

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

**July 24, 2006**

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, July 24, 2006, was called to order at 6:00 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 discussed agenda items for the Board's retreat, finalized the Superintendent's evaluation comments, and possible future work study topics.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purposes of discussing student discipline. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board moved into closed session at 7:11 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:20 p.m.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Howland, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education reinstate the student whose name was known to the Board under conditions outlined in Board Policy #5350, provided the student continues with scheduled and recommended therapy sessions. Motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, July 24, 2006, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Johnson in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. She welcomed an audience of 6 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the minutes of the July 10, 2006 organizational meeting be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the request to leave student meal prices unchanged for 2006/07 as follows: Elementary Breakfast, \$1.15; Secondary Breakfast, \$1.40; Elementary Lunch, \$1.75; and Secondary Lunch, \$2.00 Tier 1/\$2.25 Tier 2. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Lueth, that the Board of Education accept the following playground contract: GameTime c/o Sinclair Recreation LLC for the purpose of relocating, furnishing, and installing playground equipment and surfaces including the work of all

trades for Angling Road Elementary School for the lump sum of \$100,000.00. This purchase will be allocated to the 2006/07 General Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the one year leave of absence request for Mrs. Angelique Biehl effective August 30, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Howland, supported by Mr. Eddy, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following new teachers: Ms. Angela Holbert, Mr. Gabe Howard, Ms. Christina Muldoon, and Ms. Rachel Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education adopt the closing resolution for the sale of excess school property located at 2301 West Centre Avenue.

#### RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The undersigned, being the Secretary of the Board of Education of the PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, hereby certifies that the following resolutions were passed by the Board of Education at the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday, July 24, 2006 in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976:

“RESOLVED, that the Purchase and Sale Agreement entered between Portage Public Schools and American Village Development, II, L.L.C. dated December 12, 2005, as amended by the First Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated May 9, 2006, and as further amended by the Second Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated July 6, 2006 (collectively, the “Purchase Agreement”) relating to the sale of certain real estate owned by Portage Public Schools commonly known as 2301 West Centre Avenue, Portage, Michigan (the “Real Estate”), is hereby ratified in all respects.”

“RESOLVED FURTHER, that the proposed Third Amendment and Partial Assignment of Purchase and Sale Agreement which provides for (i) a division of the Real Estate; (ii) an assignment of the Purchaser’s obligations under the Purchase Agreement as it relates to one of the resulting parcels to a newly created Michigan limited liability company known as Oakland-Centre Real Estate, LLC, whose membership is composed of American Village Development, II, L.L.C. and Treystar Holdings, LLC; (iii) the continuation of American Village Development, II, L.L.C. as Purchaser as to the other resulting parcel; and (iv) an allocation of the Purchase Price between the two parcels has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Education.”

“RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Third Amendment and Partial Assignment of Purchase and Sale Agreement for and on behalf of Portage Public Schools.”

“RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the Portage Public Schools, to take, or cause to be taken, any and all such actions, and to execute the quitclaim deeds, closing statements and any and all other documents, instruments and agreements as he shall, in his sole discretion, deem necessary, desirable or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolutions.”

Dated: July 24, 2006

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Edna Kent, Secretary, Board of Education

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

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

President Johnson made the following statement on behalf of the Board, “Should any Board members endorse a candidate, we are not a political organization and such endorsements are personal.” She informed the audience of all the Board Committee assignments for the 2006/07 school year. President Johnson stated the Board’s evaluation of the Superintendent had been completed and read a public statement expressing how extremely pleased they are with the work he has done this past school year. She also informed the audience that a Board Retreat date had been set for Wednesday, August 2, 2006 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at a location to be determined.

Mr. Eddy urged all Portage citizens to decide which candidates align with their views and exercise their civic responsibility and vote in the upcoming elections.

Initiating the reports portion of the meeting, Mrs. Lueth presented the Treasurer’s Report of Bills Approved for Payment as of June 30, 2006, Run #1, July 11, 2006, and July 17, 2006, General Fund bills in the amount of \$3,969,327.31 and Building & Site Fund bills in the amount of \$11,250.80, for a grand total of \$3,980,578.11.

Superintendent McFarlane thanked the Board for their thorough evaluation commenting on the amount of time they invested in the process. He also thanked all District staff stating this is a reflection on the great work being done by everyone. The Superintendent informed the audience about his recent trip to China with an educational contingent and highlighted some of the differences and similarities between the two countries’ educational communities. He commented on working with another Michigan Superintendent in a collaborative effort to bring Chinese teachers to Michigan. Superintendent McFarlane announced he received an offer from the Board to extend his current contract, however, after 38 years in education, he has elected to retire at the end of this year. He stated it has been an honor and a privilege to serve this District and there is still lots of work to do.

President Johnson announced on behalf of the Board, “We did our best to convince Superintendent McFarlane to remain, he will leave big shoes to fill, and will be sorely missed.”

Board Committee reports were given by Mr. Eddy regarding the Facilities and Technology Committee, Mrs. Lueth regarding the Finance Committee, and President Johnson regarding the Executive Committee.

The Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2002 Bond Issue report and additional projects completed. He announced the 2002 Bond Issue is officially closed and offered kudos to Mrs. Karla Colestock for her savvy investing which resulted in additional funds allowing for additional projects that fit the criteria of bond requirements. Mr. Noverr thanked the community for their support and wanted to show we were good stewards of these dollars.

A brief legislative update was received from Superintendent McFarlane pertaining to the fact that the Governor still has not signed off on the state aid increase.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent  
Recording Secretary