

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 26, 2022**

The Special Meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Erik Thrower, 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; Erik Thrower; Eric A. Zelanko, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Pete Noel, Elementary School Principal; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Dennis M. McGlynn, Esquire, Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary.

**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, February 9, 2022**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the elementary school auditorium, 84 Mountain Avenue, Portage, PA with the Regular Meeting immediately following.

**TRANSFERRING FUNDS TO CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 9-0  
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends transferring \$800,000 to the Capital Projects fund for football stadium renovations.

**APPROVING CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL**

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 9-0  
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving the Civil Engineering Services Proposal from the EADS Group for the football field renovation project. The fee for engineering services is \$40,000. *Mrs. Berardinelli questioned the costs associated with this repair.*

**APPROVING SOPHOMORE STUDENTS TO ATTEND VO TECH**

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 9-0  
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving that sophomore students may attend Admiral Peary Vocational Technical School beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. *Mr. Zelanko remarked at the recent PAC meeting, this topic was discussed. Most vo-tech programs are certified as three-year programs yet most of the Admiral Peary sending schools only send juniors and seniors. This decision was a budgetary decision.*

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*A few sending schools are beginning to bring back sophomores and while it would be an added cost to the district, he recommends doing it to do what's in the best interest of students. Furthermore, the state could mandate that we send sophomores as the vo-tech is certified for three-year programs and doing so now would provide for a more efficient switch in terms of providing transportation, budgeting and student scheduling.*

**MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES**

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 9-0

**MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 9-0

Time: 6:38 p.m.