

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 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; Christian Smith; Dennis Squillario; Erik Thrower; Eric A. Zelanko, Superintendent of Schools; Ralph J. Cecere, Jr., Junior Senior High School Principal; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Dennis M. McGlynn, Esquire, Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent were 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 next Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 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 Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving the January meeting minutes.

REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** reported that Dr. Butler, the director at the IU was featured in the Altoona Mirror for a book he recently published. The committee also discussed the demands of providing special education services to students during a pandemic.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that the vo tech meeting was upcoming. He also thanked Jeff Vasilko for helping the new business manager as he settles into the position.

Superintendent **Mr. Eric A. Zelanko** reported that the gas boilers in the high school are experiencing tube failures and repairs to the lower tubes is approximately \$21,000 per boiler. He asked the board if they would like to see one per year repaired. He also addressed the status of the indoor freezer at the high school which is in poor shape. He is looking into possibly purchasing an outdoor freezer which is estimated to cost \$25,000 plus installation of a concrete pad and safety poles. Mr. Zelanko also discussed the district's live streaming of school events. He said that there is the occasional glitch but that many of the district's fans appreciate the service and compliment the streams. We have begun using a Microsoft Surface to stream wrestling matches and hope to use the equipment to stream a rifle match. He added that he is looking into purchasing a second Sling Studio for streaming but at the present time, this equipment is simply not in stock and used equipment is more expensive than new.

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High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** thanked the staff for working so hard in the midst of remote learning, hybrid and face to face education and all the challenges that it presents. He also acknowledged that the staff and parents and students are frustrated but are still doing their best. Mr. Cecere commended the staff on how well they work together and how they strive to help students and parents through remote learning.

Elementary School Principal **Mr. Pete Noel** was absent.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** reported that he and Mr. Zelanko frequently talk during the month and this month has dealt mostly with routine matters.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** reported that it's the beginning of the budget process for the new school year. He commended Mary Boland on doing a great job in her first year as the cafeteria manager. He also noted that as of tonight, the district has incurred \$105,000 in COVID related costs.

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

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(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	\$1,252,381.11
Cafeteria Fund Invoices	\$82,155.48
Athletic Fund Invoices	\$19,658.44
Capital Reserve Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Capital Projects Fund Invoices	\$0.00
Total Invoices paid	\$1,364,195.03

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 –	

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Property, Per Capita, Occupation	\$0.00
Berkheimer Tax Administrators	
PASD – EIT (Current)	\$42,450.94
Total Taxes	\$42,450.94

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH PENN HIGHLANDS

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving an agreement with Pennsylvania Highlands Community College for student teaching observations.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

ADDING TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

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

John Akers

IU 08 Substitute Teacher

APPROVING REQUEST TO EXTEND FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends accepting a staff members request to extend their Family and Medical Leave of Absence until February 16, 2021.

APPROVING REQUEST FOR FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff member's request for a Family and Medical Leave of Absence for the period April 8, 2021 to June 4, 2021.

APPROVING REQUEST FOR FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving a staff member's request for a Family and Medical Leave of Absence for the period April 5, 2021 to June 4, 2021.

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ACCEPTING LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Tracy Engle as a member of the cafeteria staff effective January 29, 2021. The district requests permission to advertise this position.

ADDING VOLUNTEER COACH

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends adding Tim Trusik as a volunteer girls' softball junior high coach for the 2020-2021 season. Mr. Trusik's clearances are on file.

BOARD REQUESTS / USE OF FACILITIES

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0
(Roll Call Vote)

requests for Use of Facilities:

Requester	Purpose	Facility	Date(s)	Rental Fee/ Amount
Denise Moschgat, Drama Adviser	Rehearsal for Spring Production	HS Auditorium	Mondays & Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	No Charge
Denise Moschgat, Drama Adviser	Spring Production	HS Auditorium	May 5-6, 2021	No Charge

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Hough Second Squillario Vote 8-0

Time: 7:34 p.m.