

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2024 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Committee of the Whole 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

Kyle Fritz from The EADS Group, reviewed with the board the bid opening from earlier in the day for the new locker rooms to be constructed at the football stadium. The bid documents had been reviewed by EADS and are in good shape and the project will be completed on schedule.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Stadium update. Mr. Noel reported that the bleacher rehabilitation is complete and the district will hold the retainage portion of the total cost until all items are verified complete. He further reported that the board will vote tonight on the bidders for locker rooms and will receive the agreements in March for consideration. He noted that construction should start on April 1 and be completed by August 1 and that the first pre-construction meeting will be at the end of March.
2. Flexible Instruction Day schedule. Mr. Noel noted that he had provided the board with the FID schedule as an option for next year when school is closed. He pointed out that just because the district has a FID schedule does not mean they have to use them. The district will apply for FID approval every three years.
3. Use of facilities form and certificate of insurance. Mr. Noel reviewed with the board the district's use of facilities policy and requirements in that policy. He provided the board with three options concerning the policy's requirement that those using facilities would need to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the district as an insured. The board discussed the level of risk associated with each option with the goal being to provide what was best for the district's students and the community while keeping the district protected. Mr. McGlynn replied that he had reviewed the changes and agrees with them.
4. Required school board training on February 24, 2024. Mr. Noel reminded those who were registered for the training that it will be held in the district office beginning at 9:00 a.m.
5. 9/11 National Memorial Trail Alliance. Mr. Noel reported to the board that Irene Huschak from the Portage Historical Society came to him a request to possibly use the gymnasium and locker rooms in either building in June of 2026 as the 9/11 National Memorial Trail Alliance does its annual ride on what would be the 25 anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks. The board discussed this request and would like to know more about the request. Mr. Noel stated he would contact Mrs. Huschak and ask if she would come to a board meeting to explain in more detail.

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ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Bids for locker room project. Mr. Noel noted that he had discussed this item under information only and Mr. Fritz had reported to the board as to the specifics of the bids. The board will consider the bids during the regular meeting.
2. Bleacher rehabilitation payment application. Mr. Noel reported that Payment Application #2 is on the regular agenda for board approval and that this would be the remainder of the costs for the project minus retainage. The retainage amount will be paid out once all items on the punch list are complete.
3. Emergency Services Agreement with ServPro. Mr. Noel reported that this Agreement would guarantee the district priority service in the event it needed emergency mitigation services such as fire, water or other damages. There is no fee for this Agreement. If the district utilized ServPro they would provide a quote for the services requested.
4. AmeriCorps volunteers. Mr. Noel advised that board that the district will apply for four volunteers once the application period opens on April 1.
5. IUP agreement. This is a standard agreement for field experiences for educators and clinicians who could work in a school district. Mr. Noel added that this is good for the IUP students and the district.
6. 2024-2025 school calendar. Mr. Noel noted that the only change from last month is that now January 2-3, 2024 are school days. The reason for the change is to stay aligned as much as possible with the vo tech sending schools. The calendar is on the regular agenda for the board's consideration.
7. Field experience placements. The board will consider approving these placements on the regular meeting.
8. Adopting district policies. These policies have been read at three meetings and are now on the regular agenda for the board's consideration.
6. Sale of wrestling mats. Mr. Noel noted that the mats were placed on Muncibids for sale and one individual purchased all three mats and will pick them up this weekend. This item is on the regular agenda for board consideration.
7. Boiler maintenance and repair service agreement. Mr. Noel reported that the district has not been receiving adequate service from the current company it works with for boiler repair and maintenance and when called, Huckestein was on campus within hours.
8. Resolution for cooperative bidding for paper supplies. This is a routine annual item on the regular agenda for the board's consideration. By participating in the coop, the district receives competitive prices for paper supplies.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:50 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

1. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda.
2. Staff matters

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

Time: 7:30 p.m.