

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

**September 25, 2006**

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, September 25, 2006, was called to order at 5:30 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 the superintendent search process and received a report from the Director of Curriculum and Professional Development Ms. Denise Bresson, on the current math curriculum review.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, September 25, 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 14 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 September 11, 2006 special and regular meetings be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mrs. Lueth, that the Board of Education accept the cash donation from the Dr. William Kavanaugh estate to the Portage Central High School Athletic program in the amount of \$33,330. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education approve the engagement of the Construction Management firm of AVB Construction and Triangle Associates for pre-bond development services effective immediately at a cost of \$51,700. This action includes a stipulation that AVB-Triangle will defer its pre-bond fee until a bond issue passes. Should the bond issue election fail and we elect not to pursue additional bond issue elections, or choose to change our construction manager, this fee would become payable from the General Fund. This action is also contingent upon approval of our legal counsel related to the legal entity AVB-Triangle will establish for this project. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Mazer informed the audience she recently attended the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program presentation given by the Director of Curriculum and Professional Development Ms. Denise Bresson, and the Community High School Administrator Mr. Craig Ross. She thanked them for the informative session and encouraged community members to attend a future meeting.

Mrs. Whistler offer thanks to the estate of Dr. Kavanaugh for the generous gift.

President Johnson reminded the community of the Portage Education Foundation's endowed general fund campaign focusing on enhancing excellence in our District. She stated the PEF wants to see the District's standard preserved and move forward and mentioned tax credit benefits. President Johnson also discussed the four key areas the PEF is focusing on: innovative curriculum, technology, staff professional development, and the fine and performing arts. She read the campaign slogan, "When education is this good powerful things can happen."

Mr. Eddy stated he was honored and pleased that he could serve on the construction manager selection committee. He informed the audience the three firms selected for interviews were all excellent and had the desire to serve the District. He appreciated the interest by all the local firms that submitted proposals adding it's a reflection of the high quality of businesses in our area.

Mr. Kounelis, Vice President of Skillman Corporation, applauded the selection committee on their interview process for the construction manager. He discussed Skillman Corporation strengths and stated they will be available should the District need their services in the future.

Mrs. Melanie Kurdys, 2267 Preserve Blvd., a parent, discussed MEAP scores.

Initiating the reports portion of the meeting, Mrs. Lueth presented the Treasurer's Report of Bills Approved for Payment as of September 6, 2006, General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,792,910.39, and Building & Site Fund bills in the amount of \$0, for a grand total of \$2,792,910.39.

Superintendent McFarlane responded to comments received at the September 11, 2006 meeting pertaining to MEAP scores. He stated the Assessment and Student Information Director, Mr. Dan Vomastek, is preparing District student testing/assessment data information and other links that will be available on our web-site in approximately 2 weeks. The Superintendent recognized the Facilities Manager, Mr. John Spencer for 35 years of service to our District, adding "we will miss you a great deal." He noted Mr. Spencer tried to retire in January 2005, and thanked him for continuing through some crucial projects. Superintendent McFarlane also mentioned Parent Internet Viewer (PIV) went up.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education move the request for permission for Central High School Choirs to plan a trip to New York, New York, from April 5-9, 2007, to an action item. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Mazer, that the Board of Education grant permission to the Central High School Choirs to plan a trip to New York, New York, from April 5-9, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

A brief legislative update was received from Mrs. Whistler pertaining to Senate bills regarding mandating HPV vaccinations, and the replacement of the Merit Award Program (currently \$2,500) with a new program allowing \$4,000 in three installments, and House bills that would change the

Kindergarten age cutoff from December 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>, allow Proposal A “Hold Harmless School Districts” to seek millage increases beyond the current restrictions, and require middle school history courses to include mention of specific African “kingdoms.”

President Johnson stated the Board would now move into closed session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent’s evaluation.

The Board moved into closed session at 8:20 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 9:04 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent  
Recording Secretary