

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Kathy Hough, board vice president, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Members and others present were: Susan Berardinelli (6:33 p.m.); Jason Corte; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Tina Latoche; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; Erik Thrower; Eric A. Zelanko, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Pete Noel, Elementary School Principal; Dennis M. McGlynn, Esquire, Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent was Matthew Decort and Jeff Vasilko.

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, September 8, 2021**, 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 Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving the July regular and special meeting minutes. A copy of the minutes was distributed with the advance agenda.

REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** had no report.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** had no report.

Superintendent **Mr. Eric A. Zelanko** reported that he attended the last meeting concerning hiring a recreation manager and was told that the district can modify the agreement to address the concerns of financial obligation and use of district facilities. It was further requested that this revisions be made by Monday, which is not an attainable goal. He also noted that right now the district is in 'crunch time' for the opening days of school and everyone is working hard towards that end. He revisited with the board the seven day rolling totals for COVID cases in the 15946 ZIP code reminded them that the district will adhere to the three tier approach to face masks.

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** reported that the 10 month employees have returned to work this week and the pace is picking up for the opening of school. Students were notified that their scheduled were online for them and if there were issues they were to contact the high school. He noted that the classrooms are looking good in terms of social distancing but the cafeteria still presents some challenges to keep students safely distanced.

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Elementary School Principal **Mr. Pete Noel** noted that scheduling and coverages are being finalized for the start of the year.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** discussed the grievance filed by the PAEA noting that while the administration did not technically violate the contract, it would not be worth going to arbitration. He suggested that the board move to advertise the position within the district, noting that the administration did nothing intentional. Mr. McGlynn also noted that the district has been contacted by the 911 National Memorial Trail requesting

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** was absent.

Athletic Director **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** reported that football heat training began in Monday with fall sports practices beginning August 16. He also noted that due to consolidations, we've lost two football games this season. He is actively looking for opponents for those weeks.

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

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(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	\$2,902,398.59
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$40,680.01
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$35,217.50
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Total Invoices paid	\$2,978,296.10

C.	
Mrs. Chappell - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$6,000.25
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$173,538.71
Mrs. Chappell Portage Township – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$380,022.67
Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current)	\$75,083.23
Total Taxes	\$634,644.86

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APPROVING BOND AMOUNTS

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving bonds in the following amounts:

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

APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

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 2021-2022 school year. The county will provide liaisons and assessments where appropriate.

APPROVING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS AND VEHICLES

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving school bus drivers and vehicles for the 2021-2022 school year as provided.

APPROVING SCHOOL BUS RUNS

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving school bus runs for the 2021-2022 school year as provided.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING ASSISTANT FOOTBALL COACHES

Motion Hough Second Corte Vote 7-1

Voting Yes: Hough, Corte, Berardinelli, Jubina, Latoche, Smith and Thrower

Voting No: Squillario

The Administration recommends hiring Joel Holsopple and Charles Gouse as assistant football coaches for the 2021-2022 season. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities.

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HIRING SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0
THIS MOTION WAS TABLED

The Administration recommends hiring Hannah Shaffer as full-time permanent speech and language pathologist beginning _____.

HIRING A READING SPECIALIST

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Erin Paul as full-time permanent reading specialist teacher beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA, with benefits.

HIRING ASSISTANT CHEER COACH

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Hannah Shaffer as an assistant varsity cheerleading coach beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities.

REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration requests permission to advertise for mentor teachers and other open positions as necessary.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, Sally Pesta's letter of resignation as the sixth grade discipline chair. The Administration further requests permission to advertise this position.

ADDING VOLUNTEER FOOTBALL COACHES

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends adding Ryan Scoran and Louis Kordish as a volunteer football coaches for the 2021-2022 school year pending submission of updated clearances.

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MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary