

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2021**

The Meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Erik Thrower, board president, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Members and others present were: Susan Berardinelli (6:31 p.m.); Jason Corte; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Tina Latoche; Dennis Squillario; Erik Thrower; Eric A. Zelanko, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Pete Noel, Elementary School Principal; Dennis M. McGlynn, Esquire, Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were Matthew Decort, Christian Smith and Pete Noel.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were visitors who wished to speak.

NOTICE TO PERSONNEL

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

SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICIES

004-BOG-7 Oath of Office Certificate
006-BOG-0 Publish, Post and Notify – Board Meetings/Agendas
137.1 Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students
146.1 Trauma-Informed Approach
150 Title 1 - Comparability of Services
218.3 Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault
236-AR-0 Student Assistance Program
236.1-AR-0 Threat Assessment Intake Form
236.1 Threat Assessment
252 Dating Violence
800.1 Electronic Signatures/Records

VI. ROUTINE MATTERS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Reorganization Meeting will be held **Wednesday, December 1, 2021**, 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 Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

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

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REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** noted that at the last meeting, a representative from AmeriCorps held a discussion on how volunteers are utilized in schools and in the area, which was very enlightening.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that the diesel program is up and running and they are looking into re-starting the horticulture program as well.

Superintendent **Mr. Eric A. Zelanko** discussed briefly that the face mask order was overturned but that it could still be appealed. The district will hold steady and wait for final judicial order. He discussed the possibility of a vaccine clinic for 5 to 11 year olds noting that the district does not endorse the vaccine, it is only going to make it available and convenient for parents who wish to have their student vaccinated. In regard to the purchase of a piano, he and Mr. Holyfield have looked into digital grand pianos and they will also take a look at a Steinway grand that is for sale by a private individual. He also would like to explore the possibility of getting a box trailer to haul marching band equipment. The ambulance that was donated to the district will not be an option as it is unsafe to use. CJL Engineers is going to begin their study on air quality in the high school. Work on the stage curtains and sound system began on Monday. In the elementary auditorium, it was discovered that an amplifier was blown out. The sound company will provide an estimate to repair or replace. The administrators met with the curriculum team at the IU to discuss updating the district's planned courses. The update will focus on ELA and math and will be funded by ESSR money. The IU has curriculum specialists to assist with this project. Mr. Zelanko concluded by reporting that the P-EBT cards for high school students are finally coming. He thanked Senator Langerholc and his staff for their help.

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** reported that the high school's Veterans Day program was very nice and he acknowledged the students who spoke as well as the band and chorus for participating. He further thanked the honor guard not only for providing their services during the program but also for their military service. He noted that parent-teacher conferences can be scheduled on line. He noted that in regard to the curriculum update, this will be a several year commitment. He acknowledged the SADD Club and Dr. Randall as their recognized as the SADD Chapter of the Year. He also informed the board that there are new graduation requirements coming up. He noted that they focus on preparing the student for whatever they chose to do after high school and also ensure that a student is blindsided by a graduation requirement at the last minute.

Elementary School Assistant Principal **Mrs. Jennifer Pisarski** reported that Red Ribbon Week was very successful and this year theme was "Drug Free Looks Like Me". She noted that the Halloween parade was livestreamed and garnered a few hundred views. She thanked Mrs. Gentile and Mrs. Moschgat for filming. Students will be enjoying an end of marking period incentive by going to Morrisons' Cove for skating and other activities. Attendance or reserving a time for parent-teacher conferences has been lower than expected.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** reported on the OSHA mandate that was released late Friday afternoon. He stated that at the present time, no one really knows anything about it. On Monday, a 154 page summary was released. However, OSHA mandates have no jurisdiction on municipalities or school districts. It could affect some of our vendors or suppliers which may face challenges that ultimately affect the district. The district will wait and see where this mask debate goes.

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Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** noted that cyber costs are going way up with sharp increases in regular and special education tuition costs skyrocketing. He also reported that all due have been filed and he is working on some grant reports.

Athletic Director **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** reported that he has learned Blacklick Valley will be co-oping with United next year for football, which makes the district's move to the Heritage Conference more relevant. He noted that all fall sports teams had a great season with all going to various levels of playoffs. He mentioned George Kissell going to the state championships and the cross country team placing third in the district, with five students heading to Hershey to states. Football will head into the post season this weekend at home. He acknowledged Lauren Shaffer having declared she will attend Bucknell in the fall and be a member of their track team. It was also acknowledged that the junior high football team went undefeated this season. Mr. Burkett concluded that winter sports will begin on November 19.

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

Motion Hough Second Squillario 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

B.

General Fund Invoices	\$1,119,607.85
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$64,290.96
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$44,415.43
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Total Invoices paid	\$1,228,314.24

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C.	
Mrs. Chappell - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$931.81
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$37,917.98
Mrs. Chappell Portage Township – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$71,479.33
Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current)	\$34,735.47
Total Taxes	\$145,064.59

APPROVING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SERVICES AGREEMENT

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends renewing a Professional Training Services Agreement between the District and UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Twin Lakes to provide specialized behavioral health/substance abuse treatment abuse treatment services for the period 9/1/2021 to 8/31/2022.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

APPROVING REQUEST FOR FMLA

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff members request for a Family and Medical Leave of Absence from December 6 continuing to December 13, 2021. The employee will return to work December 14, 2021.

ADDING A VOLUNTEER COACH

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends adding Siarra Crum as a volunteer rifle coach. Ms. Crum will provide all necessary clearances prior to attending any practices.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Shirley Murray, as a member of the cafeteria staff/lead cook, effective November 10, 2021.

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BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0
(Roll Call Vote)

Request for Approved Travel:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Laura Glass and Lisa Dividock	Attend online training "Practical Strategies to Address the Challenges of Today's School Nurse"	November 15, 2021 9:00 to 4:30 p.m.	\$728.00	Yes
Erin Paul, Christina Franey and Lauren Sinclair	Attend IU8 MTSS Booster Session #3 and #4	January 11, 2022 February 15, 2022	\$0.00	N/A

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Addison Holyfield	Johnstown Halloween Parade*	October 26, 2021	186.24	Yes
Kristy Kargo, Cheer Coach	Attending Cheer Competitions	November 7, 20, 21 and December 11, 2021	\$100.00 (PIAA fee)	Yes
Addison Holyfield	County Chorus at Forest Hills School District	November 23, 2021	No Charge	N/A

*This item was tentatively approved at the October board meeting. The band was invited the day of the board meeting and Mr. Cecere and Mr. Holyfield both explained to the board that they would put in a request to attend to be formally approved at the November meeting.

Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Portage Winterfest	Foul weather venue for kids' activities	Elementary Gym or Auditorium lobby	December 11, 2021 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.	No Charge
Travis Kargo, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach	Faculty v Students Basketball Game	Len Chappell Gymnasium	Date in November (after football season ends)	No Charge
Travis Kargo, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach	Team Overnight Camp	Len Chappell Gymnasium	Friday night/Saturday morning TBD	No Charge
Susan Swank, Girls Basketball Boosters	Art Burkett Tournament	Len Chappell Gymnasium	December 10-11, 2021	No Charge
Portage Wrestling Boosters	Elementary Wrestling Practices	Wrestling Room	November to April Dates and times TBD	No Charge
Portage Wrestling Boosters	Elementary Wrestling Sign Ups	Elementary Gym Lobby	November 15 & 17 5:45 – 7:45 p.m.	No Charge

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MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary