

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 13, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Members and others present were: Susan Berardinelli; 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

Those who wish to speak should limit their remarks to three but no longer than five minutes.

NOTICE TO PERSONNEL

There may be reductions and/or reassignments of personnel due to fiscal circumstances.

DISTRICT POLICIES

Third Reading:
Policy 254 Educational Opportunity for Military Children

ROUTINE MATTERS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held **April 10, 2024**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the elementary school auditorium, 84 Mountain Avenue, Portage, PA with the Regular Meeting immediately following.

APPROVING THE MINUTES

Motion Corte Second Jubina Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving the February meeting minutes. A copy of the minutes was distributed with the advance agenda.

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ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion Shope Second Jubina Vote 7-0

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

Routine Matters, ADD line item 13 Approving Student Observation
Personnel Matters, REVIS line item 2, last day of employment to April 29, 2024

REPORTS

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that SkillsUSA competitions will be held in early April in Hershey. New Enterprise was at the vo tech to present to the diesel students.

Superintendent **Mr. Pete Noel** reported that he some of the administrators will be attending the Innovation Summit and one of the topics will be the changes to 900/990 requirements for school days. Two students will be recognized at the vo tech induction ceremony. The School Safety Grant could possibly provide money to change out the door locks in the junior-senior high school. There has been no word on the mental health grant or the DC&D grant. Mr. Noel discussed the schools designation as ATSI and what the 2018 indicators showed to put us into the status. He further reported that he attended the last Unit Council meeting where state legislators were present to discuss different topics but mostly center on cyber school funding. The district will pay over \$700,000 for cyber school tuition this school year. The district is working with Educere to significantly lower that cost and still provide options for students. There are at present 35 students enrolled in outside cyber program.

Director of Special Education **Mr. Troy Eppley** reported that the special ed plan has been completed and is currently posted on the district website for public review and comment. The board will approve the plan in April and then it will go to the state for review and approval.

High School Principal **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** the Heritage Conference Academic Challenges will be occurring in the next few weeks. National Honor Society induction ceremony will be Monday. The end of the third marking period is soon approaching. Students will be participating in the historical society's mural project by painting panels in the gymnasium that will be placed at the train overpass. In sports, the girls team lost in the playoffs second round. Spring sports will open their seasons next week.

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Elementary School Principal **Mrs. Jennifer Pisarski** reported that the district will be looking at new math series in the elementary school for the 2024-2025 school year. The elementary school just celebrated Read Across America and thanked the high school students for coming over to read to the students. The Saltworks presented to the students recently and it was very powerful. As of right now, there are 34 students enrolled in kindergarten. The good behavior incentive for the third marking period will be the jumpies in the gymnasium. The principals are working on a behavior expectation matrix to have common language in both buildings in terms of discipline.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** reported that he had reviewed the locker room documents and they are in good order. The contractors are reputable and one is every local. Mr. McGlynn concluded by saying that Mr. Noel is doing a good job.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** reported that the Department of Environmental Protection was on campus to inspect the generator and they passed. He further filed an emissions report. The 2022-2023 ESSER reports have been filed. He is re-doing the spending allocation report for ESSER III. The budget work is progressing but it is hinged on the governor's budget. Barclay is coming to the stadium to look at the lights and to fix switches. The district is considering putting in temporary speed bumps to slow traffic so no one get injured. The 2022-2023 PEARS Financial report is ready and waiting approval. The district will look to update equipment with this money.

REPORTS: A. FINANCIAL, B. INVOICES (GENERAL FUND, CAFETERIA FUND AND ATHLETIC FUND), C. TAX COLLECTORS

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0
(Roll Call Vote)

A. Treasurers' Reports

A. General Fund	Page 2
B. Cafeteria Report	Page 3
D. Elementary School Activity Fund	Page 5
E. Junior / Senior High School Activity Fund	Page 6
H. Athletics	Page 9
I. General Fund	Page 10
J. Capital Reserve Fund	Page 10.1
K. Capital Projects Fund	Page 10.2
L. Investments/Pledged Collateral Report	Page 11

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B.	
General Fund Invoices	\$1,253,284.80
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$66,026.84
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$354,111.87
Total Invoices paid	\$1,673,423.51

C.	
Mrs. Molnar - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Mrs. Molnar Portage Township – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current)	\$82,289.94
Total Taxes	\$82,289.94

APPROVING IU08 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 General Budget for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$6,594,381.77. The district's Projected Market Value Aid Ratio is \$1,803.30.

APPROVING ADMIRAL PEARY AVTS BUDGET

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving the proposed 2024-2025 Admiral Peary Area Vocational Technical School budget in the amount of \$5,110,806. The cost per student is \$6,029.

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RENEWING SAFETY CONSULTING AGREEMENT

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving the Safety Consulting Agreement with the Fatula Group, LLC for the period March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025. The total cost is \$15,000.

RENEWING AGREEMENT FOR HIGHWAY TO SUCCESS PROGRAM

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends renewing its Agreement with Ignite Education Solutions for the 2024-2025 school year hosted at the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center. The total cost is \$112,771.69.

RENEWING AGREEMENT FOR WORK STAFFING

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends renewing its agreement with WorkLink Staff to provide temporary employees as needed. The cost to the district would be the hourly rate for the employee, plus a bill rate multiplier of 1.51. This will be a one-year agreement.

REVISING DISTRICT POLICY AND APPROVING ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends revising Policy 202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students and its accompanying Administration Regulation as presented with the advance agenda.

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APPROVING PENELEC/FIRST ENERGY STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE AND EASEMENT

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving the First Energy Statement of Compliance and Penelec Easement to allow them to install and maintain their facilities located at the football stadium.

APPROVING PRE-STUDENT TEACHER OBSERVATION

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving Hailey Krisko to perform a pre-student teacher observation under the supervision of the second-grade teachers.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Hanna Corle as a long-term substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year beginning March 25, 2024.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Hannah LaBar as a special education teacher in the elementary school. The district may hold Ms. LaBar until April 29, 2024.

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HIRING AUTISTIC SUPPORT/EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TEACHER

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Hanna Corle as an autistic support/emotional support teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. Salary will be Step 1, with benefits, in accordance with the PAEA contract. Ms. Corle's hiring will be dependent upon her obtaining professional certification.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Nicholas Panick as a member of the custodial staff effective February 22, 2024. The district further requests permission to advertise this position.

ACCEPTING REQUEST FOR A FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting a staff member's request for a medical leave of absence for the period March 13, 2024 to March 25, 2024.

ACCEPTING REQUEST FOR A FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting a staff member's request for a medical leave of absence for the period March 31, 2024 to May 30, 2024.

ACCEPTING REQUEST FOR A FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting a staff member's request for a medical leave of absence for the period April 18, 2024 to May 16, 2024.

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ACCEPTING REQUEST FOR A FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting a staff member’s request for a medical leave of absence for the period March 18, 2024 to April 29, 2024.

ADDING VOLUNTEER COACHES

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends the following volunteers for the 2024-2025 school year. Their clearances are on file.

Tyler Spaid	Track
Gary Gouse	Track

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

Motion Shope Second Sherbine Vote 7-0
(Roll Call Vote)

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Addison Holyfield	One student to participate at PMEA All-State Festival in Erie, PA	April 17-20, 2024	\$1,105.46	Yes
Brittany Brewer and Kaitlin Cawley	CBI Trip to Chrichton McCormick Park	May 6, 2024 (rain date: May 7, 2024)	\$0.00 (use of vehicles)	N/A
Dennis Link, SADD Club Advisor	SADD Club Curve game Altoona, PA	April 24, 2024	\$758.88	Yes
Dennis Link, SADD Club Advisor	Pirates’ game for TRU Group seniors	May 3, 2024	\$0.00 (Paid by TRU Group)	N/A
Christa Miko	Reading Competition at Forest Hills HS	March 19, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	\$0.00	N/A
Mary Kenny	Take four teams to participate in Envirothon	May 2, 2024 8:10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	\$461.94	Yes
Mary Kenny and Gayle Price	Science Club Trip to Baltimore’s Inner Harbor	May 17, 2024 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	\$963.60	Yes
Tyler Johnson	Democracy Bowl at UPJ Johnstown	April 4, 2024	\$105.00	Yes

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Tara Williams	Take students to work on the Historical Society's Mural at the train tunnel	March 27, 2024	\$52.50	Yes
Phillip Miller	Physics Olympics 2024 at IUP	April 15, 2024	\$215.56	Yes
MaKena Baumgardner	Take varsity softball team to PSU softball games	March 15, 2024 3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	\$0.00 (Use of Vehicles)	N/A

Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Mary Ann George	Career Fair	Len Chappell Gymnasium	March 20, 2024 7:10 – 11:30 a.m.	No Charge
Tara Williams	Jr Sr Art Show	Len Chappell Gymnasium	May 17, 2024 12:00 – 9:00 p.m.	No Charge
Track/Bunny Dash 5K	Host Bunny Dash 5K	Football Stadium	March 29-30, 2024	No Charge
Phillip Miller	Host Easter Eggstravaganza to benefit Physics Trip	Elementary auditorium, cafeteria, gymnasium and track	March 30, 2024 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	No Charge
Rotary Club of Portage	Rotary Pancake Breakfast	High School Cafeteria	April 21, 2024 6:00 am–12:15 pm	No Charge
Jen Thomas, PTO	Sort student shirts from the PTO	Elementary Cafeteria	March 21, 2024 6:30 p.m.	No Charge
Portage Elementary Wrestling	End of Season pizza party and awards	Elementary Gym/Lobby	April 7, 2024 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	No Charge
Jared Bilchak – PAYA Baseball	Practice for minor league baseball	Jr Hi Softball Field	April-July	No Charge

IX. MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____

X. MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary