

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 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; Matthew Decort; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Tina Latoche; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; Eric A. Zelanko, Superintendent of Schools; Pete Noel, Elementary School Principal; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Dennis M. McGlynn, Esquire, Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent was Erik Thrower and Ralph Cecere.

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.

ROUTINE MATTERS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 13, 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 Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

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

REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** reported that there was no meeting last month due to the weather.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that the vo tech is looking for another cosmetology teacher and will be creating a construction trades program. They are also looking for a school police officer.

Superintendent **Mr. Eric A. Zelanko** recognized the girls varsity basketball team for winning their playoff game and moving on in district play. He also reported to the board that he and Altoona Area School District Superintendent Dr. Prijatelj attended the House Education Committee Hearing on the Authorization/Reauthorization of Cyber/Charter Schools. He noted that it was a very informative session and he learned a lot.

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** was absent.

Elementary School Principal **Mr. Pete Noel** noted that kindergarten registration will be held soon and so far, 56 students have been pre-registered. He is also working on extended school year planning.

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School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** reported that the district has received notice from the bankruptcy court that the former James Drug building will be going up for auction. No action is required by the school district.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** advised that ESSR III is substantially approved. He also stated that cyber school tuition is taking up a large chunk of the budget.

Athletic Director **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** was absent.

MOTION TO OPEN THE AGENDA FOR ADDITIONS

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Board moved to open the agenda to add line items for the approval of the purchase of a digital piano, and hiring an assistant track coach.

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

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

A. Treasurers' Reports

A. General Fund	Page 2
B. Cafeteria Report	Page 3
C. School Wage Tax Financial Report	Page 4
D. Elementary School Activity Fund	Page 5
E. Junior / Senior High School Activity Fund	Page 6
F. Petty Cash (A – B – C)	Page 7
G. Payroll Financial Report	Page 8
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	\$2,125,979.48
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$65,581.18
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$66,504.85
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Total Invoices paid	\$2,258,065.51

C.

Mrs. Chappell - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Mrs. Chappell Portage Township –	

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Property, Per Capita, Occupation Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current) Total Taxes	\$0.00 \$73,907.98 \$73,907.98
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APPROVING PURCHASE OF PIANO

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

The Administration requests permission to purchase a digital piano from The Piano Guys the amount of \$15,599.99. The models and quotes are listed below:

<u>Grand Piano</u>	
1. Kraft Music	\$16,244.99
2. Sweetwater	\$16,244.99
3. The Piano Guys	\$15,599.99

APPROVING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH MOUNT ALOYSIUS COLLEGE

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving a Cooperative Agreement with Mount Aloysius College to allow eligible students to earn college credits. There is no cost to the district. Student who participate will pay \$65 per credit for the 2022-23 school year.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 8-0

The Administration requests permission to advertise for coal, milk and bread bids.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING A SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0
Voting Yes: Decort, Squillario, Corte, Jubina, Latoche, Smith and Hough
Voting No: Berardinelli

The Board moves to hire Todd Dishong, Ed.D., as the superintendent of schools to a four-year contract effective July 1, 2022. Salary will be \$116,000, with an Act 93 compensation plan. Dr. Dishong will serve as superintendent-elect for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year pending his release by his current employer. Salary as superintendent-elect will be pro-rated based on year one of this Act 93 compensation plan.

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ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Board moves to accept, with regret, the resignation of Erik Thrower as board director. This position will be advertised for appointment to serve the remainder of the term.

APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR

FAILED FOR LACK OF A MOTION

The Board moves to appoint _____ as a school board director to fill the remainder of Mr. Thrower's term, which expires the first Monday of December, 2023. Mr. McGlynn will swear in the appointee.

HIRING HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTOR

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

The Administration recommends hiring Jennifer Szpala as a homebound instructor for the period February 16, 2022 through March 8, 2022, unless extended. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-pay for extra-duties.

HIRING AN ASSISTANT TRACK COACH

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

The Administration recommends hiring Abigail Chobany as an assistant track coach beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-pay for extra-duties.

APPROVING REQUEST FOR DAYS OFF WITHOUT PAY

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving the following staff members' requests for days off without pay.

Staff member	January 10 - 14, January 31, and February 7, 2022
Staff member	March 8, 10 and 11, 2022

APPROVING REQUEST FOR FMLA

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff member's request for a Family Medical Leave from March 29, 2022 to April 12, 2022.

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APPROVING REQUEST FOR FMLA

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff member’s request for a Family Medical Leave from February 18 to April 21, 2022.

ADDING A VOLUNTEER COACHES

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends adding the following volunteer coaches:

Tim Trusik	Softball
Demetri Miller	Junior High Track and Field (clearances pending)

ADDING A VOLUNTEER CLASSROOM AIDE

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends adding Greta Thomas as a volunteer classroom aide for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

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

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Addison Holyfield	Attend Region III chorus at Altoona High School	March 24, 2022	\$70.00	Yes
Kristen Gribbin	Take 40 students to Penn Highlands Career Fest	April 8, 2022 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	\$211.48	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Take music students to the Johnstown Symphony	April 9, 2022	\$152.76	Yes
Brian Randall	TRU Youth Conference Westmoreland County Community College	April 14, 2022 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	\$255.00 (subs)	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Jazz Band to play at Crichton McCormick Park	April 23, 2022	\$0.00	N/A
Abigail Chobany	Take the 9 th grade to the Carnegie Museum of Science, Pittsburgh	April 27, 2022	\$816.00	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Marching Band to Meyersdale Maple Festival	April 30, 2022	\$375.00	Yes
Fifth Grade Teachers	Field Trip to Fort Ligonier	May 18, 2022	\$0.00 Paid by PTO	N/A

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Second Grade Teachers	Field Trip to Living Treasures	May 19, 2022	\$0.00 Paid by PTO	N/A
Third Grade Teachers	Field Trip to the Everett Railroad	May 20, 2022 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	\$0.00 Paid by PTO	N/A
Sara Erzal, Math Competition Advisor	Math 24 Challenge	May 20, 2022 8:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.	\$100.00	Yes
Kristine Bartoletti	Spanish Club Field Trip Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise – Spanish Night	May 24, 2022	\$0.00 Paid by Spanish Club	N/A
Addison Holyfield	Host District Chorus	January 11-13, 2023	\$0.00	N/A
Addison Holyfield	Band trip to Disney World, Orlando, FL	March 20-25, 2023	\$170.00 (substitutes)	Yes

Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Elementary PTO	Mother/Son Event	Elementary Cafeteria and Auditorium	March 19, 2022 11:00 am to 4:00 pm	No charge
Sophomore Class Officers and Advisor	Fundraiser for the Sophomore Class	ES auditorium, cafeteria and track. ES gym if the weather is bad.	April 9, 2022 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	No Charge
Denise Moschgat, Drama Advisor	Spring Production	HS auditorium	April 20-21, 2022 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.	No Charge
Addison Holyfield	Music Banquet	HS Cafeteria	May 6, 2022 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	No Charge
Portage Area Regional Planning Commission	Community Roundtable	High School Cafeteria	May 7, 2022 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	No Charge
Marty Slanoc	Bunny Dash 5K	Football Field	April 16, 2022 7:00 am to 12:00 pm	No Charge
One Good Turn Dance Company	Dance Recital	High School Auditorium	May 19-20, 2022 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	\$20/hour

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary