

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

October 30, 2006

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, October 30, 2006, was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by President Shirley Johnson in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge.

Board Trustees Present: Tom Eddy, Kathy Howland, Shirley Johnson, Linda Lueth, Wendy Mazer, Deb Polderman, and Jennifer Whistler

Board Trustees Absent: None

The Board discussed facilities and technology planning and reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that will be used during the public meetings scheduled for November 9, 2006, at the Central Middle School media center, and November 14, 2006, at the North Middle School media center. Next, representatives from the Michigan Leadership Institute, Mr. Tom Pridgeon, Mr. Dale Schreuder, and Mrs. Jann Jencka, joined the Board to discuss succession planning and the Superintendent search.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, October 30, 2006, was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by President Johnson in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. She welcomed an audience of 16 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Johnson recognized the Community Education Center Administrator Mr. Craig Ross for receiving the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education's 2006 School District of the Year Award.

The Board received an update from the Community High Administrator Mr. Craig Ross about building activities and events. He introduced the following Community High and Curious Kids staff members that were present: Ms. Linda Beaver, Ms. Dawn Gregory, Ms. Sue Haroldson, Ms. Kelly Hinga, Ms. Tammy Karmon, Ms. Deb Munson, Ms. Mary Spruit, and Mr. Perry Wilson.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the minutes of the October 9, 2006 Special and Regular Meetings, October 16, 2006 Special Meeting, and October 23, 2006 Special Meeting be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education accept the 2005/2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Single Audit Report, 120 Day Bond Audit Report, and Management Letter. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Lueth informed the audience, due to the size of this report, it will not be copied and mailed, but will be available for review on our website or at the District's Business Office. President Johnson thanked the Business Manager Mrs. Karla Colestock for her hard work and efforts on this audit.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education approve the updated Policies as follows: 3000 series Policies pertaining to Business and Non-Instructional Operations; Policy 1120, Conflict of Interest – Board of Education and Employees; Policy 1460, Major Gifts to Schools; Policy 1580, Use of Swimming Pools; and Policy 1630, Smoke/Tobacco Free Environment. Mrs. Whistler explained changes made after the October 9th Board Meeting and noted a minor change to Policy #3700 adding the following sentence at the end of the document: (For instructional applications see Policy #6540). Motion carried unanimously.

President Johnson recognized Michigan Safe Schools Week with the following proclamation. She clarified for the record this was not a Resolution as printed but, in fact, a Proclamation.

**PROCLAMATION
MICHIGAN SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK
November 5-11, 2006**

WHEREAS, the goal of Michigan Safe Schools Week is to motivate key educators, law enforcement, and other emergency responders to work with students, parents, and community leaders to vigorously promote school safety; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of this campaign are to encourage schools to use the safety pledge as a tool for school violence prevention, support student leadership in planning and implementing safe school programs, identify promising components of local school safety programs, exercise their school safety plans, and conduct school security surveys; and

WHEREAS, the Portage Public Schools Board of Education recognizes the Michigan Safe Schools Initiative Workgroup at Michigan State University as the statewide coordinating organization for Michigan Safe Schools Week, November 5-11, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Portage Public Schools Board of Education has adopted substantive policies regarding Safe Schools, with the goal of perpetuating safe school environments, conducive to learning for all students; and

WHEREAS, the Portage Public Schools Board of Education encourages each Michigan school district to promote, coordinate, and participate in a statewide “Safe Schools Pledge” signing ceremony; and

WHEREAS, school across Michigan will be participating in a statewide “Safe Schools Pledge” signing ceremony on Monday, November 6, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Portage Public Schools Board of Education recognizes the importance of community involvement and participation in promoting and maintaining a safe learning environment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Portage Public Schools Board of Education recognizes that every week is Safe Schools Week in Portage; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Portage Public Schools Board of Education declares November 5-11, 2006 as a time set aside for special recognition of Michigan Safe Schools Week; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Portage Public Schools Board of Education encourages educators, emergency responders, students, parents, and community leaders to promote school safety by implementing a “Safe Schools Pledge” signing ceremony in their school.

Proclaimed this 30th day of October 2006

Shirley Johnson, Board President
Portage Public Schools

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education approve the Board member classes and conferences as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

This concluded the action portion of the agenda. Mrs. Johnson then opened the meeting for comments.

President Johnson reminded the public that the Board meeting dates in November were changed to November 13 and November 27 and that the Board will hold a joint meeting with Portage City Council members on November 21. Regarding the upcoming election, she stressed the Board of Education does not endorse candidates and if any are endorsed, it is a personal preference.

Mrs. Whistler encouraged the audience to educate themselves on Proposal 5 and urged everyone to exercise their rights and vote in the November 7th election.

Mrs. Polderman thanked the Portage Rotary for the dinner and fireworks display noting it was a wonderful experience.

President Johnson presented a Portage Education Foundation update pertaining to a retreat held by the Foundation earlier this month. She said the PEF will be piloting a technology enhanced classroom in the District. This will “test drive” the District enhancements to classroom technology that could become reality with the passage of a bond vote in 2007.

Initiating the reports portion of the meeting, Mrs. Lueth presented the Treasurer’s Report of Bills Approved for Payment as of September 20, 2006, October 4, 2006, and October 18, 2006, General Fund bills in the amount of \$5,835,361.27, and Building & Site Fund bills in the amount of \$1,340.00, for a grand total of \$5,836,701.27.

Superintendent McFarlane congratulated Northern High School teacher Ms. Bonnie VanEenaam and her forensics students for earning their first bid to attend competition at the University of Kentucky. He thanked all parents and teachers for working so diligently with our students during MEAP testing. He offered congratulatory remarks to all the individuals and teams whose hard work has taken them beyond their regular season. The Superintendent also commented on candidates running for election next month that claim themselves as the “Education Candidate” and stated he will no doubt remind them of these claims when the subject of proration arises.

Board Committee reports were presented by Mrs. Howland regarding the Curriculum and School Improvement Committee; President Johnson regarding the planned community meetings for facilities input on November 9th, 7 p.m. at Central Middle School's media center and November 14th, 7 p.m. at North Middle School's media center; Mrs. Lueth regarding the Finance Committee; and Mrs. Whistler regarding the Policy and Personnel Committee.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Lueth, that the Board of Education move the request to grant permission to plan the Central and Northern High Schools student senate/council trip to Washington, D.C. from March 4-10, 2007, to an action item. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education grant permission to plan the Central and Northern High Schools student senate/council trip to Washington, D.C. from March 4-10, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent McFarlane presented a District facilities planning update. He explained the steps and work that have gone into preparation of the current concepts and invited the audience to attend one of the community meetings planned to gather input on the ideas. The community meetings will be held on November 9th, 7 p.m. at Central Middle School's media center and November 14th, 7 p.m. at North Middle School's media center. The Superintendent explained this is an extremely comprehensive plan because we are trying to prepare the District for the next 50 years rather than come back every 10 years for more updates.

A brief legislative update was received from Mrs. Whistler and the Assistant Superintendent for Operations Mr. Tom Noverr pertaining to the proration possibility.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary