

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Kathy Hough, board president, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Members and others present were: Susan Berardinelli; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; 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, Matthew Decort, and Tina Latoche.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Sound system for elementary auditorium. Mr. Noel reported that currently there is a temporary fix but recently Open Systems checked out the elementary sound system and provided a quote of approximately \$31,000 to fix the system. Mr. Noel stated that he will provide more information to the board for consideration in December.
2. Bleacher rehabilitation status update. Mr. Noel provided an update on the work as it is progressing nicely. Reinforcements have been put in place on the visitor's side as well as the protective coating on the concrete. The bleachers have been removed on the home side.
3. Mustang Family Christmas. Mr. Noel explained to the board that between COVID and how overwhelming the project had become, the Secret Santa program ended. This year, he would like to begin a new trend; the Mustang Family Christmas. This year the district will work to provide a package to student households to promote family unity. The distribution date will be December 16, 2023. He will provide further updates in the upcoming weeks.
4. Mustang Math Academy. Using ESSER money the district is creating the Mustang Math Academy to provide tutoring based services to students in grades 5-8. Using assessment data, the academy will provide individualized prescriptive instruction to students with the aim to show growth. The academy will be held in person and on-line. Mr. Noel hopes that this will bring a long-term benefit to students.

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Eight passenger van bids. Mr. Noel advised the board that there were no bids that met the specifications and that he would ask the board to consider re-advertising. The bid they did receive was for a modified 10-passenger Transit van.

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2. Health and Safety Plan. Mr. Noel reported that this plan had not been advertised since 2021. It has been revised to include all communicable diseases, such as the flu, and has less emphasis on COVID as it did initially.
3. Locker room project. Mr. Noel explained that EADS will soon be ready to advertise for bids on the locker rooms and approving this item tonight will allow them to do so.
4. District policies – new, revised and retired. Mr. Noel advised that the new, revised and retired policies are updates to the policy manual from our agreement with PSBA.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:39 p.m. to 6:53 p.m.)

1. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda.

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 6:53 p.m.