

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2022 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Committee of the Whole 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; Dennis Squillario; Dr. Todd Dishong, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were John Jubina, Tina Latoche, Christian Smith and Jeff Vasilko.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Bella Single, Senior Class President, addressed the board concerning the matter of hosting a Homecoming Dance on Saturday, September 24, 2022 at the Cassandra Fire Hall. Ms. Single provided the board a cost sheet showing that enough money was raised to cover the cost of the dance. Ticket prices will range between \$5 to \$10. Mr. Cecere thanked Ms. Single for the fine presentation and added that they are in favor of a dance and asked that the students consider making it a less formal affair so that all students would be able to participate. The board will consider this request during the regular meeting.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Band trip – Mrs. Hough provided Mr. Holyfield's update on the band trip as he was holding a rehearsal for the Summerfest parade performance. Due to participant minimum requirements, the band is not eligible to march at Disney World so they have applied and accepted at Universal Studios. The dates of the trip have not changed. If any board members has questions, they can contact Mr. Holyfield.

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. The board reviewed the additions to the regular agenda.
2. Bond Amounts. This is a routine matter that the board will consider during the regular meeting.
3. Cambria County Drug and Alcohol Agreement. This is an annual agreement to work with the county agency through our SAP team to provide liaisons and assessment as needed.
4. Community Action Partnership of Cambria County Agreement. This is a routine matter and the board will consider it during the regular meeting.
5. Bus drivers and vehicles and routes for the 2022-2023 school year. The board was provided the drivers and vehicles list as well as the routes for the 2022-2023 school year with the advance agenda. These items will be considered during the regular meeting.
6. Student handbooks. The board will consider approval of student handbooks at the regular meeting.
7. Ignite Education Solutions Staff Agreement including day to day subs and sub rate. Dr. Dishong discussed with the board the current situation concerning the district's difficulties obtaining substitute teachers. He provided the board with fill rates for subs noting that nearly every day, we are unable to get enough subs to cover classrooms. He also provided the board with a break down of what other districts are paying

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substitute teachers, noting that the district has one of the lowest daily rates. He asked the board to consider the line item on the regular agenda increasing the daily sub rate so that the district would be more competitive with other districts and hopefully increase it's daily fill rates for substitutes.

8. Purchase a box trailer. Dr. Dishong discussed with the board the need to have something to haul band equipment to events. The band has been growing and the equipment barely fits in the truck and the truck is also scheduled for necessary repairs and could be out of commission for a period of time. The box trailer would be useful for other needs in the district as well. Dr. Dishong noted that the quote for a new trailer was approximately \$4,200. The board will consider this item during the regular meeting.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 6:43 p.m. to 7:13 p.m.)

1. Personnel matters as listed on the regular agenda.

BOARD AGENDA REQUEST/USE OF FACILITIES

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 7:13 p.m.