

**PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2020**

The special meeting of the Portage Area Board of School Directors was called to order. Dennis Squillario, board treasurer, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Members and others present were: Susan Berardinelli; Jason Corte; Matthew Decort; 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; Pete Noel, Elementary School Principal; Jeff Vasilko, Business Manager; Dennis McGlynn, Esquire, Solicitor and Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary. Absent was Kathy Hough.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Tammy Rodgers, elementary school art teacher, addressed the board to advise them that several students in the district may be eligible for scholarships to attend summer art camps.

NOTICE TO PERSONNEL

There may be reductions and/or reassignments of personnel due to fiscal circumstances.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reopening of schools. Mr. Zelanko provided the board members with Version 5.0 of the health and safety plan for the district and went over the updates and revisions made to this version. He noted the changes to face coverings, the use of desk shields, the Department of Health's guidelines on when a school would need to close and for how long, and the district's education plan. He noted that the district will commit to the hybrid learning model for the first marking period, which would be until the end of October or early November and then make a decision based on the spread of the virus if anything will change.

The Frequently Asked Questions have been updated and will be posted to the website tomorrow. The administrators are looking into recording instructional videos to explain how school will look, and may even consider doing a virtual meeting for the community. The 2020-2021 calendar has been revised to reflect June 4, 2021 as the last day of school.

Mr. Zelanko noted that he and the administrative team understand that this is difficult for the parents and staff and are working very hard to make this school year successful. He has been meeting with area superintendents and his happy to report that they all work very well together. He will have a voluntary staff meeting on Thursday with staff.

ROUTINE MATTERS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held **Wednesday, August 26, 2020**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the elementary school auditorium, 84 Mountain Avenue, Portage, PA with the Regular Meeting immediately following.

REPORTS

IU 08 Operating Committee representative **Mrs. Kathy Hough** was absent.

Vo-Tech Operating Committee representative **Mr. Jason Corte** reported that there was no new business at the last meeting.

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Superintendent **Mr. Eric A. Zelanko** reported that a staff member may be placed on unpaid administrative leave. He further commended the administrative team on working on the switch to hybrid learning.

High School Principal **Mr. Ralph Cecere** complimented the custodial staff on doing a terrific job on getting the buildings ready. He further complimented the secretaries for doing a great job in the offices. He noted that they are working out the logistics of online learning. Mr. Cecere also brought to the board's attention a recent 2020 graduate worked very hard through the shutdown to complete their independent reading requirements and be able to graduate. He was very proud of this student.

Elementary School Principal **Mr. Pete Noel** reported that he is encouraging his staff to keep an open mind and be flexible during the opening days and weeks of school. He's asked them to think outside the box in terms of learning and education. He also reported that they will begin calling parents to inquire as to their choice of learning and feels that the mask wearing mandate may change some parent's minds about sending students to school.

School Solicitor **Dennis McGlynn, Esquire** had nothing to add to the agenda.

Business Administrator **Mr. Jeff Vasilko** reported that is quickly approaching audit season and Wesell associates will be here in September. The business office is working on many state reports including transportation, SHAARS, and PEARS. He advised that expenses due to COVID-19 are not at \$35,537, which is the equivalent of three students attending cyber school.

APPROVING DISTRICT HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving the Health and Safety Plan version 5.0 for the safe reopening of schools.

SUSPENDING THE K-4 PROGRAM

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving the suspension of the K-4 program until further notice.

APPROVING STUDENT TEACHING ASSIGNMENT

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends approving the following UPJ students for student teaching assignments:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Supervising Teacher</u>
Cara Harbaugh	Jennifer Thomas
Tyler Smith	Sara Erzal

REVISING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends revising the 2020-2021 school year calendar as presented.

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PERSONNEL MATTERS

REMOVING FROM THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 8-0

(Roll Call Vote)

The administration recommends removing the following individuals to the substitute lists:

Michele Nepa

Substitute Teacher

HIRING TEMPORARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

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

The Administration recommends hiring Morgan Cronauer as an elementary school teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. The purpose of this hire is to assist in the increased educational demands during the COVID-19 pandemic. Salary will be based on the current contract between the district and the PAEA, with benefits.

ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF TEACHERS' AIDE

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends accepting, with regret, the resignation of Amy Bagby as a teachers' aide effective September 18, 2020.

ADDING VOLUNTEER FOOTBALL COACHES

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 8-0

The Administration recommends adding the following individuals as volunteer football coaches:

Brady Ratosky

Troy Scoran

Ryan Williams

MOTION TO MAKE THE AGENDA PART OF THE MINUTES

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 8-0

MOTION SHOULD BE MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion Squillario Second Corte Vote 8-0

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Matthew R. Decort, Board Secretary

Denise Moschgat, Recording Secretary