

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 26, 2023**

The Special 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; Jennifer Pisarski, Elementary School Principal; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were Tina Latoche, Christian Smith and Jeremy Burkett.

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.

PUBLIC READING OF PROPOSED POLICIES

Third Reading – 137.2 Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students

Third Reading – 137.3 Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students

Third Reading – 830.1 Data Governance – Storage/Security

Third Reading – 201 Admission of Students

Third Reading – 202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students

Third Reading – 203.1 HIV Infection

Third Reading – 205 Postgraduate Students

Third Reading – 207 Confidential Communications of Students

Third Reading – 208 Withdrawal from School

Third Reading – 214 Class Rank

Third Reading – 214 Promotion and Retention

Third Reading – 235.1 Surveys

ROUTINE MATTERS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held **Wednesday, August 16, 2023**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the elementary school auditorium, 84 Mountain Avenue, Portage, PA with the Regular Meeting immediately following.

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ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0

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

Personnel Matters, Line Item 5, Remove mentor for long-term substitute teacher

APPROVING ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends entering into an engagement agreement with Ronald N. Repak, Esquire of the law firm of Dillon McCandless King Coulter & Graham LLP for the purposes of providing legal services in regard to the district's school police officer. The hourly rate is \$165.

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH IGNITE EDUCATION SOLUTIONS

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving an Agreement with Ignite Education Solutions to provide long-term, contracted and substitute staff on an as needed basis for the 2023-2024 school year, including Extended School Year. Rates will vary depending upon the position and certifications. Ignite will provide a separate budget for each position as they have done in previous school years.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (EXECUTIVE SESSION – IF NECESSARY)

HIRING A SECONDARY MATH TEACHER

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Ashley Myers as a full time, permanent secondary math teacher beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Salary will be Step 8, with benefits based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA.

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HIRING AN AUTISTIC SUPPORT/EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TEACHER

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Laura Gressick as a permanent autistic support/learning support teacher beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Salary will be Step 1, with benefits based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA.

HIRING A LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Kara Jarvie as a long-term substitute teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Salary will be Step 1, with benefits based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA.

HIRING A TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Craig Castel as a technical support assistant beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Salary will be \$30,720, with benefits based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA.

HIRING MENTOR TEACHERS

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring the following mentor teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities.

Mary Kenny
Tina Lutz

Sierra Crum, Secondary Science Teacher
Secondary/middle level math

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HIRING CLUB/ACTIVITY ADVISORS

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring the following advisors beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities.

Nicole Hunt
Gayle Price

Scholastic Quiz
Sophomore Class Advisor

HIRING SUMMER WORKERS

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring the following individuals as temporary summer workers. Compensation will be the current hourly minimum wage.

Devon Remick
Collin Miller

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends accepting Glenna Grecek's letter of resignation effective July 11, 2023. The Administration further requests permission to advertise this position.

ADDING VOLUNTEER COACH

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends adding the following volunteer coach. All clearances have been provided.

John M. Bilchak

Football

APPROVING REQUEST FOR FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff member's request for a Family and Medical Leave of Absence for the period July 24 to August 11, 2023.

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MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 6-0

Time: 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary