

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

The regular 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: Susan Berardinelli; Jason Corte; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Tina Latoche; Dennis Squillario; Erik Thrower; Eric A. Zelanko, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Pete Noel, Elementary School Principal; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Dennis M. McGlynn, Esquire, Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent was Matthew Decort and Christian Smith.

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 next Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 12, 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 Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving the March meeting minutes.

REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** reported that the meeting consisted of mostly routine matters and they received notification that there was a grant available to extend the STEM program.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that the vo tech is continue to deal with COVID issues and had shut down several days due to cases. The roof project is being completed and the diesel program is getting underway. The adult program is also offering several classes.

Superintendent **Mr. Eric A. Zelanko** introduced Olivia Kudlawiec, the district's new special education coordinator and school psychologist. He thanked the staff for their continued worked during these difficult times as well as the school board for giving the admin and staff the green to make it all happen.

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** advised the board that the Casino can accommodate our prom and social distancing guidelines. He added that the situation could change but they are doing their best to hold the prom. He reported that there were five seniors who were in danger of not graduating and he

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has spoken to these students and have plans in place for their success/graduation through credit recovery. He also noted that he will not be at this year's graduation as his youngest daughter also graduates he will be attending her commencement. Mr. Cecere concluded that he will soon be sending out an end of year event schedule.

Elementary School Principal **Mr. Pete Noel** reported that the good behavior incentives worked out very well. He also thanked Irene Huschak for the hard work she put in to provide many pool passes for the students for the summer. This month was Child Abuse Awareness month and he thanked the student counsel, Mrs. Civis and Mrs. Williams and the art club for their work in the pinwheel project in recognition of it. He also advised that next week, PSSA tests will be administered. It is week two of the Covid Compensatory Services which will go until May 12.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** greeted the board noting that it is always a pleasure to be at the meetings. Mr. McGlynn had nothing to add to the agenda.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** had nothing to add to the agenda.

Athletic Director **Jeremy Burkett** noted that the boys and girls basketball teams both made it to the playoffs and both lost to private school. He reported that spring sports are being live streamed. He is looking into a co-op for competition cheer and also wrestling and will have more information at the next meeting.

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

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

A. Treasurers' Reports

A. General Fund	Page 2
B. Cafeteria Report	Page 3
C. School Wage Tax Financial Report	Page 4
D. Elementary School Activity Fund	Page 5
E. Junior / Senior High School Activity Fund	Page 6
F. Petty Cash (A – B – C)	Page 7
G. Payroll Financial Report	Page 8
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	\$1,352,506.84
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$67,788.92
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$97,658.53
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Total Invoices paid	\$1,517,954.29

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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)	\$36,114.82
Total Taxes	\$36,114.82

PURCHASING APPLIANCES FOR FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE CLASSROOM

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

The Administration requests permission to purchase through the CoStars program appliances for the family and consumer science classroom in the amount of \$9,764.

APPROVING REPAIRS TO BOILERS

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

The Administration recommends approving repairs to have a complete retube of both natural gas boilers in the amount of \$86,420.

APPROVING PURCHASE OF DISTRICT VEHICLE

Motion Hough Second Berardinelli Vote 6-1
VOTING YES: Hough, Berardinelli, Corte, Jubina, Latoche, Thrower
VOTING NO: Squillario

The Administration requests permission to purchase a 2022 Chevrolet Suburban from Bob Fisher Chevrolet in the amount of \$45,000. This would be a CoStars purchase. *Mr. Squillario questioned the need for a four-wheel drive vehicle when school activities are to be canceled when there is bad weather. Mr. Corte asked how the vehicle would be used. Mr. Zelanko replied that the wrestlers and the cheerleaders use a school vehicle for events and a four-wheel drive vehicle would be better suited for winter months. He also noted that some of students attend vo tech and are transported currently in a school van or the driver's ed car. Adding another four-wheel drive to the fleet would benefit the district in insuring that in instances where the weather turns bad suddenly or unexpectedly, the students would be safer. Mr. Thrower noted that this purchase would benefit student safety.*

APPROVING PURCHASE OF GARMENT PRINTER

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

The Administration requests permission to purchase a Roland BT-12 Direct to Garment Printer from Allegheny Educational Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$3,829.66. This would be a CoStars purchase.

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APPROVING PURCHASE OF CNC PLASMA CUTTER

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

The Administration requests permission to purchase a Maker-Fab Series 48" x 48" CNC Plasma Cutter from Allegheny Educational Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$23,749.05. This would be a CoStars purchase.

APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE IU8 SUBSTITUTE TEACHER PROGRAM

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

The Administration recommends renewing its agreement with Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 Substitute Teacher Program for the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of \$500. This program helps the district find day to day substitute teachers.

APPROVING GASB 75 VALUATION

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

The Administration recommends approving the Services & Fee Estimate from The Retirement Advantage, Inc. to approve a GASB 75 valuation for the fiscal years ending 6/30/2022 and 6/30/2023. The cost of this service is \$3,750.

APPROVING THE 2021-2022 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving the 2021-2022 school year calendar.

APPROVING RENEWAL FOR LONG-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends renewing its Long-Term Disability Insurance with Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. effective April 1, 2021. There is no rate adjustment for the policy period which ends April 1, 2023.

APPROVING SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving a summer learning opportunity for students who may have suffered a learning loss as a result of the different learning models used by the district as part of the Health and Safety plan during the 2020-2021 school year. This would be a six-week program and the cost of the program would be paid through the ESSER grant. The district further requests permission to advertise within the district for staff for this program.

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ADOPTING CHARTER SCHOOL LEGISLATION REFORM RESOLUTION

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Board moves to adopt a Resolution Calling for Charter School Legislation Reform by the Board of Directors of the Bedford County, Blair County, Cambria County and Somerset County School Districts.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

ADDING TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS

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

The Administration recommends adding the following individuals to the substitute lists:

Emily Novosedliak

Substitute Teacher

HIRING COVID-19 COMPENSATORY TEACHERS

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

The Administration recommends hiring the following staff members as Covid-19 Compensatory teachers to conduct small group teaching of identified students to address reading and math skill deficit areas. These classes will be held Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. April 6 to May 12, 2021. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA.

Tobi Burkett
Sara Richardson

Kaitlin Cawley
Morgan Cronauer

HIRING CROSS-COUNTRY COACHES

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

The Administration requests permission to create and advertise for paid cross-country track coaches for the 2021-2022 school year. The salary for the junior high/varsity head coach would be \$2,864 and for the assistant junior high/varsity coach \$2,000.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION DUE TO RETIREMENT

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Michelle Seder as an elementary school teacher due to retirement effective the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The district further requests permission to advertise this position.

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ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Allison Torchia effective June 4, 2021. The district further requests permission to advertise this position.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Becky Chobany as the junior high assistant girls basketball coach effective the end of the 2020-2021 season. The district further requests permission to advertise this position.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION DUE TO RETIREMENT

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Julia Borlie as an elementary school secretary due to retirement effective June 30, 2021. The district further requests permission to advertise this position.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION DUE TO RETIREMENT

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Greta Thomas as a paraprofessional effective the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The district requests permission to advertise this position.

ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Michelle Moratti as a custodian effective Friday, April 23, 2021.

REQUEST FOR DAYS OFF WITHOUT PAY

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff member's request for April 18 through 23, 2021 as days off without pay.

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BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

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

Request for Approved Field Trip:

Requester	Destination	Date(s)	Approximate Cost	Budgeted Y/N
Sara Erzal	Math 24 Tournament Lakemont Park, Altoona	May 12, 2021 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	\$185	Yes
Annette Lutz, Good Behavior Incentive	Richland Cinemas	May 25, 2021 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	\$0.00 (Discipline Committee Fund)	N/A
Annette Lutz, Good Behavior Incentive	Richland Cinemas	May 26, 2021 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	\$0.00 (Discipline Committee Fund)	N/A

Requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Jaime Irvin, Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Sunrise Church Service	Elementary school parking lot	April 4, 2021 6:30 – 7:30 a.m.	No Charge
The Learning Lamp	Operate a preschool program	Elementary Classrooms	2021-2022 School Year	No Charge

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 7-0

Time: 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary