

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 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; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Tina Latoche; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; Todd Dishong, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were Jason Corte and Matthew Decort.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Those who wish to speak should limit their remarks to three but no longer than five minutes.

NOTICE TO PERSONNEL

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

PUBLIC READING OF PROPOSED POLICIES

First Reading – Policy 624 Taxable Fringe Benefits

Policies to be considered for board action are featured on the district website under the Administration tab, Mission Statement and Legal Notices, District Policy.

ROUTINE MATTERS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Reorganization Meeting will be held **Wednesday, December 7, 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 Squillario Second Jubina Vote 6-0

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

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 6-0

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

Personnel, ADD Line Item 7, Increasing Paraprofessional Hourly Rates

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REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** reported that the last meeting consisted of routine matters. There is no November meeting.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** was absent.

Superintendent **Dr. Todd Dishong** reported that he, Mrs. Pisarski, Mr. Clouse and Mr. Decort visited a STEM lab with the aim of adding STEM to the elementary school curriculum. He thanked Mrs. Moschgat for getting out the school brochure to our non-public families to provide a glimpse of what Portage Area has to offer. Bubba Fatula was in the buildings and is going to be writing safety grants for the district. Staff members are working together to building an MTSS framework. Dr. Dishong invited the board to breakfast on November 30, 2022 when the administrators will serve the staff.

Director of Special Education **Pete Noel** reported that the district's gift plan is posted for public review on the website. He is working with Ignite on AEDY services and for compliance. Act 91 allows paraprofessionals to serve as substitute teachers if they meet certain criteria, which our subs are eligible. He's been attending a lot of meetings on Act 16 which is expenses for identified students as well as preparing for early intervention and transition meetings.

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** noted that the Veterans Day program will be held November 10 and invited all to attend. He further noted that he is not satisfied with the high school's PVAAS and while there were some bright spots, overall it is clear to see areas where there is room for improvement. He admitted that there are many new teachers who do not have the experience yet. He also noted that student attendance is a factor in the score and that point it being stressed to families. Mr. Cecere advised the board that they are getting a great leader in Mr. Burkett and he is very confident turning over the reigns to him this month. He noted it's been a pleasure working in the district and his last day will be November 25. He thanked the district for the growth they provided him and his family and will be forever in debt to PASD.

Elementary School Principal **Mrs. Jennifer Pisarski** reported that the elementary school just observed Red Ribbon Week and had a great time at the Halloween Parade which was not live streamed but was held outdoors under sunny skies. The students had a fantastic PTO fundraiser, one of the highest grossing ones, and were treated to a magic show. On November 17, Jen and Mrs. Smith will be turned into human sundaes. Parent/teacher conferences are being scheduled and curriculum mapping work is continuing. She and Mrs. Smith have been doing walk throughs into classrooms and the learning going on is excellent. The Strengthening Families program is going very well and the families are really taking a lot away from it. She added that the elementary school PVAAS score was really good. She is happy with attendance numbers which are a factor in the score.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** had nothing to add to the agenda. He wished Mr. Cecere the best at Homer Center.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** reported that Wessel will be at the December meeting to go over the local audit. The audit went well as he and Mr. Zelanko had anticipated. He has filed various reports. Mr. Vasilko noted that Line Item 11 on the regular agenda is necessary because of the enactive

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of Act 57. An individual who purchases a home would not be liable for late payment fees prior to their closing. Mr. McGlynn added that most times it takes a full year for the tax cycle to catch up with real estate sales.

Athletic Director **Mr. Jeremy Burkett**

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

Motion Squillario Second Jubina 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	\$1,010,191.15
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$73,010.18
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$38,761.67
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Total Invoices paid	\$1,121,963.00

C.

Mrs. Chappell - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$400.41
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$32,820.20
Mrs. Chappell Portage Township – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$9,146.65
Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current)	\$36,362.15
Total Taxes	\$78,729.41

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APPROVING PURCHASE OF SCHOOL VEHICLE

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

The administration recommends purchasing a 2009 Chevy Van from the Department of General Services in the amount of \$5,750, plus transfer fees.

APPROVING BOARD AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 6-0

The administration recommends approving the Board Affirmation Statement that they reviewed and approved the district's Comprehensive Plan.

APPROVING RENEWAL OF LETTER OF AGENCY AND CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR E-RATE

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 6-0

The administration recommends approving a Letter of Agency and Contract Renewal with Educational Funding Group, Inc. to act as its Agents with the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company regarding all matters involving E-Rate applications. This agreement covers the following school years: 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

APPROVING AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH PITT-JOHNSTOWN

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 6-0

The administration recommends approving an Affiliation Agreement for Field Practica, Pre-Clinical and Student Teaching with the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. This agreement will be in effect until June 30, 2027.

APPROVING REVISIONS TO DISTRICT POLICY

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 6-0

The administration recommends approving revisions to Policy 827 Conflict of Interest.

ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO 2022-1

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 6-0

The administration recommends adopting a Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Additional Charges for the Late Payment of Real Estate Taxes in Certain Circumstances to Comply with Act 57 of 2022.

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PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING AN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

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

The administration recommends hiring Kelly Mignogna as an assistant junior-senior high school principal. Salary will be \$62,000, with an Act 93 plan.

REASSIGNMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS

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

The administration recommends the following reassignments:

Krystal Smith as the junior senior high school assistant principal
Kelly Mignogna as the elementary school assistant principal

HIRING SADD CLUB ADVISOR

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

The administration recommends hiring Dennis J. Link as the SADD Club Advisor. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA.

HIRING A MATHEMATICS COMPETITION ADVISOR

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

The administration recommends hiring Tina M. Lutz as the mathematics competition advisor. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities.

HIRING HIGH SCHOOL READING COMPETITION ADVISOR

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

The administration recommends hiring Makena Baumgardner as the high school reading competition advisor. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities.

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HIRING A VARSITY SOFTBALL HEAD COACH

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

The administration recommends hiring Makena Baumgardner as the varsity girls' softball head coach. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA.

ADJUSTING PARAPROFESSIONAL SALARIES

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

The administration recommends increasing paraprofessional aids directly employed by the district as discussed. The average increase will be \$1.56 per hour.

ADDING VOLUNTEER COACH

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends adding Koby Kargo as a volunteer coach for boys' basketball. Mr. Kargo's current clearances are on file.

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

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

Request for Approved Travel:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Kathleen Bodenschatz	Take students to a reading competition at Bellwood Antis Schools	November 15, 2022	\$435.00	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Take students to participate at Cambria County Band at Forest Hill School District	December 1-2, 2022	\$757.00	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Take students to play at the Ebensburg Christmas Parade	December 3, 2022	\$163.38	Yes

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Addison Holyfield	Participants (3) and volunteers (6) for PMEA District Chorus (held in the district)*	January 11-13, 2022	\$225.00 (Registration for participants)	Yes
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*Volunteers will help Mr. Holyfield in set up, management of the event, and tear down.

Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Elementary Title 1 Teachers	Fall Family Reading Night	Classrooms, outside and various spaces	November 15, 2022 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	No Charge

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 6-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 6-0

Time: 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary