

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2022 - 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; Jason Corte; Matthew Decort; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Tina Latoche; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; Eric A. Zelanko, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent was Erik Thrower, Pete Noel and Dennis McGlynn, Esquire.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Addison Holyfield, high school music teacher and band director, addressed to board to report that he would like to plan a band trip to Disney World in 2023. He noted that this would be a great opportunity for the band in that they would have music-related activities culminating in marching in the nightly Disney Parade in one of the parks. He noted that he is hoping to have band trips every two years with Disney being a once every four or five years so that every student who is in band would have the opportunity to attend once. He reviewed with the board the proposed itinerary along with prices for staying on and off the resort. Mr. Holyfield noted that this is an expensive trip and the students would have a year to fundraise. He further noted that he will plan the dates of the trip so as to have the least impact on school days. Mrs. Hough commented that she thought this was a great opportunity for the students. Mrs. Latoche also commented that this was a good idea. Mr. Holyfield added again that there will be an educational component to the trip.

**INFORMATION ONLY**

**ROUTINE MATTERS**

1. Piano quotes. Mr. Holyfield discussed with the board the pianos and which models would work best for the music program. He explained that the upright piano is tall and when he sits at the piano directing the students, he cannot see them. He also detailed some of the functions of each piano and how it would benefit the music department. He added that a digital piano would save the district money in tuning and repair costs.
2. School Psychologist Services. Mr. Zelanko reported that the board is to consider during the regular meeting contracting with Learning Lamp for school psychologist services. Dr. Kowalski has come out of retirement to help out a few days a week. The number of evaluations has increased dramatically. The district is mandated to stay within specific timelines for evaluations and re-evaluations and the number of cases is making it very difficult to stay on top of.
3. Agreement for services. Mr. Zelanko noted that this is a facility that the district would utilize for special placements for students as needed. He noted that Mr. Noel and Mrs. Shaffer toured the facility and felt it was a good option for the district. It is a routine matter to have an agreement in place in the event a student is placed there.

**PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:41 p.m. to 7:25 p.m.)**

1. Staff matters

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2. Student matter

**BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES**

**POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD**

Time: 7:25 p.m.