

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MAY 10, 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; Dennis Squillario; Pete Noel, Superintendent of Schools; Troy Eppley, Director of Special Education; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Jeremy Burkett, Junior Senior High School Principal; Jennifer Pisarski, Elementary School Principal; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were Christian Smith and Tina Latoche.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

INFORMATION ONLY

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. District policies – public readings of new policies, policy revisions and retirements. Mr. Noel noted that there are public readings of new policies, revisions and one retirement. These updates are the result of the PSBA Policy Review and the board will consider this during the regular meeting.
2. Tentative budget for the 2023-2024 school year, tax structure, federal and state funds and board appointments. Mr. Vasilko reviewed the tentative budget with the board. He noted that the district is in good fiscal condition and that savings were due to ESSER money in part and savings in salaries including maintenance. Also the district realized savings on cyber costs.
3. Appointing a board treasurer. Mr. Noel reported that this is a routine matter but since Mr. Squillario is not seeking re-election, the board should consider appointing a new treasurer to service until June 30, 2024.
4. Approving bids. Mr. Vasilko stated that he received bids from Vale Wood Farms for milk and Pacifico for bread. No other bids were received and the board will consider this item during the regular meeting.
5. Applying for AmeriCorps volunteers. Mr. Noel reported that the district usually applies for four volunteers. The last few years, they have only gotten two or three. This item will be considered by the board during the regular meeting.
6. Approving the Admiral Peary Vo Tech Budget. Mr. Noel briefly discussed the budget noting that it was good and the per student cost to the district is included in the district's budget.
7. Approving contribution to the Portage Volunteer Fire Company. In the past, the district has approved a \$200 contribution. Mr. Noel noted that this is a routine matter and asked the board to consider this item during the regular meeting.
8. Renewing agreement for cardio equipment maintenance. Mr. Noel stated that this is a routine contract renewal for maintenance on the cardio equipment in the fitness center. The board will consider this item during the regular meeting.
9. Approving purchase of math series. Mr. Noel advised the board that this would extend the new math series to 7th and 8th grades. This item will be considered during the regular meeting.

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10. Approving lease for photocopiers. Mr. Noel reported that the district would like to transition to Sharp copiers. He noted that not only is the lease payment significantly less than the current lease, the service offered by Sharp is much better. This item will be considered during the regular meeting.
11. Approving agreement with Extended Family Services. Mr Noel noted that this is a day-treatment program and the district would only incur costs if it enrolled a student in the facility. The board will consider this item during the regular meeting.
12. Approving purchase of orbital scrubber. The board will consider this purchase during the regular meeting.
13. Approving purchase of student protection monitoring system. Mr. Noel explained that this system is similar to Gaggle which would pick up on inappropriate use of technology.
14. Approving purchase of student well-being platform. Mr. Noel explained that this is another component of the Linewise system.
15. Approving awning installation. Mr. Noel noted that this item was discussed at the last meeting and that installing the awnings will provide safety for the staff and students. The board will consider this during the regular meeting.
16. Approving suspension of per capita tax. Mr. Noel noted that the board discussed possibly suspending the per capita and occupational tax and that the item is on the regular agenda for board consideration.
17. Approving dual enrollment agreement with Penn Highlands Community College. This is a routine matter that the board will consider during the regular meeting.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:46 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.)

1. The board met with a staff member during executive session.

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 7:20 p.m.