data driven results, PSSA test results and other trainings along with clerical/classroom time. The new student information system, PowerSchool, is coming along. The comprehensive plan is due in the spring of 2025.

Director of Special Education **Mr. Troy Eppley** reported that they are wrapping up the Extended School Year program which is successful in maintaining students' learning objectives. The special education classrooms are fully staffed with educators and paraprofessionals. The high school autistic support classroom is 95% complete and Mr. Eppley thanked Mr. Thrower for getting it done. The PAES lab is ready to go. Mrs. Hough added that Mr. Eppley presented to her reading program kids and did an excellent job. She thanked him for taking the time to educate the students on wildlife.

High School Principal **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** reported that the fall season has started. He provided dates for Meet the Mustangs, Meet the Band, the Bonfire and the opening game for the 2023-2024 football season. He noted that the building look great thanks to the custodial staff. In-service days begin on Monday and he thanked Mr. Noel and the team for their help.

Elementary School Principal **Mrs. Jennifer Pisarski** thanked the custodial staff, Ryan Clouse and Craig Castel for getting the building ready to go. PK and Kindergarten orientation is

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schedule for tomorrow. This year there are no after school programs as the organization who conducted it lost their funding. Meet the Teacher is next week and this school year will be the kick off the Positive Behavior Incentive program.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** had nothing to add to the agenda.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** reported that his office is finishing up the fiscal year end work and that the local auditors will be in the district beginning September 9. The revisions to ESSR have been approved. The Ready 2 Learn grant has been doubled. The STEM classroom will be new this school year and the district has added an extra second grade teacher for this year due to the larger class size. Cafeteria upgrades have happened over the summer. The business office will to a Workers Comp audit and IDEA and Shaars reports. Looking at future projects include repointing the football stadium which would cost approximately \$500,000, new stage lighting at the high school at approximately \$136,000 and the replacement of one of the district's pick up truck.

REPORTS: A. FINANCIAL, B. INVOICES (GENERAL FUND, CAFETERIA FUND AND ATHLETIC FUND), C. TAX COLLECTORS

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

A. Treasurers' Reports

A. General Fund	Page 2
B. Cafeteria Report	Page 3
D. Elementary School Activity Fund	Page 5
E. Junior / Senior High School Activity Fund	Page 6
H. Athletics	Page 9
I. General Fund	Page 10
J. Capital Reserve Fund	Page 10.1
K. Capital Projects Fund	Page 10.2
L. Investments/Pledged Collateral Report	Page 11

B.

General Fund Invoices	\$2,516,014.88
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$28,411.28
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$511,314.18
Total Invoices paid	\$3,055,740.34

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C.

Mrs. Molnar - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$5,493.55
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$166,419.55
Mrs. Molnar Portage Township – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$255,654.42
Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current)	\$36,903.71
Total Taxes	\$464,471.23

APPROVING BOND AMOUNTS

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving bonds in the following amounts:

Business Manager	\$150,000
Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager	\$150,000
Superintendent of Schools	\$50,000
Board Secretary	\$20,000
Activities Fund Custodians	\$10,000

APPROVING PAYMENT APPLICATIONS

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving the following Payment Applications in regard to the New Locker Room project:

<u>Pay Ap#:</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Darr Construction (HVAC)	\$50,220.00
1	Darr Construction (Electric)	\$90,000.00
4	Brickely Construction, Inc.	\$153,121.86
4	Montgomery Bros	\$13,612.71
5	Montgomery Bros	\$62,348.17

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APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH IGNITE EDUCATION SOLUTIONS

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving the Staff Master Agreement with Ignite Education Solutions for paraprofessionals for the 2024-2025 school year.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration requests permission to advertise for bids for modular meeting rooms.

APPROVING TAX EXONERATION

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends exonerating the taxes on a property located at 911 Caldwell Avenue, Portage, PA 15946 (Tax Map No 46-004.-321.00) which has been purchased by the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Portage Water Department and is now exempt from the levy of taxes.

APPROVING JUNIOR HIGH ACTIVITY CLUB ACCOUNT

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving the opening of a Junior High Activity Club Account.

APPROVING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING NETWORK AGREEMENT

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends approving the Appalachia Intermediate 8's professional learning solutions for Joint Professional Learning for the 2024-2025 school year. The district's cost for the school year is approximately \$6,000.

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APPROVING AMBULANCE SERVICE AT HOME VARSITY FOOTBALL GAMES

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends approving ambulance service for home varsity football games at a cost of \$400 per game.

REVISING DISTRICT POLICIES

Motion_____Second_____Vote_____

The Board moves to revise the following district policies:

- 901 Public Relations Objectives
- 902 Publications Program
- 905 Citizen Advisory Committees
- 907 School Visitors
- 910 Community Engagement
- 911 News Media Relations
- 912 Relations with Educational Institutions
- 913 Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals
- 914 Relations with Intermediate Unit
- 917 Parental/Family Involvement
- 918 Title I Parent and Family Engagement

APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving a Memorandum of Agreement with the Cambria County Drug & Alcohol Program and Cambria County Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disabilities and Early Intervention Programs for the 2024-2025 school year. The county will provide liaisons and assessments where appropriate.

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APPROVING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS AND VEHICLES

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving school bus drivers and vehicles for the 2024-2025 school year as provided.

APPROVING STUDENT HANDBOOKS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving the student handbooks for the 2024-2025 school year.

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH SOARING HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving the Education Services Agreement with Soaring Heights School for the 2024-2025 school year. The district will only incur a cost if a student is placed at the facility.

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH NULTON DIAGNOSTIC & TREATMENT CENTER

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____

The Administration recommends approving the Memorandum of Understanding with Nulton Diagnostic & Treatment Center for the 2024-2025 school year. The district will only incur a cost if a student is placed at the facility.

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH IMPACT COUNSELING SERVICES, LLC

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving the Referral, Communication and Transfer Agreement with Impact Counseling Services for the 2024-2025 school year. The district will only incur a cost if a student is placed at the facility.

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APPROVING BOARD AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving the Board Affirmation Statement for the Junior-Senior High School ATSI-non-Title 1 plan.

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHWOOD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving an agreement with Southwood Psychiatric Hospital to provide services to students placed in their facility during the 2024-2025 school year. The district will only incur a cost if a student is placed at the facility.

APPROVING CONTINUATION OF SERVICES

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends continuation of use of services from Educere to provide online platform for student wanting to enroll in the district's cyber education. The district will not incur any costs unless a student is enrolled.

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH PEERSTAR OF PA

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving the agreement with Peerstar of PA to provide services and interventions for eligible students for the 2024-2025 school year. The district will only incur a cost if the services are provided.

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PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING READING INTERVENTIONIST

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Elizabeth Robertson as a full-time, one year reading interventionist for the 2024-2025 school year only. Salary will be Step 1, with benefits, based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA.

HIRING CAFETERIA STAFF

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Mary Brunnet as a part-time cafeteria staff member beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the cafeteria union.

HIRING PARAPROFESSIONALS

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring the following paraprofessionals beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Salary will be based on the current salary scale for paraprofessionals.

Jessica Rusnak-Fuzie
Stacy Panick
Joy Sodomont

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HIRING COACHES

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring the following coaches beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities.

Erika Thrower as the varsity assistant cheerleading/varsity assistant competition cheer coach
Marla Nesbella as the varsity assistant volleyball coach

ACCEPTING LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the following letters of resignation effective June 30, 2024.

Sandy Pisarski as a paraprofessional
Leann Decort as a substitute cafeteria staff member

ADDING VOLUNTEER COACH/ADVISOR

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends adding the following volunteers:

Brady Ratosky	Football
Caleb Kephart	Football
Jackson Kozlovac	Baseball
Caleb Hunt	Volleyball

APPROVING REQUEST FOR FMLA

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff member's request for a Family and Medical Leave of Absence for the period October 25, 2024 to January 17, 2025.

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APPROVING REQUEST FOR FMLA

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff member’s request for a Family and Medical Leave of Absence for the period August 5, 2024 to October 25, 2025.

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

Request for Approved Travel:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Christina Franey, Fourth Grade	Flight 93 Memorial Field Trip for	September 27, 2024	\$0.00 (paid by Friends of Flight 93)	N/A

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Addison Holyfield, Music Director	Marching Band to perform at Summerfest Parade	August 10, 2024	\$0.00	N/A

Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Christina Franey	2 nd grade girls basketball practice	Elementary Gymnasium	Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. Aug, Sep, Oct	No Charge
Amanda Kreutzberger	K-2,3-4 & 5 grade boys and girls basketball practice	Elementary Gymnasium	Mon & Thursday 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Aug-Mar	No Charge
Mary Ann George Student Council Advisor	Blood Drive	Len Chappell Gymnasium	February 7, 2025 6:00 –2:00 pm	No Charge
Karl D. Vickroy, Rotary of Portage	Pancake and Sausage Breakfast	HS cafeteria kitchen only	August 11, 2024 5:30 – 8:00 am	No Charge
Addison Holyfield, Music Director	Banquet	HS cafeteria	May 2, 2025 8:00 – 8:00 pm	No Charge

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Addison Holyfield, Music Director	Meet the Band	Football Stadium	August 22, 2024 4:00 – 8:00 pm	No Charge
Portage Cross Country Team	Summer Fun 5K Race	Football Stadium	August 10, 2024 7:30 – 10:30 am	No Charge
Marty Slanoc, Varsity Football Coach	Meet the Mustangs	HS Auditorium	August 15, 2024 5:00 – 9:00 pm	No Charge
Marty Slanoc, Varsity Football Coach	Bonfire	Football Stadium	August 22, 2024 7:30 – 10:00 pm	No Charge

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Decort Second Shope Vote 9-0

Time: 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary