

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

May 21, 2007

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, May 21, 2007, 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 members discussed the resolution designating its representative on the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency electoral body prior to taking action on a separate resolution at its regular meeting. They also discussed the Kercher Center report on our facilities bond issue and next steps.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education move into closed session to discuss negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board moved into closed session at 7:12 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:31 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, May 21, 2007, was called to order at 7:37 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.

The Board recognized the Northern High School Forensics Team, coached by Mrs. Laurel Scheidt, for the amazing first place victory at the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association State Finals tournament, the ninth state title in the Northern program's forty-one year history and the 14th year for Portage Public Schools earning this title.

The Board received an introduction from Waylee Elementary School Principal, Mr. Ron Jones, about Asperger students, teacher participation, and the sensory corner created at Waylee.

Mrs. Laurie Montgomery, Director of Special Education for the District and Ms. Jean Steele, parent representative on the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee of the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency recognized the Southern Service Area Excellence In Special Education Award winners: Amberly Elementary Principal, Mrs. Mary Daoust; Amberly Elementary teacher, Ms. Peggy Link; and Angling Road Elementary Principal, Mrs. Karen Witvoet.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board approve the minutes of the May 7, 2007 Special and Regular Meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board approve the resolution indicating support of the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) General Fund operating budget for the 2007/08 school year.

KRESA ("ISD") GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET RESOLUTION

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public District was held in the Community Room of the Administration Building on May 21st at 7:30pm.

Members present: Tom Eddy, Kathy Howland, Shirley Johnson, Linda Lueth, Wendy Mazer, Deb Polderman, and Jennifer Whistler

Member absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Mrs. Lueth and seconded by Mrs. Polderman.

WHEREAS:

This Board received the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency General Fund Operating Budget on or before May 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS:

In accordance with Section 380.624 of the Revised School Code, this Board must now adopt a resolution expressing its support or disapproval of the proposed ISD budget, and must submit to the ISD Board any specific objections and/proposed changes the Board may have to the budget prior to June 1, 2007.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Based upon the information received from KRESA and recognizing that a limited review of a budget document provides limited oversight of the financial affairs of an organization, the KRESA General Fund Operation Budget for the 2007/2008 school year be supported. Furthermore that the Secretary of the Board is hereby directed to submit a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of the ISD Board of Education, along with any specific objections or proposed changes to the budget.

Ayes: Tom Eddy, Kathy Howland, Shirley Johnson, Linda Lueth, Wendy Mazer, Deb Polderman, and Jennifer Whistler

Nays: None

Motion declared adopted.

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools Portage, Michigan hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting held on May 21, 2007, the original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.

Signed:

Secretary, Board of Education

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

A motion was offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mrs. Lueth, that the Board approve the resolution to designate Mrs. Howland (appointee) and Mrs. Mazer (alternate) as its representative on the KRESA electoral body that will meet at 5:30 p.m. on June 4, 2007; and that this representative cast her votes for Dr. Delores Myers and Mr. David Webster to serve as members of the KRESA Board of Education.

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DISTRICT'S ELECTION REPRESENTATIVE

[To be adopted on or after May 14]

Portage Public School District, Michigan (the "District")

A regular meeting of the board of education of Portage Public Schools, Michigan (the "Board"), was held in the Community Room, in the District, on the 21 day of May, 2007, at 7:30 o'clock in the p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Johnson, President.

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

Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Mrs. Polderman and supported by Member Mrs. Lueth:

WHEREAS:

1. The biennial election of the Board of Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan (the "ISD Board") will be held on Monday, June 4, 2007; and
2. The members of the ISD Board will be elected by an electoral body composed of 1 person designated by the board of each of the constituent school districts; and

3. In accordance with Section 614(2) of the Revised School Code [MCL 380.614(2)], this Board designates Mrs. Howland (appointee) and Mrs. Mazer (alternate) as this District's proposed representative and directs said representative to vote on behalf of this Board for a specific candidate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Board does hereby approve the designation of Mrs. Howland (appointee) and Mrs. Mazer (alternate) as the representative of this Board for the electoral body, which body will elect two (2) [insert number of vacancies] candidates to the vacancies on the ISD Board on Monday, June 4, 2007 and as an alternate in the event the designated representative is unable to attend.

2. The designated representative is further directed to cast a vote on the first ballot on behalf of this Board for Dr. Delores Myers and Mr. David Webster [insert candidate names equal to the number of vacancies].

3. The Secretary of this Board is hereby further directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Secretary of the ISD Board.

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

Ayes: Tom Eddy, Kathy Howland, Shirley Johnson, Linda Lueth, Wendy Mazer, Deb Polderman, and Jennifer Whistler

Nays: None

Motion declared adopted.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting held on May 21, 2007, the original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.

Secretary, Board of Education

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

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board of Education approve the Policy and Personnel Committee changes to the Policy Table of Contents, Policy series 5000 pertaining to Students, 6000 pertaining to Instruction, and Policy 7140, Selection of Architect noting typographical corrections to the following Policies: 5300, 5380, 6310, 6600, and 6010. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Lueth, that the Board ratify the Food Service Contract for the 2006/07 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Howland, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board ratify the Bus Drivers' Association Contract for the 2006/07 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Howland presented a Portage Athletic Foundation update, commented on grants distributed to District teams, and announced the 16th Annual PAF Golf Outing is scheduled for Monday, August 13, 2007, at the Moors of Portage Golf Club.

Mr. Eddy commented on the special days in the District next Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and offered best wishes to all the graduates.

President Johnson recognized the Business Office for a recent award and asked the Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr to expand on the award. Mr. Noverr explained the District Business Office again received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. Mrs. Lueth added this certification also helps the District bond rating. President Johnson offered congratulations to Mr. Noverr, Mrs. Karla Colestock, Business Manager, and the Business Office staff for this award. President Johnson also congratulated Mr. Posthumus and Mrs. Kurdys for being elected to the Board of Education. She wished all the sports teams luck as they progress into District finals. President Johnson echoed Mr. Eddy's comments to all the seniors and offered congratulations and best wishes to all graduates.

Ms. Joanne Willson, 7122 Leawood St., a citizen and grandparent of a District student, discussed safety and building repair needs at Northern High. She also discussed District class size.

Mr. Bob Schafer, 7667 Cobblewood, a District parent, thanked Mrs. Howland and Mrs. Lueth for their countless contributions the Board and District.

Ms. Mildred Taraszka, 410 Marylynn Court, a citizen, stressed keeping budget cuts away from academics.

Initiating the reports portion of the meeting, Mrs. Lueth presented the Treasurer's Report of Bills Approved for Payment as of May 2, 2007, General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,282,523.38, and Building & Site Fund bills in the amount of \$2,450.00, for a grand total of \$2,284,973.38.

Received Board Committee reports from Mrs. Lueth regarding the Finance Committee, and Mrs. Whistler regarding the Curriculum and School Improvement Committee, the Policy and Personnel Committee, the School Improvement Process, and the annual Wellness Committee report.

The Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, presented a District 2007/08 preliminary budget report, followed by much discussion.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary