

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 9, 2025 - 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; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Branden Miller; Jacob Myers; Nancy Sherbine; Brian Shope; 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. Absent were Matthew Decort and Jason Corte.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Dust collector unit at high school. The unit is running but it is not completely fixed. A permanent fix will be done over the summer.
2. Update on boiler and solar projects. There was a kick off meeting with representatives from McClure to set the schedule and logistics of the boiler replacement project which is expected to be completed before the first day of school.
3. Locker room project update. The project was done within a week of board approval and was utilized during the recent cold spell.
4. Allegheny Ridge Wind Project community outreach efforts. The company updating the windmills with larger blades has been in contact with Mr. Noel asking if there would be any needs within the district that they could monetarily assist. Mr. Noel will provide a proposal for them outlining several area where their contribution could be put to good use.

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Ambulance coverage at football games. Mr. Noel reported that this would be a three-year contract with Forest Hills Ambulance Association.
2. Admiral Peary Vo Tech budget. This is the preliminary budget which needs passed by school district before it can go to the vo tech board. It will probably be revised somewhat in May.

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3. Highway to Success agreement. The district hosts this program with Ignite and bills school district who place students.
4. Advertise for milk bids. This is a routine annual matter for board consideration.
5. ESL Consortium. This agreement is through our local IU and costs \$5,000 for the 2025-2026 school year. It provides ESL services.
6. Security upgrades. Mr. Noel reported that security upgrades include the service window in the high school, installing one in the elementary school, films on outside windows and stairwell security enhancements. The funding source is the School Safety Grant.
7. Purchasing cafeteria items. Cafeterias cannot keep extra money in their accounts the district would like to update and replace equipment and tables.
8. Annual agreements. Mr. Noel reviewed several annual agreements that are on the regular agenda for approval.
9. District policy revisions. These are recommended revisions to active district policies.
10. 2024-2025 school year calendar revision. The calendar will be revised to reflect school closing due to weather.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:41 p.m. to 7:47 p.m.)

1. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda
2. Other matters as permitted under the Sunshine Act.

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 7:47 p.m.