

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION**

**June 2, 2008**

The committee of the whole work session of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, June 2, 2008, was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by President Johnson in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. She welcomed an audience of 18 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Trustees Present: Tom Eddy, Shirley Johnson, Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Dale Posthumus, and Jennifer Whistler

Board Trustees Absent: Wendy Mazer

**COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS**

President Johnson opened the comments and communications portion of the meeting and asked if there were any citizens who would like to speak to the Board. Mrs. Polderman informed the audience of the public comment guidelines.

Mr. Bob Schafer, 7667 Cobblewood, a parent, shared concerns with traffic flow at the Northern High and North Middle School site as well as roofing suggestions.

Ms. Millie Taraszka, 410 Marylynn Ct., a citizen, thanked the Community Relations Manager, Mr. Tom Vance, for forwarding budget information at her request. She also discussed maintenance of the District middle schools and outsourcing.

Mrs. Joanne Willson, 7122 Leawood, a citizen, discussed traffic patterns at the Northern High site and commented on the need for easy access for shuttle bus routes.

President Johnson opened the floor to comments from fellow Board members.

Mr. Posthumus congratulated all District graduates, shared highlights from the Community High School graduation ceremony, and recommended attending next year's ceremony.

President Johnson extended sympathies to the family, friends, and co-workers of Mr. Scott Hammond.

Superintendent Wells echoed comments made by Mr. Posthumus and President Johnson. She acknowledged appreciation for the continued feedback from the community regarding the Bond projects and introduced Mr. Mark Reile, Architect from TMP Associates, and Mr. Casey Peters, Project Manager from AVB Triangle Associates, were in the audience noting comments.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Bond Project Update.** Superintendent Wells shared a draft summary of key elements to be considered eligible for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification as well as the primary categories. She welcomed the Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Mr. Noverr, Mr. Mark Reile, and Mr. Casey Peters, to respond to Trustee questions. Superintendent Wells added more information would be available at the July meeting.

**Technology Bid Process.** The Technology Director, Mr. Michael Batterson, presented background information on the print services bid and the web content filter requests. He introduced Mr. Bruce Eaton, Technical Services Coordinator/Network Manager, and Mr. Mike Gobel, Technical Infrastructure Support Specialist, who were instrumental in researching and constructing these proposals.

Mr. Batterson presented background information on the Technology and Training Center server room bid. Mr. Casey Peters assisted Mr. Batterson in answering Trustee questions pertaining to the construction aspects of the project. The Administration will look into the aspect of inviting a local vendor to match the lowest bid.

**2007/08 Budget Amendments.** Mr. Noverr shared background information on the following budget amendment resolutions: General Fund Amendment #2, Debt Retirement Fund Amendment #1, and the School Service Amendment #1, and responded to Trustee questions.

**2008/09 School Year Preliminary Budget.** Mr. Noverr gave an overview of the 2008/09 preliminary budget that pertained to: past budget cuts, fund balance, revenues and expenditures, reductions and adjustments as well as potential adjustments. He also responded to numerous Trustee questions. President Johnson asked for the Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ms. Denise Bresson, to provide the Board with an update on the reductions made in the Gifted and Talented program.

**Academic Achievement Review.** Superintendent Wells shared District indicators of success and background on the work done by the Academic Achievement Committee. The Director of Assessment and Student Information Systems, Mr. Dan Vomastek, shared an overview of the Academic Achievement Committee's focus, driving questions, key areas of study, some sample analysis, transitions, administrative actions pursued, and next steps. Trustee Kurdys provided additional information. After much discussion, President Johnson requested the Trustees forward helpful feedback to the Superintendent.

**Policy Revisions.** Superintendent Wells informed the audience of the major changes the District Policies and Regulations will go through with the transition to the Carver Model. Mrs. Whistler reviewed changes made to Policy 5020 regarding Attendance and Policy 6400 regarding Student Trips. She added the Administration is looking into a social security number protection issue and will keep the Board updated on those results. She also added the revisions of Regulation 5020 and 6400 will come to the Board as items of information.

**Public Comments on Discussion Items.**

Ms. Millie Taraszka, 410 Marylynn Ct., a citizen, indicated her desire for science to be researched in the Academic Achievement Review process.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent  
Recording Secretary