

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2017 6:30 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Erik Thrower, board president, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Members and others present were: JT Bandzuh; Susan Berardinelli (7:20 p.m.); Jason Corte; Matthew Decort; Kathy Hough; John Jubina; Dennis Squillario; Erik Thrower; Eric Zelanko, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior-Senior High School Principal; Christian Serenko, Elementary School Principal; Pete Noel, Supervisor of Special Education; and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent was Christian Smith, Jeff Vasilko and Dennis McGlynn.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Charlie Rimini, Portage Township resident, addressed the board on behalf of the Portage Ambulance Association. He introduced the Thomas Causer from Conemaugh Memorial Hospital's Trauma Services and stated that Mr. Causer will present information on the "Stop the Bleeding" program. Thomas Causer explained to the board the purpose of this program is to train teachers and staff medical procedures to save lives in the event of injury. Mr. Causer gave some history and statistics relating to incidents involving injuries and EMS personnel's ability to get to the scene especially in instances of active shooter situations. He stated that in conjunction with Conemaugh Hospital, the schools in Cambria County can receive medical supplies and training through a grant. He urged the board to participate in this program so that they will not miss this opportunity.

Tammy Rodgers, elementary art teacher, addressed the board concerning the Southern Allegheny's Museum of Art's upcoming art show. She stated that she is awaiting final confirmation but wanted to inform the board that Portage will be well represented at the show, which will be held March 4 through April 8, 2017. She thanked the board for their support of the art program and encouraged everyone to attend the art show.

Bob Koban, Portage Township resident and Portage Borough Manager, addressed the board in regard to a letter of support for a peer to peer study of whether it would be feasible for the community to hire a recreation manager. He explained that this survey would only determine if such a position would be of benefit to the community and not actually applying for any type of grant to hire. Mrs. Hough commented that the survey was not originally presented in this way and that it was her understanding, at least initially, that it was to apply for the grant for this position. She further stated that she presented it as an application for the grant as she had initially understood it. She further stated that she may be in favor of this peer to peer study. Mr. Koban said he understood that there may have been a miscommunication as sometimes happens. He said that this peer to peer study and the possible hiring of a recreation manager is a direct result of the long-range study conducted a few years ago. He asked the board to consider lending their support of the survey and thanked them for their time.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Auditor General's Audit Exit Conference and Report. Mr. Zelanko noted that the exit conference was held on February 1 and there were no findings. He thanked the administration staff for their work in making sure everything was in order for the audit. He also noted that the scope of work for these audits has changed significantly in recent years.

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2. Athletics. Mr. Cecere gave a report on Spring sports sign ups. He noted that junior high girls volleyball will be moving to the fall in the 2017-2018 school year, giving female junior high students an option for fall sports participation. He then discussed the matter of the boys basketball team's eligibility for playoffs. Mr. Cecere reported that while the boys do not have a winning season, they are eligible to enter playoffs in that they are the 8th seed and the District 6 is taking the top 12 seeds. Mr. Cecere noted that in the past, it has been that teams had to have an over 500 record to participate in playoffs but he asked the board to consider allowing the team to enter. There was some discussion on the matter and the board will consider whether the team can enter the playoffs during the regular meeting.

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. IDEA-B Federal Funds. This is a routine matter which the board will consider during the regular meeting.
2. Advertising for bids for the baseball field regrading project. Kyle Fitz from the EADS Group was present and briefly discussed with the board the progress of the baseball field regrading project and that everything is on schedule with the board considering advertising for bids during the regular meeting.
3. Activities funds club advisors. This is a routine matter and the board will consider it during the regular meeting.
4. 2017-2018 school year calendar. Mr. Zelanko briefly discussed the calendar and asked the board to consider this item during the regular meeting.
5. AmeriCorps In-Kind contributions. This is a routine matter which the board will consider during the regular meeting.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Executive Session 7:09 p.m. to 7:16 p.m.)

1. Personnel
2. Staff leave of absence
3. Coaching resignation
5. Volunteer coach

POINTS OF DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD

Time: 7:16 p.m.