

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

November 27, 2006

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, November 27, 2006, was called to order at 5:00 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, Deb Polderman, and Jennifer Whistler

Board Trustees Absent: Wendy Mazer

The Board discussed the facilities and technology planning and received information from TMP Architecture and AVB/Triangle representatives.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, November 27, 2006, was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by President Johnson in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. She welcomed an audience of 25 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Johnson welcomed Senator Tom George who presented a brief legislative update pertaining to the budget shortfall. He also presented a donation check to President Johnson for the Portage Education Foundation.

President Johnson recognized the Transportation Manager Mr. Louk Markham for being named the Transportation Supervisor of the Year by the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation for the second year in a row. The Board also recognized the following Excellence in Education 2006 Educator Incentive Grant recipients: Mr. Greg Chambers, Mr. Jim Herm, Ms. Nancy Nott, Ms. Marcia Working, Ms. Robin St. Arnould, Mr. Todd Heerlyn, Ms. Michele Renee, Ms. Bonnie Neal, Ms. Jennifer Riker, Mr. Jeff Hamilton, Ms. Stephanie Chapman, Mr. Shawn Molitor, Mr. John Dunlop, Ms. Kate Overhuel, Mr. Eric VerHey, Ms. Leslie Buscher, Mr. Denny Roehm, Ms. Kim Kirshman, and Ms. Sherri Swinehart.

The Board received an introduction from Central Middle School Assistant Principal Ms. Bonnie Neal and teacher/advisor Mr. Shawn Molitor, along with a building activities update from several students.

The Director of Curriculum and Professional Development Ms. Denise Bresson introduced two teachers and chairs of the Math Curriculum Review Team: Ms. Lisa Kasmer and Mr. Jerry Swoboda. Ms. Kasmer and Mr. Swoboda's presentation pertained to the first proposal outlining mathematics content expectations and course requirements K-12 recommended by the Math Curriculum Review Team. Several Board members thanked the team for the hard work and effort. Ms. Bresson stated 65 individuals, ranging from parents, citizens, teachers, and administrators are still participating in this math review team and she thanked everyone for their contributions.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the minutes of the October 30, 2006 Special and Regular Meetings and both November 21, 2006 Special Meetings be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Howland, supported by Mrs. Lueth, that the Board of Education approve the early graduation for Ms. Brittany Wohlgemuth, a junior at Northern High School, contingent upon successful completion of her educational requirements by May 28, 2007, as stated in Regulation 5127, Graduation Requirements. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Lueth, that the Board of Education approve the second semester leave of absence for Ms. Amanda Cline effective January 8, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the resolution that authorizes the Portage Schools to continue our summer tax collections in 2007.

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RESOLUTION ON SUMMER TAX COLLECTIONS**

WHEREAS, this Board of Education by resolution on **December 11, 1995**, determined to impose a summer tax levy to collect all of school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the district, beginning with 1996 and continuing from year to year until specifically revoked by this Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Board of Education pursuant to 1976 PA 451, as amended (the “School Code”), hereby invokes its previously adopted ongoing resolution imposing a summer tax levy of all school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the district and continuing from year to year until specifically revoked by this Board of Education and requests each city and/or township in which this districts located to collect those summer taxes.

2. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, is authorized and directed to forward to the governing body of each city and/or township in which this district is located a copy of this Board’s resolution imposing a summer property tax levy on an ongoing basis and a copy of this resolution requesting that each such city and/or township agree to collect the summer tax levy for 2007 in the amount as specified in this resolution. Such forwarding of the resolution and the request to collect the summer tax levy shall be sent so that they are received by the appropriate governing bodies before January 1, 2007.

3. Pursuant to and in accordance with Section 1613(1) of the School Code, the Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized and directed to negotiate on behalf of this district with the governing body of each city and/or township in which the district is located for the reasonable expenses for collection of the district’s summer tax levy that the city and/or township may

bill under MCLA 280.1611 or MCLA 280.1612. Any such proposed agreement shall be brought before this Board for its approval or disapproval.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Upon a roll call vote, all trustees present voted in favor of the resolution.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education establish the 2006/07 non-resident parent paid tuition rates of \$1 per year when per pupil membership was received on the student and the prorated per capita operating cost when per pupil membership was not received on the student. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Polderman, 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.

Mrs. Howland thanked the District for allowing her the opportunity to attend the Technology and Learning Conference in Dallas earlier this month.

Mrs. Whistler encouraged attendance at the third annual Central vs. Northern High School hockey game scheduled for Monday, December 4, 6:30 p.m. at Wings Stadium. She also mentioned she attended the Central High play and Northern High musical and commended everyone involved with both productions for outstanding performances.

President Johnson announced the next Board meeting has been changed from December 11th to December 18th. She also wanted to let the community know that the Portage Education Foundation has decided to fund an additional project in 2007 in the area of enhancing mathematics. This will allow additional workshops and professional development opportunities for District math teachers.

Mr. Michael Kounelis, 741 Calico, Vice President of Skillman Corporation and a parent, stated the Skillman Corporation is available should the District need their services in the future.

Mr. Bob Schafer, 7667 Cobblewood Dr., a parent, request the District hold a parent meeting prior to Board approval of math curriculum changes and comment on textbook selection. Ms. Bresson informed the audience the District had already held a parent meeting pertaining to the math curriculum.

Initiating the reports portion of the meeting, Mrs. Lueth presented the Treasurer's Report of Bills Approved for Payment as of October 23, 2006, and October 31, 2006, and November 15, 2006, General Fund bills in the amount of \$7,109,443.96, and Building & Site Fund bills in the amount of \$2,018.00, for a grand total of \$7,111,461.96.

Superintendent McFarlane stated that the Board received a summary on District Goals and gave the audience a brief overview. He offered thanks to everyone involved in over 100 meetings to gather facilities upgrades ideas and information for our Bond request. The Superintendent spoke of information passed along by the Northern High band director Mr. Dave Papenhagen informing him that a Portage graduate, Mr. Brandon Ridenour, was invited by Mr. Marvin Hamlisch to be a trumpet soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra. Superintendent McFarlane informed the audience he participated in a Thanksgiving feast with Amberly teacher Mrs. Judy Kerr's Kindergarten classroom and shared a couple of their recipes.

Received a Board Committee report from Mrs. Howland regarding the Curriculum and School Improvement Committee and Mr. Eddy informed the audience of the Superintendent Search timeline.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mr. Eddy, that the Board of Education to move the request to grant permission to plan the Northern High School Art Department trip to Italy and Greece from June 21-29, 2007 to an action item. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mr. Eddy, that the Board of Education approved the request to grant permission to plan the Northern High School Art Department trip to Italy and Greece from June 21-29, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

A brief legislative update was received from Mrs. Whistler pertaining to two House Bills, one recommending a change in how foundation allowance is calculated and the other suggesting a task force be formed to study operating schools on a year-round basis.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purpose of student discipline. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board moved into closed session at 9:20 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 9:30 p.m.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education expel a student from the Portage Public School District. Motion passed 5 – 0 with Mrs. Polderman abstaining.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary