

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 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 (7:03 p.m.); Jason Corte; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Christian Smith; 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 Tina Latoche, Matt Decort and Pete Noel.

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, October 12, 2022**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the elementary school auditorium, 84 Mountain Avenue, Portage, PA with the Regular Meeting immediately following.

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 Matters, Line Item 1, add salary language
Personnel Matters, Line Item 5, Student Council Volunteer
Use of Facilities, Add Request for use of elementary gymnasium

REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** reported that the meeting was quick concerning routine business. Dr. Butler was at the meeting.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that the engineering teacher has resigned. He further mentioned that he will be unable to make the meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Mrs. Hough is alternate and will check her calendar to see if she is available.

Superintendent **Dr. Todd Dishong** noted that it's been a great beginning to the school year and thanked the teachers for their work in preparation and planning, which is hard work. He noted that the administrators and other have been working on the vision and mission statement and using survey

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responses, he presented the board with these statements. He is working with Mrs. Stivers and Mr. Clouse to do a website refresh and he thanked them for all their help. Dr. Dishong also presented a draft of the district brochure which will promote the district as the “school of choice” in the area. This pamphlet will be a tool for the district to present to family of cyber/charter school children and others to show why Portage Area is the best school for them. Dr. Dishong also noted that the administration is working on the next in-service program to provide the best training and inspiration for the staff. The staff is continuing with Diane Coulter’s 10-minute take-aways from the opening day in-services. Dr. Dishong concluded by thanking everyone for all the work they do for the benefit of the students.

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** noted that it’s been a great start to the school year and is happy to report that there is positive energy and focus on education among the staff. Focus is on student growth, engagement and success. Students are excited to learn. Mr. Cecere noted that he appreciates the leadership. He’s been checking in with the new teachers and staff and is impressed with their work. He noted that Jessica Gutshall, the new high school secretary, has hit the ground running and has solid skills. Mr. Cecere also recognized Ethan Geer on his Eagle Scout project of refurbishing the benches at the park. Mrs. Hough replied that they looked really nice. He also noted that he’s met the new policy chief who is eager to be a part of the community and the school district.

Elementary School Principal **Mrs. Jennifer Pisarski** noted that this has been the best start of school in years. She thanked Dr. Dishong and added that everyone seemed to have a different mindset. The meet the teacher evening was well attended. Devices have been distributed to grades three through five with sixth grade getting theirs on Thursday. Mrs. Pisarski also reported that the district has to order more devices to accommodate the larger size kindergarten class. He stated that 10 minute take-aways are very good. Assessment tests are ongoing at the elementary school.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** reported that everything is going well and that he’s had regular conversations with Dr. Dishong, Mr. Vasilko and Mrs. Moschgat.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** reported that the auditors are currently here and will spend about two weeks in the district performing the audit, which is going well. He has the regular reports to file and is looking at ESSR III revisions.

Athletic Director **Mr. Jeremy Burkett** reported that we are one-third of the way through the fall season and there are a few bugs to be worked out with the new livestreaming service. The trailers are at the stadium and are working out as a temporary fix. Mr. Burkett wanted to recognize Sue Berardinelli, Teo, Sherri Nolan, Ryan Scoran and Siarra Crum for stepping in to perform the duties of athletic trainer.

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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	\$1,923,817.45
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$46,382.77
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$22,335.80
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$1,563.23
Total Invoices paid	\$1,994,199.25

C.

Mrs. Chappell - Cassandra Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$1,786.65
Mr. Layo - Portage Boro – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$228,611.36
Mrs. Chappell Portage Township – Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$208,286.12
Berkheimer Tax Administrators PASD – EIT (Current)	\$80,782.69
Total Taxes	\$519,466.82

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APPROVING REVISIONS TO DISTRICT POLICIES

DIED FOR A LACK OF A MOTION

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____

The administration recommends approving revisions as provided by the PA School Board Association for the following policies:

- 218 Student Discipline
- 220 Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials
- 227 Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
- 236 Threat Assessment
- 237 Electronic Devices
- 626 Procurement Procedure Attachment
- 805 Emergency Preparedness and Response
- 808 Food Services
- 913 Non-school Organizations/Groups Individuals

APPROVING SCHOOL-TO-WORK TRANSITION PROGRAM WITH CAMBRIA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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

The administration recommends approving a School-to-Work Transition Program with the Cambria County Association for the Blind and Handicapped to provide vocational services to eligible students. The fee for the 2022-2023 school year would be \$65 per student enrolled in the program.

APPROVING ESL ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

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

The administration recommends approving an Articles of Agreement with Appalachia IU8 ESL Consortium wherein the IU will provide services related to English as a Second Language programs and compliance.

APPROVING PURCHASE OF A BOX TRAILER

DIED FOR A LACK OF A MOTION

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____
(Roll Call Vote)

The administration purchasing a box trailer for use in the district for marching band events as well as other uses in the district. The cost of the trailer will not exceed \$6,000 and would come from the general fund.

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APPROVING SUBSTITUTE TEACHER AGREEMENT WITH IGNITE EDUCATION SOLUTIONS

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

The administration recommends approving an agreement with Ignite Education Solutions to provide substitute teachers for the district for the 2022-2023 school year.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

HIRING MENTOR TEACHERS

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

The administration recommends hiring the following mentor teachers:

Tina Lutz for Jade Zatek
Annette Lutz for Cara Harbaugh
Heidi Washko for Carrie Garlesky
Michelle Coukart for Hannah LaBar

Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA.

HIRING AN ASSISTANT FOOTBALL COACH

Motion Squillario Second Jubina Vote 5-1
Voting Yes: Corte, Jubina, Berardinelli, Smith and Hough
Voting No: Squillario

The administration recommends hiring Ryan Scoran as an assistant football coach. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA for extra-curricular activities. Mr. Scoran has updated clearances on file.

HIRING A DRIVER

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

The administration recommends hiring Tom McConnell as a driver for the autistic support classroom. His rate will be \$10 per hour.

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HIRING SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIANS

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The administration recommends adding the following individuals as substitute custodians:

Brianna Remick (clearances pending)
Travis Moschgat (clearances pending)

ADDING AN ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL VOLUNTEER

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Board moves to add elementary school student council volunteer aide.

ADDING VOLUNTEER COACHES

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Athletic Director recommends adding the following volunteer coaches:

Robert Lutz	Rifle
Kerin Stefanko	Band Front

APPROVING REQUESTS FOR DAYS OFF WITHOUT PAY

Motion Corte Second Jubina Vote 5-1

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

Staff Member	October 6-7, 2022
Staff Member	October 6-7, 2022

APPROVING REQUEST FOR FMLA

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends approving a Family and Medical Leave of Absence for a staff member from October 4, 2022 to January 4, 2023.

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ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 6-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of MaKena Baumgardner as the varsity assistant girls' basketball coach. The Administration further requests permission to advertise this position.

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

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

Request for Approved Travel:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Hannah Shaffer	Attend Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training	October 12-13, 2022	82.50	Yes

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Brian Randall	Take 8 th grade students to Fort Necessity National Battlefield	October 13, 2022	\$566.77	Yes
Kristine Bartoletti	Take approximately 7 students to the Interact District Conference	October 13, 2022	\$105.00 (Substitute)	Yes
Jennifer Szpala	Take students to Hiram G. Andrews 2022 Career & Transition Fair	October 20, 2022	\$0.00	N/A
Addison Holyfield	Take the band to march in the Halloween Parade in Johnstown	October 25, 2022	\$106.72	Yes
Vivian Herman	Take 11 students to the Youth Professional Development Conference at UPJ	October 27, 2022	\$319.80	Yes
Brian Randall	Take 8 students to the SADD Club Conference	November 14, 2022	\$485*	Yes
Kindergarten Teachers	Field trip to Vale Wood Farms, Loretto	May 8, 2023	\$0.00	Paid by PTO
Grade Three Teachers	Field Trip to Everett Railroad	May 17, 2023	\$0.00	Paid by PTO
Grade 3-6 Discipline Committee	Hold four good behavior incentives at the end of each marking period	End of each marking period	\$0.00	Discipline Committee

*Seeking a grant from CCDC for this trip.

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Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Varsity Cheerleading Boosters	Junior Cheer Camp	Elementary Gymnasium	September 6 & 8 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	No Charge
Varsity Cheerleading Boosters	Powder Puff Game	Football Stadium	September 28, 2022 5:45 – 10:00 p.m.	No Charge
Sara Richardson	K-2 Basketball practices	Elementary Gymnasium	Mondays September-October 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	No Charge
Denise Moschgat, Drama Club Adviser	Play Rehearsals	Jr/Sr HS Auditorium	Tues and Thursday September-November 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	No Charge
Denise Moschgat, Drama Club Adviser	Winter Production	Jr/Sr HS Auditorium	November 17-18* 5:00 p.m. - ?	No Charge
Joe Stankovich	Grade 3 & 4 Boys Basketball Practice	Elementary School Gymnasium	Sept-Dec. 2022	No Charge

*Will adjust dates for football playoffs if necessary.

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: 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary