

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 19, 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; Matthew Decort; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; 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 Jason Corte, Jacob Myers and Christian Smith.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Bob Koban and Diane Zaman from Tri-County Transportation addressed the board to discuss any busing concerns. Mr. Noel replied that all communications with TCT are positive and the district enjoys open and effective communications with them. Mr. Koban thanked Mr. Noel and added that the district will receive two new buses this year.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Locker room update. Mr. Noel reported that a mid-progress meeting is scheduled this week and that the roof trusses have been set.
2. Grants update. Mr. Noel noted that the district is procuring some of the items for the DCED Grant, which is a matching grant, and have been submitted. The sidewalk proposal has been rejected from the bid.
3. Bathroom in the Autistic Support classroom in the high school. Mr. Noel reported that we are constructing an internal bathroom in the Autistic Support classroom and that Mr. Link has been instrumental in getting it built.
4. PAES lab installation and training June 24-25, 2024. Mr. Noel reported that on Monday the lab materials will be delivered and on Tuesday, the rep will be there to train the teachers on it.

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Final budget for the 2024-2025 school year and exoneration of tax collectors. Mr. Vasilko reported that there were no change from the tentative budget except that it went down a little due to EIT. The Governor's budget is still in review. There is still money out there for the advocacy gap as it has not yet been settled. Some legislators will leverage it to try to push vouchers through. He will continue to budget conservatively to protect the district.
2. Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion. Mr. Vasilko noted that the tax relief rebate has gone up a total of \$74,000. This is the amount of rebate homeowners receive on their primary residence.
3. Insurance Coverages. Mr. Vasilko noted that there was about a 10% insurance premium increase on insurances for the 2024-2025 school year.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 19, 2024 - 6:30 P.M.**

4. Payment applications and change order. These payments are for the locker room project. They are on the agenda for board consideration. Mr. Noel noted that the labor costs on the change order were negated.
5. Cafeteria equipment upgrades. Mr. Vasilko explained that because the district is a CEP school, it cannot show a profit in the cafeteria so equipment upgrades were purchased. Some of the items were purchased through KPN which is the federal equivalent to CoStars and a great way to purchase so as to not go through the costs of bidding.
6. Milk bids. The bid results are on the regular agenda for board consideration.
7. Door handles in high school. Mr. Vasilko reported that this upgrade will be paid through a safety grant. It can be purchased through CoStars and is necessary because currently there are not inside locks on the interior doors in the high school.
8. Grant Resolution. Mr. Vasilko noted that this is necessary for the DCED grant and gives he and Mr. Noel authority to apply for the grant.
9. Health Consortium Resolution. Mr. Noel reported that this is necessary due to some bylaw changes concerning withdrawal from the consortium.
10. IU8 School Age Education Services Agreement. Mr. Noel noted that this agreement is a more formalized approach to provide services through the IU for our students.
11. Backpack Project Agreement. This agreement is a routine matter and is on the agenda for board consideration.
12. Appalachian Youth Service Agreement. This agreement is a routine matter and is on the agenda for board consideration.
13. Student teaching assignment. Mr. Noel advised the board that there is one student teacher who is currently assigned to Mrs. Washko.

Time: 7:11 p.m.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 19, 2024 - 6:30 P.M.**

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:45 – 7:11 p.m.)

1. 2023-2024 Safety and security report
2. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda.
3. Staff matters

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 7:11 p.m.