

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2022**

The Regular 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; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; 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 were Matthew Decort, Tina Latoche, Christian Smith, Pete Noel and Jennifer Pisarski.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Those who wish to speak should limit their remarks to three but no longer than five minutes.

NOTICE TO PERSONNEL

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

ROUTINE MATTERS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held **Wednesday, November 9, 2022**, 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 Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0

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

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0

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

Personnel, Line Item 5, Hiring a Substitute Nurse

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REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** reported that the meeting was short and consisted of routine matters.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that the meeting consisted mainly of hiring matters.

Superintendent **Dr. Todd Dishong** reported that he recently attended the first segment of the New Superintendent's Academy which was a great opportunity where he learned a great deal. The district is conducting a policy review and update with PSBA and the board will be asked to review sections to approval in the upcoming months. The comprehensive plan is due November 30. The administrators are working on it. Dr. Dishong is working with various organizations and companies to review the districts safety and security protocols and improve them. There was a light panel out at the football stadium which was fixed but additional repairs may be necessary. The administrators are continuing to look into ways to make morning arrival more efficient and safe. Dr. Dishong thanked the teachers and staff for their participation in the in-service days, adding that it was a good learning opportunity for everyone. He thanked the PAEA for acknowledging Boss's Day. Curriculum work is continuing with assistance from the IU and the Ten Minute Takeaways. He along with Mr. Cecere, Mr. Burkett and Mrs. George are working on a plan to have guidance counselor services in the elementary as well as career readiness in the high school. He also provided the board with the latest draft of the school brochure. He thanked Denise Moschgat, Tara Williams and Dennis Link for their help in creating it. Dr. Dishong took a few minutes to thank Mr. Cecere for the dedication and excellent work he's done as the high school principal. Mr. Cecere has established a strong team and was an outstanding leader. He will be missed.

Director of Special Education **Pete Noel** was absent.

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** advised that Mrs. Bartoletti had taken the Interact Club members to their district conference; driver's education behind the wheel is going on. He also noted that curriculum work is going really well with Ms. Dobrowolsky-Casale doing a great job. He thanked Mr. Burkett for the smooth running of the buildings. Homecoming went really well with 190 students attending the dance. He noted that the seniors' leadership was trickling down to the lower classmen.

Elementary School Assistant Principal **Mrs. Krystal Smith** reported that the fire company was in the elementary school for fire prevention. They provided great activities for the students and she thanked them for taking the time out of their day for this important topic. The elementary students attended a pep rally in the high school which they enjoyed a great deal. Curriculum mapping is well underway with teacher meeting 1-2 times per month. The PTO has held some fundraisers with great sales. Student counsel is up and running. Upcoming events include end of marking period incentives, Red Ribbon Week and the Halloween parade.

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

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** reported that his office is working on end of year reports. He recently met with a representative with Utica Insurance who provided recommendations for safety and

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liability measures. He attended a PASBO business managers meeting and while there was some doom and gloom, there are also bright skies ahead. The state will begin ESSR monitoring soon.

Athletic Director **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** reported that while both Dr. Dishong and Mrs. Smith competed in the dance off at the pep rally, neither won. He noted that it was a lot of fun having the elementary students over for the rally and that they bring a different vibe to the event. Some fall sports notables include Jonah Irvin and Bailey Patalune both doing very well in district golf action with Bailey placing two spots away from states. The cross country team had a great meeting on Monday. Football is four weeks into the regular season and there's been highs and not so highs. Volleyball will go to the semi-final conference play and cheer will have their conference tournament on October 26.

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

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

A. Treasurers' Reports

A. General Fund	Page 2
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J. Capital Reserve Fund	Page 10.1
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B.

General Fund Invoices	\$1,025,991.68
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$75,927.98
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$70,175.87
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$4,673.85
Total Invoices paid	\$1,176,769.38

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C.	
Mrs. Chappell - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$7,010.03
Mrs. Chappell Portage Township – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$629,326.74
Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current)	\$31,527.02
Total Taxes	\$667,863.79

APPROVING LETTER OF AGREEMENT

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____

The administration recommends approving a Letter of Agreement with R.E.A.C.H. Inc. to provide a clinical mental health counselor ‘site supervisor’ to meet with eligible students. The district will provide a confidential space for counseling services.

APPROVING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0

The administration recommends approving an Educational Services Agreement with Pyramid Healthcare, Inc., Soaring Heights School, a private academic school to provide special education and related services to students. This district will incur tuition costs only in the event a student is placed at the facility.

APPROVING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PORTAGE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends approving a contribution in the amount of \$200 to the Portage Volunteer Fire Company for their annual fund drive.

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PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING ELEMENTARY TUTORS

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends hiring Michele Coukart and Christa Miko as elementary after school tutors. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA.

HIRING AN ASSISTANT VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends hiring Abigail Chobany as an assistant varsity girls basketball coach. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities. Ms. Chobany has current clearances on file.

HIRING ELEMENTARY READING COMPETITION ADVISOR(S)

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends hiring Christa Miko and Kathleen Bodenschatz as elementary reading competition advisor(s) beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities.

ADDING A SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends adding Rachel Ferraro as a substitute custodian. Ms. Ferraro has provided current clearances.

ADDING A SUBSTITUTE NURSE

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends adding Anastasia Kostan as a substitute nurse. Ms. Kostan has provided current clearances.

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APPROVING REQUEST FOR FMLA

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0

The Administration recommends approving a Family and Medical Leave of Absence for a staff member beginning September 1, 2022 and for a 12 week period thereafter. This leave could extend longer pending doctor's release.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., as the junior-senior high school principal.

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

Request for Approved Travel:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Ashley Shaffer, Krystal Smith, Mary Ann George and Lisa Dividock	SAP Networking Day	October 27, 2022 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	\$393.75	Yes

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Mary Kenny	Take students to HealthQuest at Mount Aloysius College	October 7, 2022 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	\$214.80	Yes
First Grade Teachers	Field trip to Jaffa Shrine Circus	October 20, 2022 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	\$0.00 (Paid by Shriners)	N/A
Denise Moschgat, Drama Adviser	Take drama students to St. Francis University to see Twelfth Night	November 9, 2022 9:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	\$150.04	Paid from Drama Activities Account
Addison Holyfield	Take 8 students to PMEA District Chorus at Everett Area MS/HS	October 16, 2022 11:00 a.m. to ?	\$56.00	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Take 25 students to Cambria County Bank auditions at Central Cambria	October 24, 2022 4:15 p.m. to ?	\$178.53	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Take 5 students to PMEA District Band auditions at Claysburg HS	November 20, 2022 1:00 p.m. to ?	\$35.00	Yes

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Addison Holyfield	Take 28 students to Cambria County Chorus at Forest Hills SD	November 22, 2022 7:50 a.m. to ?	\$630.86	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Ten students to participate in PMEA district Jazz Virtual Auditions	To be determined	\$0.00	N/A
Mary Kenny and Vivian Herman	Take students to STEAM Day at St. Francis University	November 22, 2022 8:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	\$769.80	Yes
Jennifer Thomas	Take Grades 3 and 5 to the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concert	November 15, 2022	\$370.14	Yes
Nicole Hunt	Take Forensics team to a demonstration workshop	October 18, 2022 7:50 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	\$105.00	Yes

Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Brian Randall	Kindergarten Basketball Skills	Len Chappell Gymnasium	Saturdays, October through December	No Charge
Richine Ramos for the Winterfest Committee	Kids activities during Winterfest	Elementary School Gymnasium	December 10, 2022	No Charge
PAHS Student Council	Red Cross Blood Drive	Len Chappell Gymnasium	February 17, 2023 7:30 am – 12:00 pm	No Charge

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-0

Time: 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary