

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2022**

The Regular 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; Jason Corte; Matthew Decort; Kathy Hough; Dennis Squillario; Dr. Todd Dishong, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were John Jubina, Tina Latoche, Christian Smith and Jeff Vasilko.

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, September 14, 2022**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the elementary school auditorium, 84 Mountain Avenue, Portage, PA with the Regular Meeting immediately following.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

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

Routine Matters, Line Item 6, Approving Teacher Substitute Rate
Routine Matters, Line Item 10, Approving Purchase of a Box Trailer
Routine Matters, Line Item 16, Approving Agreement with Southwood Psychiatric Hospital
Personnel Matters, Line Item 2, Accepting Letter of Resignation
Personnel Matters, Line Item 3, Hiring an Elementary School Secretary

REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** reported that the committee meeting consisted of normal business. This is the end of the IU's fiscal year.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that the vo tech hired four teachers and four aides.

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Superintendent **Dr. Todd Dishong** thanked the students who came to meeting in support of a homecoming dance. He also thanked Bella Single for speaking to the board as well as her outstanding job at the park as a life guard. Dr. Dishong provided an overview of the in-service agenda noting that many good presentations were being held. He updated the board that grants have been submitted for school safety as well as the football stadium and we will wait to hear if they are awarded. The temporary trailers were placed at the stadium for the teams to use as locker rooms. Electricity will be connected soon. Dr. Dishong concluded that he, Mr. Clouse and Mrs. Stivers are working a website refresh and a brochure is being designed as well as logo's with the aim to promote Portage Area as the school of choice.

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** advised the board that he has had some good interactions with the families of students who attend cyber/charter school concerning returning to the district and one student will be coming back while other families will be considering it. He stressed that Portage is the school of choice and is hopeful that these students will again attend Portage. He thanked Portage Township for mowing the hillside. Mr. Cecere noted that the coaches meeting for fall sports went well and that it was conveyed that the expectation was that academics were the priority. The custodians have been doing a good job with summer cleaning and painting and assisting with new technology being implemented. In regard the proposed homecoming dance, Mr. Cecere stated that he is 100% in favor of the dance and that Ms. Single did an outstanding job in presenting it to the board as well as organizing the fundraisers to more than pay for the dance. He stated that she is 'wise beyond her years' and was very impressed with the level of organization she displayed both in talking with the board and organizing the event. He added that he would like to see the dance be a semi-formal, business casual type of dress in that not every family has the resources to buy formal attire.

Elementary School Principal **Mrs. Jennifer Pisarski** thanked the custodians for doing a fabulous job over the summer getting the elementary school ready for the first day of school. She commended Mrs. Krystal Smith for doing a great job as the new assistant principal. She too had contacted the students in the elementary grades in cyber/charter school and reported that all those students have re-enrolled in the district. Mrs. Pisarski thanked Irene Huschak for providing many many pool passes to students and provided them with a summertime activity they may not otherwise have enjoyed.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** reported that he and Dr. Dishong have had regular conversations and all is going very well.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** was absent.

Athletic Director **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** reported that he, Dr. Dishong and Mr. Cecere attended the coaches meeting which he appreciated them taking the time to attend and show their support to the students, their families and the coaches. He noted that the previous sports seasons were very good as evidenced by the fact that many banners are out to be updated with new records set. He briefly mentioned upcoming events and welcomed the board to attend.

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

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0
(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

B.	June	July
General Fund Invoices	\$1,139,086.06	\$1,864,215.85
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$25,222.87	\$7,974.88
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$20,895.36	\$16,442.93
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Invoices paid	\$1,185,204.29	\$1,888,633.66

C.		
Mrs. Chappell - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00	\$8,826.30
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00	\$155,756.82
Mrs. Chappell Portage Township – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00	\$339,744.20
Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current)	\$29,809.53	\$36,119.94
Total Taxes	\$29,809.53	\$540,447.26

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APPROVING TEACHERS SUBSTITUTE RATE

Motion Berardinelli Second Decort Vote 4-1
Voting Yes: Berardinelli, Decort, Corte and Hough
Voting No: Squillario

The administration recommends increasing the teachers substitute rate to \$105 per day. The intent of the increase is to offer a more competitive rate to attract substitutes.

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH IGNITE EDUCATION SOLUTIONS FOR STAFF

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends approving an agreement with Ignite Education Solutions to provide long-term, contracted and substitute staff on an as need basis for the 2022-2023 school year.

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH MOVE THIS WORLD

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends approving a Content and Services Agreement with Move This World to provide SEL evidenced-based exercises for grades K-12 for the 2022-2023 school year. The cost for these services is \$8,091.26, which will come from ESSR grant money.

APPROVING REQUEST TO HOST FUNDRAISING DANCE

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Class of 2023 and their advisor, Tina Lutz, request permission to host a Homecoming Dance at the Cassandra Firehall for grades 9-12 on September 24, 2022.

APPROVING PURCHASE OF A BOX TRAILER

THIS MOTION WAS TABLED

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 5-0

The administration purchasing a box trailer for use in the district for marching band events as well as other uses in the district. The cost of the trailer will not exceed \$6,000 and would come from the general fund. *Mrs. Hough asked when would the district need the trailer. Dr. Dishong replied that football is starting very soon but that they would make due until something was found. He asked what the board would like to see in terms of more information.*

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APPROVING BOND AMOUNTS

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

The Administration recommends approving bonds in the following amounts:

Business Manager	\$150,000
Administration Assistant to the Business Manager	\$150,000
Superintendent of Schools	\$50,000
Board Secretary	\$20,000
Activities Fund Custodians	\$10,000

APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

The Administration recommends approving a Memorandum of Agreement with the Cambria County Drug & Alcohol Program and Cambria County Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disabilities and Early Intervention Programs for the 2022-2023 school year. The county will provide liaisons and assessments where appropriate.

APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CAPCC

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

The Administration recommends approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the Community Action Partnership of Cambria County (CAPCC) Early Childhood Program.

APPROVING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS AND VEHICLES

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

The Administration recommends approving school bus drivers and vehicles for the 2022-2023 school year as provided.

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APPROVING SCHOOL BUS RUNS

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

The Administration recommends approving school bus runs for the 2022-2023 school year as provided.

APPROVING STUDENT HANDBOOKS FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

The Administration recommends approving student handbooks for the 2022-2023 school year.

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHWOOD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

The Administration recommends approving an agreement with Southwood Psychiatric Hospital to provide services to students placed in their facility during the 2022-2023 school year. The district would only incur costs of a student is placed.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING A HIGH SCHOOL SECRETARY

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends hiring Jessica Gutshall as a 10-month secretary in the high school. Salary will be based on the current secretarial wage scale, with single benefits.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

The administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Sara Papcun effective August 10, 2022.

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HIRING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECRETARY

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends hiring Wendy Zock as a 10-month secretary in the elementary school. Salary will be based on the current secretarial wage scale, with single benefits.

HIRING A DRAMA ADVISOR

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends hiring Denise Moschgat as the drama advisor beginning with the 2023 school year. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities.

ADDING VOLUNTEER COACHES

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

The Athletic Director recommends adding the following volunteer coaches:

Ryan Scoran	Football (clearances on file)
Marla Nesbella	Volleyball (clearances provided)

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0
(Roll Call Vote)

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Jennifer Thomas, PTO	Field trip to the Flight 93 National Memorial	September 9, 2022 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	\$0.00 (Grant)	N/A

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Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Portage Area Summerfest, Inc.	Musical Performances	District risers and the HS auditorium if there is inclement weather	August 11 – 15, 2022	No Charge
Jennifer Thomas, PTO	Hold “Meet the Administrators”	Elementary Auditorium/ Cafeteria	September 13, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	No Charge

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 5-0

Time: 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Board Secretary