

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MARCH 13, 2024 - 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 (6:31 p.m.); Jason Corte; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; 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 Christian Smith.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Irene Huschak will address the board regarding the 9/11 Memorial Trail Alliance and it's ride for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary along with other items relevant to the district and community. Mrs. Huschak pointed out that this ride benefits veterans suffering from PTSD and is hosted by the Historical Society Museum. Because of the support from the Historical Society the 9/11 Alliance provided benches for the butterfly garden with a matching bench at the Flight 93 Memorial. The Alliance is planning for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and although nothing is set in stone right now, Mrs. Huschak would like to have some options ready and give our area and the school district some great media coverage. Mrs. Huschak asked the board if they had any questions they could direct them to her.

Mrs. Huschak also reported to the board that the 9/11 National Bike trail will be coming through Portage which will be a huge boost for the area. Mr. Noel thanked Mrs. Huschak for coming to the meeting and said that he appreciates all she does for the community and the school.

**INFORMATION ONLY**

1. Staff Transfers. There was an internal candidate for the STEM vacancy which will transfer into that position for the 2024-2025 school year.
2. Stadium project update. Allegheny Restorations has finished their rehabilitation of the bleachers and once all items on the punch list are completed, the retainage will be released and the project finished. There will be a pre-construction meeting in March with tentative construction to begin on April 1 and be completed by August 1. Mr. Noel showed the board the color options for the new locker room and added that there will be a revision to the floor which is going to be a better option for the use the building will receive.

**ROUTINE MATTERS**

1. 2024-2025 IU8 General Operating Budget. Mr. Vasilko noted that the IU asked district to approve their General Operating Budget annually. This item is on the regular agenda for board consideration.
2. 2024-2025 Vo Tech Operating Budget. Mr. Vasilko noted that this the same as the IU and the board should consider this item during the regular meeting.
3. Safety Consulting Agreement. Mr. Noel noted that agreement is with the Fatula Group who have been extremely helpful to the district in preparing for emergency situations

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and training the staff to best handle those types of situations. He recommended that the board approve renewing the agreement. The cost of agreement can be paid through grants.

4. Highway to Success Program. Mr. Vasilko stated that the cost of this program, \$112,000 is the total cost for all sending schools. The district foots the cost and then bills other districts as they make use of the program. The district' cost is usually \$12,000.
5. WorkLink Staffing Agreement. Mr. Noel noted that there are some small language changes to the contract. The board will consider this matter during the regular agenda.
6. Policy revision. Mr. Noel explained to the board that the current policy for Non-resident students has been revised to be more specific. The board will consider this item during the regular meeting.
7. Penelec/FirstEnergy Easement. Mr. Noel reported that with the new locker rooms being constructed the electric company requires an easement for building and maintaining their lines. The board will consider this item during the regular meeting.
8. Pre-student teaching observation. Mr. Noel noted that this is a routine matter for the board's consideration.

**PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:49 p.m. to 7:24 p.m.)**

1. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda.
2. Student issues

**BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES**

**POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD**

Time: 7:24 p.m.