

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 10, 2006

The organizational meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, July 10, 2006, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Eddy in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. He welcomed an audience of 6 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Board Trustees Absent: Shirley Johnson

Mr. Eddy opened the floor to nominations for the office of president for the 2006-2007 school year. A motion was offered by Mrs. Howland, supported by Mrs. Lueth, nominating Mrs. Johnson. There were no other nominations. Mr. Eddy declared the nominations closed and Mrs. Johnson will assume the office of President.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Howland, nominating Mrs. Whistler for vice president. There were no other nominations. Mr. Eddy declared the nominations closed and Mrs. Whistler will assume the office of Vice President.

At this point, Mrs. Whistler chaired the meeting. She acknowledged and thanked Mr. Eddy for his contributions to the District while serving three years as Board President.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mrs. Howland, nominating Mrs. Lueth for treasurer. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Whistler declared the nominations closed and Mrs. Lueth will assume the office of Treasurer.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Howland, that in accordance with Policy #8280, Mrs. Edna Kent, Administrative Assistant, be appointed as Secretary to the Board of Education and the Board's Recording Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Howland, supported by Mrs. Lueth, that the minutes of the June 19, 2006 special and regular meetings be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Business Manager, and the Board of Education Treasurer to access safety deposit boxes at Comerica Bank. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mr. Eddy, that the Board of Education accept the proposal of Cornerstone Construction Management, Inc., in the amount of \$31,420.00 for the

removal and replacement of sidewalks at Amberly Elementary. This expenditure will be from the 2006/07 Building and Site Sinking Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Howland, supported by Mr. Eddy, that the recommended schedule of 2005-2006 Board of Education meetings be adopted.

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PORTAGE, MICHIGAN**

SCHEDULE OF 2006-2007 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS*

ALL MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 8111 S. WESTNEDGE

July 10, 2006	January 8, 2007
July 24, 2006	January 22, 2007
August 14, 2006	February 12, 2007
	February 26, 2007
September 11, 2006	March 12, 2007
September 25, 2006	March 26, 2007
October 9, 2006	April 23, 2007
October 23, 2006	
November 6, 2006	May 7, 2007
November 20, 2006	May 21, 2007
December 11, 2006	June 4, 2007
	June 18, 2007

* Unless otherwise announced, all meetings will commence at 7:30 p.m. Notice of special meetings shall be posted in the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge Avenue.

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Lueth, that the Board of Education approve the tenure for the following teachers in accordance with Public Act 59 of the State of Michigan: Ms. Kathy Kaakani and Ms. Kendra Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following new teachers: Ms. Maria del Pilar Forero, Ms. Kristine Waldie, Mr. Kevin Packard, Mr. Peter Butts, Mr. Todd Chappa, Ms. Stacy Housman, Ms. Lindsey McConney, Mr. Curtis Messing, Mr. Jim Righter, and Ms. Brynn Call. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education approve payment for Board member classes and conferences as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Lueth noted both new Trustees (Mrs. Mazer and Mrs. Polderman) will be Michigan Association of School Boards certified by the end of October, after they complete all the scheduled classes.

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

Mrs. Mazer offered thanks to Dr. Hollenbeck and Mr. Reiff for their years of service to the District. She thanked Mr. Mark Anthony Martin and Mr. David Yardley for running for the School Board, and thanked the voters of Portage for electing her to this position.

Mrs. Polderman echoed Mrs. Mazer's comments stating she felt like this is her first "reality series," and thanked the voters for their confidence.

Mrs. Howland thanked Mr. Eddy for his three years of leadership as Board President. She also informed the audience of the Portage Athletic Foundation's 15th annual golf outing scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2006, at the Moors Golf Club. Proceeds will benefit the student-athletes at Central and Northern High Schools, Community High, and the three middle schools.

Mr. Eddy thanked Mrs. Howland for her comments and confirmed his confidence in Mrs. Johnson as the new Board President stating her heart is in the right place. He also welcomed Mrs. Mazer and Mrs. Polderman as new Trustees.

Initiating the reports portion of the meeting, Mrs. Lueth presented the Treasurer's Report of Bills Approved for Payment as of June 21, 2006, and June 29, 2006, General Fund bills in the amount of \$3,340,194.25, Building & Site Fund bills in the amount of \$732.00, and 2002 Construction Fund bills in the amount of \$239,408.62, for a grand total of \$3,580,334.87.

Superintendent McFarlane welcomed Mrs. Mazer and Mrs. Polderman to the Board and thanked them for their enthusiasm. He offered thanks to Mr. Eddy for his leadership as Board President for the past three years noting his abilities to balance leadership, support, guidance, and friendship. The Superintendent gave a brief facilities update mentioning he had recently visited several sites and cleaning and building preparations are progressing as planned.

Mr. Eddy stated for the record that he took a "Domer" to "The Big House" for the first time.

An update regarding the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP) was presented by the Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ms. Denise Bresson. There was much Board discussion on the subject, Ms. Bresson reminded everyone this program is still being investigated and stated invitation letters will go out for a September 21st parent meeting being planned to explain more about the IB MYP proposal.

Mr. Bob Schafer, 7667 Cobblewood, a District parent, commented on strengths and weaknesses of the IB MYP and asked that the Board and District make sure this framework fits all students before we move forward on the program.

A brief legislative update from Superintendent McFarlane and the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, Mr. Ric Perry, pertained to the state aid increase proposal of \$210. They estimate that between \$200-\$204 of this amount will be used to offset increases in retirement and health insurance costs.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary