

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 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; 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; Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent was Erik Thrower, Pete Noel and Dennis McGlynn, Esquire.

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, March 9, 2022**, 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 Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

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

REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** reported that the committee dealt with routine matters at their last meeting.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** discussed the new programs being implemented at the vo tech including horticulture, early childhood and the diesel program. The programs are either ready to go or will be for the next school year.

Superintendent **Mr. Eric A. Zelanko** reported that he will defer a report on the football stadium to Mr. Squillario. He stated that he made a recent trip to Harrisburg to meeting with Senator Langerholc, Representative Burns and Senator Ward to discuss recent legislative discussion on education and the Basic Education Funding Formula. He also talked with them about making the process easier for out of state certified educators to obtain a PA certificate. He additionally met with Senator Ward at her office in Blair County to discuss the funding formula as well as her family's trucking business and if they could provide a truck trailer to the vo tech for the diesel program. Mr. Zelanko has turned the ESSR grant application over to the principals for Phase III moneys, which is due March 1.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** reported that scheduling for the up coming school year is in process for the upcoming school year. Students will be competing in the Heritage Conference academic events in March. It is very exciting. He further noted that Portage has been invited to participate at the basketball championship games at the Kovalchik Center at IUP. Portage will be able to award two scholarships.

Elementary School Assistant Principal **Mrs. Jennifer Pisarski** reported to the board that kindergarten registration has been scheduled. Students will participate in Jump Rope for Hearts to raise money for the American Heart Association. Teachers are continuing their work on curriculum. Respective Solutions is going to provide an after school program again. This program is funded by the 21st Century Grant.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** was absent.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** reported that teacher budgets are due on Friday, the Governor has released the proposed budget and it initially looks as if the school could receive a \$91,000 increase in funding and \$77,000 increase in special education funding. Funding is still based on 2019 census numbers. The business office is also working on a five-year plan for custodians with Tony's help and he is also considering doing a 'wish list' for the cafeteria as the Seamless Summer Option has brought in money. He also stated that ESSR II money has been approved in the amount of \$932,000.

Athletic Director **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** reported that the winter sports season is winding down with all teams making playoffs. The varsity basketball teams are currently in first place in the conference and rifle will go to states next week. Spring sports sign ups show about 120 students participating in baseball, softball and track.

Board Member **Mr. Dennis Squillario** provided a report on the state of the grandstands at the football field. He stated that it was his opinion that it is not in that bad of shape, that it looks worse than it may be. Mr. Squillario stated that visually it looks bad and some repairs may need done but for 90 year old concrete it is in relatively good shape. Mr. Squillario further stated that the grandstands were reinforced in 1986. He has asked for alternative ideas for repair and is waiting to see what EADS brings back.

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

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

A. Treasurers' Reports

A. General Fund	Page 2
B. Cafeteria Report	Page 3
C. School Wage Tax Financial Report	Page 4
D. Elementary School Activity Fund	Page 5
E. Junior / Senior High School Activity Fund	Page 6
F. Petty Cash (A – B – C)	Page 7
G. Payroll Financial Report	Page 8
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

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

B.	
General Fund Invoices	\$1,111,189.24
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$48,977.20
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$31,181.62
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Total Invoices paid	\$1,191,348.06

C.	
Mrs. Chappell - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Mrs. Chappell Portage Township – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current)	\$36,000.44
Total Taxes	\$36,000.44

APPROVING PURCHASE OF PIANO

Motion Decort Second Latoche Vote 3-5
 Voting Yes: Decort, Latoche and Hough
 Voting No: Berardinelli, Corte, Jubina, Smith and Squillario
 MOTION FAILED

The Administration requests permission to purchase a digital piano from _____ the amount of \$_____. The models and quotes are listed below:

<u>Grand Piano</u>	
1. Kraft Music	\$16,244.99
2. Sweetwater	\$16,244.99
3. The Piano Guys	\$15,599.99
<u>Upright Piano</u>	
1. Sweetwater	\$12,539.99
2. Kraft Music	\$12,250.00
3. The Piano Guys	\$11,999.00

ENTERING AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0
 (Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends entering into an agreement with Ignite Educational Solutions for school psychologist services. The rates would be \$750 per evaluation and \$450 per re-evaluation or records review plus administrative fees.

ENTERING AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends entering into an agreement with Soaring Heights for services to eligible students on an as needed basis.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

TRANSERRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends transferring Patrick Noel to the position of full-time, permanent reading specialist beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. Salary will be Step 16, with benefits.

HIRING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0-1
Corte Abstaining

The Administration recommends hiring Jennifer Pisarski as the elementary school principal beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. Salary will be \$86,500 with an Act 93 Plan.

HIRING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Beth Eckenrod as a full time, permanent elementary school teacher beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. Salary will be Step 2, with benefits.

HIRING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Emily Novosedliak as a full time, permanent elementary school teacher beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. Salary will be Step 2, with benefits.

HIRING A HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING SUPPORT TEACHER

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____
ITEM DIED FOR LACK OF A MOTION

The Administration recommends hiring _____ as a full time, permanent junior-senior high school learning support teacher beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. Salary will be Step _____, with benefits.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, Zachary Vickroy's letter of resignation as a custodian effective February 10, 2022. The Administration further requests permission to advertise this position.

HIRING A CUSTODIAN

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Sean Kelly as a full-time custodian beginning March 1, 2022. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the custodial union.

HIRING A LEAD COOK

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Deborah Burger as the lead cook in the junior-senior high school. Mrs Burger would receive an extra \$.35 per hour for this position based on the current contract between the district and cafeteria union.

APPROVING REQUEST FOR DAYS OFF WITHOUT PAY

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving the following staff members' requests for days off without pay.

Staff member	March 11, 14, 15 and 16, 2022
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REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration requests permission to advertise the following positions:

Custodian
School Psychologist
Special Education Director
Assistant Elementary School Principal
Part-time Music Teacher (half day)

GRANTING TENURE TO STAFF MEMBERS

Motion Squillario Second Decort Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

The Administration recommends granting tenure to the following staff members:

Christa Miko
Lauren Sinclair

Mary Walls
Makena Baumgardner

ADDING A VOLUNTEER COACHES

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends adding the following volunteer coaches:

Kara Baumgardner	Softball
Abigail Chobany	Track

OPENING COACHING POSITION

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends opening the position of assistant track coach due to Ryan Legg leaving the area. The Administration requests permission to advertise this position.

APPROVING ACTIVITY CLUB AND ADVISOR

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving Sara Erzal as the elementary math competition advisor for the 2021-2022 school year.

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Mary Ann George	Take the 9 th grade students to Admiral Peary Vo Tech	February 25, 2022	\$307.86	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Take two students to Regional Band at West Branch High School	March 11-12, 2022	\$235.00	Yes
Ralph Cecere	Take students to Heritage Academic Competitions	March 14-17 and April 1, 2022	\$425.00	Yes
Brian Randall	Have students compete in Virtual Day at the Capital/Legislative Meetings	May 3, 2022	\$85.00	Yes
Mary Kenny	Take students to the Cambria County Envirothon	May 4, 2022	\$315.00	Yes

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

Brian Randall	Take the Math Team to PSU Altoona Competition	May 10, 2022	\$85.00	Yes
Fourth Grade Teachers	Field trip to Cresson Lake Playhouse	May 12, 2022	No Charge (Paid by PTO)	N/A

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 8-0

Time: 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary