

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

November 21, 2006

A special meeting of the Board of Education for Portage Public Schools was held on Tuesday, November 21, 2006, and was called to order by President, Shirley Johnson, at 8:01 a.m. The meeting was convened in the Instructional Services Conference Room at the Portage Public School District Administration Building, 8111 South Westnedge Avenue, in Portage.

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

Administrative Staff Present: Pete McFarlane, Superintendent; John Manske, Legal Counsel; Tom Noverr, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; and Michigan Leadership Institute representatives: Mr. Tom Pridgeon and Mr. Dale Schreuder

After calling the meeting to order, President Johnson asked for a motion to approve a recommendation from the administration to award a playground construction contract for Central Elementary School. A motion was offered by Mrs. Lueth, supported by Mrs. Howland, that the Board accept the playground contract: GameTime c/o Sinclair Recreation, LLC for the purpose of furnishing and installing playground equipment and surfaces including the work of all trades for Central Elementary School for the lump sum of \$164,388.72. Funding for this purchase will be a combination of the allocation to the 2006/07 General Fund, insurance money from the July 2006 fire claim, and PTO donations as broken down as follows: General Fund \$100,000; Insurance Claim \$62,388.72; and PTO Contribution \$2,000.00. Mr. Noverr supplied background information for the Board and answered a few questions. Motion carried unanimously.

President Johnson welcomed Michigan Leadership Institute representatives Mr. Tom Pridgeon and Mr. Dale Schreuder and the Board finalized the superintendent search profile and brochure.

There being no other business for the Board, President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Pete McFarlane
Secretary Pro Tem

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

November 21, 2006

A special meeting of the Board of Education for Portage Public Schools was held on Tuesday, November 21, 2006, and was called to order by President, Shirley Johnson, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was convened in the Community Room at the Portage Public School District Administration Building, 8111 South Westnedge Avenue, in Portage.

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

Administrative Staff: Pete McFarlane, Superintendent; John Manske, Legal Counsel; Tom Noverr, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; Ric Perry, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services; and Michael Batterson, Technology Director

Portage City Council: Mayor Peter J. Strazdas, Mayor Pro Tem Ted Vliek, Larry DeShazor, Margaret E. O'Brien, Claudette Reid, Ed Sackley, and Terry R. Urban

Portage Administrative Staff: Maurice Evans, City Manager; Sean McBride, Assistant City Manager; Richard White, Police Chief; Ray Scott, Police Liaison Officer; and Jim Hudson, City Clerk

After calling the meeting to order, President Johnson welcomed all those present and asked Mayor Stazdas to introduce City Council members and members of the staff who were in attendance. President Johnson followed by introducing members of the Board of Education and Portage Public School (PPS) staff members who were in attendance.

Mayor Stazdas introduced Police Chief Richard White and Chief White provided some background for the group on the Police School Liaison Officer program. He read a recognition for Officer Ray Scott who recently achieved the national certification for School Resource Officer. Officer Scott is the first police officer to receive this certification in Michigan.

Mayor Strazdas introduced Assistant City Manager, Mr. Sean McBride. Mr. McBride provided the group with a presentation explaining the City Council's new Visioning Project, *Portage 2025*. He outlined the timeframe for the project and discussed the seven topics that were designated by the Council for community input.

Mayor Stazdas described two other activities that he and the Council have initiated that include student involvement. The first activity is a "Mayor for a Day" and "Council Member for a Day" event. Student government leaders from PPS high schools would be selected by their peers to participate. The intent is to help student leaders become more familiar with the operation of local government.

The second activity described by Mayor Stazdas was a student recognition program. The program would honor students in one or more of three categories, academic excellence, athletic achievement, and volunteerism. Students who were considered to be extraordinary in any one of these categories could be nominated for this award.

President Johnson introduced Superintendent McFarlane who provided the group with a presentation of the current facilities and technology plan. He gave some historical information about facilities and outlined the current facilities plan.

President Johnson updated the City Council members on the superintendent search process. She explained that posting for the position started today and that the Board hoped to make its decision about a replacement for the current superintendent by late March, 2007.

The joint meeting of the Board and City Council adjourned at 7:00 p.m. and the Board members moved their meeting to the Instructional Services Conference Room for discussions about facility and technology plan development.

The Board members heard updates from Mr. Tom Noverr and Superintendent McFarlane related to recent meetings with staff, community, and architectural consultants. After discussion about possible options that might be available to them in light of current information, Board members requested additional information for a meeting that was scheduled for November 27th.

There being no other business for the Board, President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Pete McFarlane
Secretary Pro Tem