

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

December 18, 2006

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, December 18, 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, Wendy Mazer, Deb Polderman, and Jennifer Whistler

Board Trustees Absent: None

The Board focused on interview training for the Superintendent search led by Michigan Leadership Institute representatives Mr. Tom Pridgeon and Mr. Dale Schreuder, and District Legal Counsel, Mr. John Manske, and Director of Technology Systems, Mr. Michael Batterson. The remainder of the special meeting was devoted to the discussion of group norms.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, December 18, 2006, was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Johnson in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. She welcomed an audience of 40 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board welcomed Haverhill Elementary School Principal Mr. Dave Nicolette, teacher Ms. Lynda Bauckham presented an update on the reading program, teacher and student council advisor Ms. Susan Kallewaard, introduced the student council representatives and the students provided a building activities update.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the minutes of the November 27, 2006 Special and Regular Meetings and December 11, 2006 Special Meeting be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education approve the resolution which places a \$145,300,000 bond issue on the February 27, 2007 election date and directs the Secretary of the Board to file this resolution with the County Clerk who serves as the Election Coordinator. The Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr provided a detailed report on upgrades to the District should this bond pass and noted a revision on Exhibit A of the proposal, in paragraph 7, the first sentence should read: The estimated millage to be levied in 2007 to service this issue of bonds is 3.11 mills (\$3.11 per \$1,000...).

**RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT BOND PROPOSAL
(FEBRUARY 27, 2007 ELECTION DATE)**

Portage Public Schools
County of Kalamazoo, State of Michigan

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools, County of Kalamazoo, State of Michigan, held on the 18th day of December, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Members _____

ABSENT: Members _____

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ and supported by Member _____:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools (the "School District") determines that it is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the School District to construct the improvements (collectively, the "Improvements") described in the ballot proposal attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A (the "Bond Proposal"); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable for the School District to borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Forty Five Million and Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$145,300,000) and issue bonds of the School District (the "Bonds"), for the purpose of defraying a portion of the cost of the Improvements; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and purpose of the Board of Education to issue the Bonds, if authorized by the qualified electors of the School District under the appropriate provisions of the Michigan Constitution, in which event tax levies for the payment of the Bonds shall be without limitation as to rate or amount; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable to submit the Bond Proposal to the School District's electors on February 27, 2007 (the "February Election Date"); and

WHEREAS, in order for the Bond Proposal to be submitted to the School District's electors on the February Election Date, it is necessary for the Board to certify the wording of the Bond Proposal to the Clerk of the County of Kalamazoo, State of Michigan (the "School District Election Coordinator"), as required by Act 116, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954, as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The wording of the Bond Proposal attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby certified to the School District Election Coordinator and the local clerks for submission to the School District's electors on the February Election Date. The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to file this Resolution and/or complete any such forms, certificates or documents as may be required by the School District Election Coordinator and the local clerks to evidence the foregoing certification and/or submission by no later than December 29, 2006.

2. The School District Election Coordinator is hereby authorized and directed to: (a) post and publish notice of last day of registration and notice of election for the February Election Date; and (b) have prepared and printed ballots for submitting the Bond Proposal at the February Election

Date, which ballots shall be in the form appearing in Exhibit A, or the proposition shall be stated as a proposal on the voting machines, which ballots may include other matters presented to the electorate on the same date.

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

AYES: Members _____

NAYS: Members _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Secretary, Board of Education
Portage Public Schools

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools, County of Kalamazoo, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on December 18, 2006, and that the meeting was conducted and public notice of the meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by the Act.

Secretary, Board of Education
Portage Public Schools

EXHIBIT A

BOND PROPOSAL

Shall the Portage Public Schools, County of Kalamazoo, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed One Hundred Forty Five Million and Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$145,300,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds for the purpose of defraying the cost of:

- remodeling, reequipping, and refurnishing existing School District buildings, including safety, security, energy conservation, accessibility, and restroom improvements;

- constructing new buildings in the School District, including two new replacement elementary school buildings and constructing additions to School District buildings;
- furnishing and equipping new and existing School District buildings, including the acquisition of new musical equipment and school buses;
- acquiring and installing technology infrastructure and equipment in and connecting new and existing School District buildings; and
- acquiring, improving and developing sites, including traffic flow and parking improvements, playgrounds, athletic fields and outdoor athletic facilities and structures in the School District?

YES

NO

The estimated millage to be levied in 2007 to service this issue of bonds is 3.11 mills (\$3.11 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds of this issue is 3.22 mills (\$3.22 per \$1,000 of taxable value). The debt millage required to retire all bonds of the School District currently outstanding and proposed pursuant to this ballot is estimated to be at or below 4.70 mills. The bonds may be issued in one or more series, payable in the case of each series in not to exceed 25 years from the date of issue of such series.

(Under State law, bond proceeds may not be used to pay teacher or administrator salaries, routine maintenance or repair costs or other School District operating expenses.)

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

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education approve the retention of the following companies for professional services related to the bond issue in February: Bond Counsel – Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone; Financial Consultant – H.J. Umbaugh & Associates. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education approve the resolution for Amendment #1 to the General Appropriations Act (General Fund).

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION
AMENDMENT #1 2006/07**

Be it resolved that this shall be the general appropriations of Portage Public Schools for the fiscal year 2006/07. A resolution to make appropriations; to provide for the expenditures of the appropriations; and to provide for the disposition of all revenue received by Portage Public Schools.

Be it further resolved, that the total unappropriated fund balance and revenues to be available for appropriations in the General Fund of Portage Public Schools for the fiscal year 2006/07 is as follows:

Beginning Unappropriated Fund Balance **\$ 7,600,290**

REVENUES -

Local Sources	\$26,740,907
State Sources	47,414,217
Federal Sources	1,278,491
Incoming Transfers and Other Financing Sources	<u>2,298,693</u>

Total Revenues **\$77,732,308**

Total Available to Appropriate **\$85,332,598**

Be it further resolved, that \$78,777,309 of the total available to appropriate is hereby appropriated in the amounts and for the purposes set forth as follows:

EXPENDITURES –

Instruction:

Basic Programs	38,787,833
Added Needs	6,530,531
Adult Education	129,697

Support Services:

Pupil	4,395,011
Instructional Staff	4,953,247
General Administration	843,209
School Administration	4,170,499
Business Services	901,598
Operations and Maintenance	9,238,455
Transportation	3,215,876
Central Services	1,858,614

Community Services 2,131,366

Other Financing Uses:

Outgoing transfer to Athletic Fund	1,183,892
Debt Service	<u>437,481</u>

Total Expenditure Appropriation **\$78,777,309**

Be it further resolved that no Board of Education member or employee of the School District shall expend any funds or obligate the expenditure of funds except pursuant to appropriations made by the Board of Education and in keeping with the budgetary policy statement previously adopted. Changes in the amount appropriated shall require approval by the Board of Education.

Be it further resolved that the superintendent is hereby charged with general supervision of the execution of the budget as adopted by the Board of Education and shall hold the directors and department heads responsible for performance of their responsibilities within the amounts appropriated.

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

A motion was offered by Mrs. Howland, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education approve the recommended adoption of the Math Curriculum Review Team's proposal outlining content expectations and course requirements K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Mazer informed the audience that she and Mrs. Whistler attended a rehearsal for the 2006 Holiday Collage Concert that will be held Tuesday and Thursday nights at Northern High featuring every music student. Mrs. Mazer thanked the North Side Jazz Quartet stating their fundraising efforts have contributed \$7,000 to the fine arts program at Northern and added the Quartet has been invited to play at Governor Granholm's inauguration ceremony.

President Johnson thanked Mr. Mark Triemstra and Ms. Michal VandenBerg for the invitation to attend their Moorsbridge Veterans Day Program and how enjoyable it was. She also offered accolades to Ms. Deb VanAntwerp's class at Haverhill for their outstanding efforts to produce the Photosynthesis play. Mrs. Johnson pointed out the beautiful artwork in the Community Room and thanked the Northern High School's IB students for sharing their exhibit. She wished the audience happy holidays.

Mrs. Whistler commented on how impressed she was with the high caliber of artwork in the Northern IB Art Exhibit.

Initiating the reports portion of the meeting, Mrs. Lueth presented the Treasurer's Report of Bills Approved for Payment as of November 20, 2006 and November 29, 2006, General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,310,407.46, and Building & Site Fund bills in the amount of \$9,855.00, for a grand total of \$2,320,262.46.

Superintendent McFarlane commented on the Northern IB Art Exhibit and how impressed he was with the log each student keeps on their piece as they work through their project. The Superintendent congratulated Mrs. Donna Emerson, an art teacher from Angling Road Elementary, for receiving National Board Certification for Art. He acknowledged the tremendous amount of work involved in this certification process and offered accolades on her great achievement. He thanked all the committees, parents, staff, and community members for their input and efforts

spent on the bond proposal and the curriculum processes. The Superintendent offered best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season to all.

Received Board Committee reports from Mrs. Howland regarding the Curriculum and School Improvement Committee, Mr. Eddy regarding the Facilities and Technology Committee, Mrs. Whistler regarding the Policy and Personnel Committee, and Mrs. Lueth regarding the Finance Committee.

The Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ms. Denise Bresson, discussed background information pertaining to the Curriculum Instruction Council's recommendations on graduation requirement reform followed by questions and answers.

Ms. Bresson also discussed adding a one semester Dance Movement/Color Guard course to the high school fine arts curriculum.

Mrs. Whistler led a discussion about the new and revised Policies as follows: 7000 series Policies pertaining to Physical Facilities with the exception of Policy 7140 which was removed for further modification; Policy 4330, Safety and Security; Policy 5000 Table of Contents; Policy 5260, Graduation Requirements Through the Class of 2010; Policy 5261, Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2011 and Beyond (corrections were made to the number of electives from 7 to 8 and core required credits from 19 to 18); Policy 6000 Table of Contents; Policy 6100, Curriculum and Instruction Through the Class of 2010; Policy 6101, Curriculum and Instruction for the Class of 2011 and Beyond; and Policy 6560, Summer School.

A brief legislative update was received from Mrs. Whistler pertaining to amendment provisions in the Michigan Merit Curriculum, criminal background checks, ISD election law changes, teacher nullification procedures, student restraint, and the budget shortfall.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary