

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

The meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Kathy Hough, board vice president, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Members and others present were: 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; Pete Noel, Elementary School Principal; Dennis M. McGlynn, Esquire, Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were Matthew Decort and Jeff Vasilko. Absent were Susan Berardinelli and Erik Thrower.

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.

FIRST 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
805.2 School Security Personnel
810.3 School Vehicle Drivers
816 District Social Media
916 Volunteers

Mr. Zelanko noted that the majority of these new policies involve the creation of a Threat Assessment Team, which is a new state mandate.

ROUTINE MATTERS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held **Wednesday, November 10, 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 Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

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

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** reported that the last meeting consisted of routine matters.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that several new hires were approved at the last meeting and that he will not be able to attend the next meeting.

Superintendent **Mr. Eric A. Zelanko** reported on the voluntary testing program saying that it was off to a rocky start and not yet ready for full implementation. The sampling conducted will not be tested as it was a trial run. The district will also have access to rapid testing soon which will render a result in about 10 minutes. He also reported that the district held a vaccine clinic on Friday for those who wished to receive and were eligible for the Pfizer booster shot. He noted that this will most likely become required for employers with over 100 employees in the near future. He also noted that he has sent correspondence to the DOH and the PDE asking that they approve medical exemptions if they would be required. He elaborated that at the present the high state courts have ruled that there is no religious exemptions for getting the vaccines.

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** reported that the junior class fundraiser was a great success in that about \$1,600 was raised for cancer which is memory of a Westmont high school student who recently lost her battle with the disease. The SADD Club is working with the county drug and alcohol agency to promote healthy lifestyle choices. The student council sponsored a pink out for cancer with money raised going to the Joyce Murtha Breast Cancer Center. The tech ed department has been putting a lot of new machines to good use. They are learning graphic design with the new technology. Mr. Cecere also commended Mr. Holyfield for a great job since coming on as band director and noted that the marching band has been invited to march at the Johnstown Halloween Parade and he asked that board to approve them doing so.

Elementary School Principal **Mr. Pete Noel** reported that the recent fire alarm in the elementary school was the result of a faulty sensor and has been replaced. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Shuniak for organizing an assembly on fire prevention. Mr. Noel also reported that field trips are resuming in the elementary school. Red Ribbon week is upcoming with events happening every day to reinforce a drug free lifestyle. The Halloween Parade will be October 29. If the weather is not cooperating, it will be held inside the gym. Either way, it will be livestreamed on the district's YouTube channel. Mr. Noel also noted that in the event students will need to be quarantined, AmeriCorps workers will assist in classrooms for those students.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** noted that this has been a busy month for him and the administrators in terms of families and children who are at risk and that the compassion and caring of the staff is incredible.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** reported that the local auditors will be at the December meeting to present the audit report. He added that everything seemed to be fine and the district should have a clean report. He will be filing the AFR and various other reports. He also noted that with the extra ESSR money, he will have the sound checked out in the elementary auditorium.

Athletic Director **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** reported that we are mid-way through fall sports and that he is excited to announce the George Kissell will be moving on to the state golf championships in York. He wishes him well and the entire district is proud of him.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

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

Motion Decort 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	\$1,076,168.60
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$82,885.18
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$63,947.48
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Total Invoices paid	\$1,223,001.26

C.

Mrs. Chappell - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$12,377.53
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Mrs. Chappell Portage Township – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$560.84
Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current)	\$28,589.49
Total Taxes	\$41,527.86

APPROVING INCREASED RATE FOR VARSITY BASKETBALL OFFICIALS

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

The Administration requests permission to increase the rate for varsity basketball officials to \$65.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

APPROVING RENEWAL OF PSBA POLICY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving the PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

APPROVING PSBA POLICY REVIEW

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

The Administration recommends having PSBA conduct a policy review and update at a cost of \$6,800. This is a separate service from the Policy Maintenance Program.

APPROVING JOINT AGREEMENT TO CREATE JOINT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

The Board moves to approve a Joint Agreement with Portage Borough and Portage Township for the creation and continuation of the Portage Area Joint Parks and Recreation Commission and Providing for the Acquisition, Development and Operation of Regional Parks and Recreation Areas, Facilities. The District will appoint one member for term to expire December 31, 2023. The district further agrees to designate the Joint Commission as a "Tier 2" user of facilities, subject to the approval of the board of school directors. The district agrees to financially support the Joint Commission as funding permits.

ADOPTING RESOLUTION OF FINANCIAL SUPORT FOR THE JOINT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

The Board moves to adopt a Resolution of Financial Support for the Portage Area Joint Parks & Recreation Commission. The district supports the formation of the partnership and will contribute as funding permits.

APPROVING ADDENDUM #4 TO PRESSLEY RIDGE AGREEMENT

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving Addendum #4 to the Contractual Agreement with Pressley Ridge Johnstown for the 2021-2022 school year. The semester rate per student is \$15,000. Extended school year rate will be \$125 per day.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving a Memorandum of Agreement with Children's Behavioral Health, LLC for the 2021-2022 school year to provide behavioral health and rehabilitative services and partial hospitalization services for participating students. The daily rate is \$80 for the educational component.

APPROVING PROPOSAL FROM CJL ENGINEERING

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving the Proposal from CJL Engineering to assess and review existing infrastructure related to mechanical ventilation in the high school gymnasium and well center. The cost of this proposal is \$2,000.

REPLACING SIGNATORY ON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FUND

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends removing Julia Borlie as signatory on the elementary school activities fund account and replacing her with Elizabeth Sturtz.

APPROVING REVISIONS TO DISTRICT POLICIES

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving revisions to the following district policies:

- 006 – Meetings
- 103 Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
- 218.1 Weapons
- 218.2 Terroristic Threats
- 247 Hazing
- 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying
- 805 Emergency Preparedness and Response
- 810.1 School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers
- 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings

Prior to the final vote, an unknown member of the public asked what the policy revisions were specifically those changes made to Policy 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings. The board replied that the revisions are suggested by the PA School Board Association and are highlighted in bold on the policy. The unknown attendee asked what those revisions were. Mr. Cecere looked through his policies but did not have the policy in question. Mr. Zelanko noted that most of the policy changed were due to the state mandate for the creation of a threat assessment team. Also that the policies will be made public once they are finalized and reviewed by PSBA.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

APPROVING SICK LEAVE BANK MOU

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the PAEA concerning the voluntary contribution of sick days to a sick leave bank.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING A CHORUS PIANIST

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

The Administration recommends hiring Don Stoner as the chorus pianist beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, where he will attend rehearsals and concerts. Salary will be \$1,268 based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities. Mr. Stoner will provide all necessary documents and clearances prior to attending rehearsals.

HIRING ASSISTANT MARCHING BAND DIRECTOR/DRUM LINE ADVISOR

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

The Administration recommends hiring Timothy S. George as the assistant marching band director/drum line advisor beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Salary will be \$1,268 based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities. Mr. George's clearances are on file in the administration office. He will also provide any additional required documents.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, Morgan Long's letter of resignation as the elementary ski club adviser. Does the board wish to advertise this position?

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, Kristen Gribbin's letter of resignation as the high school ski club adviser. Does the board wish to advertise this position?

REQUEST FOR DAYS OFF WITHOUT PAY

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff member's request for February 16, 17 and 18, 2022 as days off without pay.

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

REQUEST FOR FMLA

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff member's request for a Family and Medical Leave of Absence beginning November 2, 2021 and extending for a period of four to six weeks. The staff member will provide medical documents.

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

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

Request for Approved Travel:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Erin Paul and Christina Franey	IU8 MTSS Training	October 22, 2021 8:30 am – 2:30 pm	\$0.00	N/A
Lisa Dividock, Ashley Shaffer, Mary Ann George and Jen Pisarski	SAP Networking Day	October 21, 2021 7:15 am – 3:30 pm	\$178.20	Y

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
First Grade Teachers	Jaffa Shrine Circus	October 14, 2021	\$0.00 (Paid by PTO)	N/A
Addison Holyfield	Take 15 students to County Band Auditions Richland HS	October 27, 2021 (evening)	\$93.12	Yes
Mary Kenny	Take 45 students to HealthQuest at Mount Aloysius College	October 28, 2021 8:00 am – 2:38 pm	\$273.68	Yes
Brian Randall	Take 11 students to Youth Summit at Greater Johnstown CTC	October 28, 2021 7:30 am – 3:00 pm	\$170.00 (substitutes)	Yes
Brian Randall	Take 9 students to the SADD Conference at Seven Springs	November 1, 2021 7:00 am – 3:00 pm	\$485.00 (\$400 could be covered by grant)	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Four students participate in virtual district chorus auditions	October 8 and October 15, 2021 (submitted virtually)	\$28.00	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Six students to participate in virtual district band auditions	November 12-19, 2021 (submitted virtually)	\$42.00	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Eight students to participate in virtual jazz band auditions	December 3-10, 2021 (submitted virtually)	\$56.00	Yes
Addison Holyfield	Take eligible students to County Band at Westmont High School	December 2-3, 2021	\$356.24	Yes
Mary Kenny	Take students to the PA Farm Show in Harrisburg	January 12, 2022	\$671.40	Yes
Kindergarten Teachers	Field trip to Vale Wood Farms, Loretto	May 9, 2022	\$0.00 (Paid by PTO)	N/A

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

Jennifer Thomas, PTO	Field trip/fundraising incentive to Urban Air, Altoona	October 27, 2022	\$0.00 (Paid by PTO/Cherrydale)	N/A
Brittany Brewer	Take the Autistic Support students on a field trip to Vale Wood Farms	May 16, 2022 10:00 am – 1:45 pm	\$0.00 (Paid by PTO)	N/A
Jennifer Pisarski	Zero Demerit Incentives for Grades 3-6	At the end of each marking period	\$0.00 (Paid by Zero Demerit Committee)	N/A

Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Denise Moschgat, Drama Adviser	Rehearsals	HS Auditorium	Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. 11:00 – 2:00 p.m.	No Charge
Denise Moschgat, Drama Adviser	Play Production	HS Auditorium	December 8-9, 2021 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.	No Charge
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Student meetings	HS Auditorium	Fridays October – May 7:30 – 8:00 am	No Charge
Elaine Plouse	3 rd & 4 th grade practice for girls elementary basketball	Elementary Gymnasium	Dates and times as in request and arranged with Athletic Office	No Charge
Vivian Herman, Junior Class Adviser	Halloween/Fall Dance Fundraiser	Elementary Gymnasium	October 30, 2021 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	No Charge
Michael Nagy	3 rd & 4 th grade practice for boys elementary basketball	Elementary Gymnasium	Dates and times as in request and arranged with Athletic Office	No Charge

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Decort Second Squillario Vote 7-0

Time: _____