

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023**

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; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; Pete Noel, Superintendent of Schools; Troy Eppley, Director of Special Education; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Jeremy Burkett, Junior Senior High School Principal; Jennifer Pisarski, Elementary School Principal; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were Matt Decort and Tina Latoche.

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.

PUBLIC READING OF PROPOSED POLICIES

- Second Reading – 104 Discrimination Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff
- Second Reading – 105 Curriculum
- Second Reading – 113 Special Education
- Second Reading – 140 Charter Schools
- Second Reading – 140.1 Extracurricular Participation by Charter/Cyber Charter Students
- Second Reading – 142 Migrant Students
- Second Reading – 143 Standards for Persistently Dangerous Schools
- Second Reading – 144 Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes
- Second Reading – 146 Student Services

ROUTINE MATTERS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held **Wednesday, May 10, 2023**, 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 Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

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

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023**

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

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

Personnel Items, Add Line Item to Approve Request for FMLA

REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** noted that on Saturday she attended a gala to celebrate the IU's 50 anniversary at the Casino.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that the state audit revealed a few corrective actions which will be taken care of. The SkillsUSA events will occur next week and NOCTI testing will occur soon.

Superintendent **Mr. Pete Noel** reported that there will be ASTI learning/planning sessions set up with Mrs. Dobrowolsky-Casale. The district could remain in its current plan or be reclassified or it could be exited from ASTI. They are still moving forward to have a plan in place for the fall semester. Utica Insurance will conduct a free appraisal of the buildings and structures for insurance purposes. We have sent back the documents to EADS to correct some language and are waiting for bids possibly in July. Concerning Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) the district is talking with Ignite/Learning Lamp to possibly operate a program. They are also considering adding an additional Highway to Success program which provides the district with options. The recent swatting scam brought real learning opportunities for the staff. Mr. Fatula came in to address the incident and answer staff members questions. He discussed lock downs and gave the staff a much better understanding of what a lock down is and is not allowing everyone to operate on the same page. The district will be making the transition to the Run, Hide, Fight practice for threat incidents. The vo tech will have a senior recognition ceremony on May 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Cambria auditorium. Mr. Noel introduced Troy Eppley and noted that he will be glad to have him here full time. Mr. Eppley is working a few days in the district until May 8 when he is here full time. Mr. Noel will attend the PARSS conference April 27-28. He also discussed with the board the idea of setting up a district Facebook page for community announcements. It would simply be a bulletin board to share information with residents. Comments and sharing would not be allowed. The district will be upgrading cameras in the future for better coverage and quality to cover the front of the buildings at a cost of approximately \$24,000. Mr. Smith replied that if Mr. Clouse wanted to come up to the prison to look at their system, he could.

High School Principal **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** reported on the following happenings in the junior-senior high school. The junior class toured the Cambria County Prison, which was a very good trip. The Let's Talk assembly was well received by the students. Earth Day projects are planned. April 22 will be the spring fling, April 30, the spring music concert, May 12, prom and June 1 is graduation. Class scheduling is in progress with the aim of incorporating another period for the morning. That would give vo tech students one extra period of instruction before leaving. There are 111 students enrolled in vo tech right now so

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023**

this would benefit a significant portion of the student body. The administrators are looking at a 7:45 a.m. start time.

Elementary School Principal **Mrs. Jennifer Pisarski** reported that student council raised \$2,500 for TAP. The PTO provided free t-shirts and socks to all students and they looked great. The students typically wear these items on field trips. Second and fifth grades have upcoming field trips. As of today, there are 49 students registered for kindergarten. The third marking period incentive was the jumpies which were enjoyed by students and staff. Upcoming is the Saltworks assembly and PSSA's. Spring music concert dates are May 16 and May 18 for parents. May 19 will be the elementary carnival.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** addressed the swatting incident a few weeks ago that involved several school districts in our area as well as nationally. He noted that Portage Area handled the situation well. He also noted that he will discuss some student and personnel matters with the board during executive session.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** reported that a steam pipe burst on the gas boiler which will need repaired. These pipes are old and this could be a major repair in the future.

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

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0
(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	\$990,272.79
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$82,731.42
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$72,520.09
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Total Invoices paid	\$1,145,524.30

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023**

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)		\$41,449.88
Total Taxes		\$41,449.88

APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONSORTIUM

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving participation in the IU8 Substitute Teacher Consortium for the 2023-2024 school year. The fee remains at \$500 per district.

APPROVING PURCHASE OF A MATH SERIES

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends purchasing math series curriculum as listed below:

Elementary (2-year expansion)	SAVVAS (Envision Math)	\$38,661.40
Jr/Sr High School (Supplemental curriculum for 3 years)	SpringMath	\$10,705.00

APPROVING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH MOUNT ALOYSIUS COLLEGE

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends approving a Cooperative Agreement with Mount Aloysius College to provide college credit for eligible courses to high school students.

APPROVING IDEA FUNDING DISTRIBUTION, COORDINATED EARLY INTERVENING SERVICES AND NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF LEA POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND USE OF FUNDS

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends approving Funding Distribution, Coordinated Early Intervening Services, and Notice of Adoption of Approved LEA Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds by School District for the 2023-2024 school year.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023**

APPROVING REVISIONS TO THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends approving revisions to the 2022-2023 school calendar to reflect snow days. The last day of school and graduation will be Thursday, June 1, 2023.

GRANTING PERMISSION TO DISCUSS NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENT

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

In accordance with Policy 121 Field Trips, the Administration recommends granting permission to allow Mrs. Bartoletti to provide details, discuss and coordinate arrangements with students concerning a trip to Spain.

ADOPTING POLICIES

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends adopting the following policies:

006.1 Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications
011 Principals for Governance and Leadership

PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTORS

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Mary Kenny and Nicole Hunt as homebound instructors for two students. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities.

HIRING A HEAD JUNIOR HIGH VOLLEYBALL COACH

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends hiring Kayla Fisher as the head junior high volleyball coach beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities. The Administration requests permission to advertise for an assistant junior high volleyball coach.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023**

ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF DUE TO RETIREMENT

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Board moves to accept, with regret, the resignation of Anthony Panick as the supervisor of grounds and maintenance effective December 31, 2023. Mr. Panick requests to be paid for any unused sick and vacation time. The Administration further requests permission to advertise this position.

APPROVING DAYS OFF WITHOUT PAY

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

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

- Staff member request for March 27 through 31, 2023 (five days)
- Staff member request for March 31, and April 3, 2023 (two days)
- Staff member request for April 4, 2023 (one day)
- Staff member request for April 28, 2023 (one day)
- Staff member request for May 5, 2023 (one day)

ADDING VOLUNTEER COACHES

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends adding the following individuals as volunteer coaches. They will provide all clearances prior to attending any practices.

Demetri Miller	Track & Field
Melody Bearer	SADD Club
Jennifer Link	SADD Club

Mr. Squillario asked when Mr. Miller graduated and Mr. Burkett replied two years ago. Mr. Squillario asked about the rule that individuals can't coach until they've been out of school four years. Mr. Burkett replied that he would be used at the junior high level and that the board overruled the rule.

CREATING POSITION

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends creating the position of high school morning announcements advisor/video operations and productions advisor and requests permission to advertise.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023**

APPROVING REQUEST FOR FMLA

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

The Administration recommends approving a staff member's request for a Family and Medical Leave of Absence to care for a family member. The anticipated dates are April 19 to April 29, 2023 with intermittent dates thereafter.

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0
(Roll Call Vote)

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Nicole Hunt, Forensics	Attend the PA High School Speech League State Tournament	March 17-19, 2023	\$195.00	Yes
Dennis Link	Take SADD members to the Chris Herren Motivational Speech at Penn Highlands CC	April 4, 2023	\$105.00	Yes
Second Grade Teachers	Field trip to UPJ and the Humane Society	April 11, 2023	\$0.00 (Paid by PTO)	N/A
Gayle Price, Mary Kenny and Abigail Chobany	Field trip for science students to the Mutter's Museum, Comcast Building, Reading Terminal Market and the Philadelphia Zoo	April 14, 2023	\$0.00 (Paid by Science Club/Students)	N/A
Dennis Link, SADD Club	SADD Club to attend Strike Out Vaping, a tobacco resistance event at PNC Park	April 26, 2023	\$0.00 (Paid by TRU)	N/A
Dennis Link, SADD Club	SADD Club to attend Student Leadership Conference at Purchase Line School District	April 28, 2023	\$105.00	Yes
Kristen Gribbin	Yearbook members incentive to tour PNG Stadium and take pictures of the Curve Classic	April 28, 2023	\$348.76	
Mary Kenny	Take Envirothon students to Disaster's Edge for a competition	May 4, 2023	\$214.18	Yes

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023**

Josh Burkett	Take seniors to Cambria County Courthouse and Prison	May 9, 2023	\$555.80	Yes
Tina Lutz	Take students to a math competition at Penn State Altoona	May 9, 2023	\$105.00	Yes
Dennis Link, SADD Club Advisor	Take SADD club to the Altoona Curve for Education Days	May 10, 2023	\$525.00	Yes
Sixth Grade Teachers	Field trip to Outdoor Odyssey, Boswell, PA for team building activities	May 11, 2023	\$0.00 (Paid by PTO)	N/A
Sixth Grade Teachers	Field Trip to One Book, One Community at Penn Highlands CC	May 17, 2023	\$0.00 (Paid by PTO)	N/A
Sara Erzal	Math 24 Competition	May 19, 2023	\$125.00	Yes
Tara Williams	Take 10 students to Community Arts Center to see their artwork displayed	May 22, 2023	\$210.00	Yes
Kristine Bartoletti	Spanish Club field trip to the Strip District, Pittsburgh	May 23, 2023	\$315.00*	Yes

*Remainder of cost paid by the Spanish Club

Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Portage Community Church	Hold church service	Elementary School Parking Lot	April 9, 2023	No Charge
Mathew Hill for ES Wrestling Program	End of season pizza party	Elementary School Gymnasium and Lobby	April 16, 2023	No Charge

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

Time: 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary