

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 7, 2008

The organizational meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, July 7, 2008, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Past President Johnson in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. She welcomed an audience of 10 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Trustees Present: Shirley Johnson, Melanie Kurdys, Wendy Mazer, Deb Polderman, Dale Posthumus, Rusty Rathburn, and Jennifer Whistler

Board Trustees Absent: None

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Mrs. Johnson opened the floor to nominations for the office of Board President for the 2008-2009 school year.

Mrs. Whistler nominated Mrs. Johnson for the position of Board President. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Johnson declared the nominations closed and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Johnson announced she will assume the office of President.

Mrs. Polderman nominated Mrs. Whistler for the position of Vice President. Mrs. Mazer nominated Mrs. Kurdys for the position of Vice President. There were no other nominations. President Johnson declared the nominations closed and asked for a roll call vote. Mrs. Mazer and Mrs. Kurdys voted for Mrs. Kurdys; President Johnson, Mrs. Polderman, Mr. Posthumus, Mr. Rathburn, and Mrs. Whistler voted for Mrs. Whistler. President Johnson announced that Mrs. Whistler will assume the office of Vice President.

Mr. Posthumus nominated Mrs. Polderman for the position of Treasurer. There were no other nominations. President Johnson declared the nominations closed and the motion carried unanimously. President Johnson announced that Mrs. Polderman will assume the office of Treasurer.

A motion was offered by Mr. Posthumus, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mrs. Edna Kent, Administrative Assistant, as Recording Secretary to the Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee questions and comments followed concerning a Board member being named as Board Secretary. This will be an item of discussion as the Board transitions into the Carver Policy Governance Model.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education approve the following persons be authorized to access the District's safety deposit

boxes at Comerica Bank: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Business Manager, and the Board of Education Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the schedule of 2008/09 Board of Education meetings, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

President Johnson reminded the audience to continuously check the District web site for changes to this meeting schedule.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Wells welcomed new Trustee Mr. Rathburn, discussed the 12th Street Elementary bid package design changes, and informed the audience of two elementary attendance meetings being held in the Community Room on June 17 and July 8, to collect information that will be shared with the Attendance Study Committee. The Superintendent extended condolences to the family and friends of a recent graduate who died. She commented that the District would initiate further dialogue with substance abuse centers to support families who may be in need of assistance.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Polderman presented the Treasurer's Report of Bills Approved for Payment as of June 12, 2008 and June 17, 2008, General Fund bills in the amount of \$3,821,586.07, Building & Site Fund bills in the amount of \$6,661.29, and Bond Construction Fund bills in the amount of \$562,580.83, for a grand total of \$4,390,828.19.

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 explained guidelines the Board uses for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Bob Schafer, 7667 Cobblewood, a parent, shared his concerns regarding the high school site plans, and classrooms containing good acoustics and audio enhancement.

President Johnson read the public statement released on June 16, 2008 pertaining to the Superintendent's 2007/08 evaluation.

Mrs. Polderman welcomed Mr. Rathburn to the Board and extended sympathy to the family of Mrs. Joanne Paffhausen, a District crossing guard for 40 years.

Mr. Posthumus commented on his first year of service and welcomed Mr. Rathburn to the Board.

Mrs. Kurdys provided a legislative update on the school aid bill not being resolved and Senate Bill 0836 pertaining to public/private school courses. She also offered condolences to family of the recent graduate who died. Mrs. Kurdys asked for a future Board agenda item to discuss what the District is doing and how the District is handling drug related issues.

Mr. Rathburn echoed previous comments and offered condolences to the family of the recent graduate who died. He thanked the public for putting their trust in him and electing him to the Board, and the administration for all the background information.

Mrs. Whistler welcomed Mr. Rathburn to the Board, extended sympathies to the family of the recent graduate who died, and thanked the Central High School drama instructor, Ms. Kathy Mulay, for providing support for the memorial service.

President Johnson welcomed Mr. Rathburn to the Board and offered condolences to the family of the recent graduate who died. She commented on the Administration looking into further assistance for students struggling with substance abuse and encouraged citizen contact on the subject. She thanked the Trustees for supporting her as Board President. She looks forward to a great year.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Johnson moved the Consent Agenda item, approval of minutes of June 16, 2008 Regular Meeting, to the Action Items portion of the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Tom Noverr, the Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Mark Reile, Architect from TMP Associates, and Mr. Casey Peters, Construction Manager from AVB Triangle, discussed changes to the second floor media centers at the new elementary buildings, 12th Street and Lake Center, per the request of the State Office of Fire Safety. They responded to numerous Trustee questions, talked about some options, and construction schedules. Mr. Posthumus raised questions regarding the General Trades, Drywall and Related Interior Trades, and Mechanical bids contained in the 12th Street Elementary bid package #2.

Motion offered by Mr. Posthumus, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education remove the General Trades, Drywall and Related Interior Trades, and Mechanical bids from the 12th Street Elementary bid package #2. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Casey Peters responded to numerous questions pertaining to the bidding process, local versus lowest bidders, and strategy for future bids.

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the 12th Street Elementary bid package #2, as revised. Motion carried unanimously.

Extended Trustee discussion took place pertaining to local versus lowest bids.

Motion offered by Mr. Posthumus, supported by Mrs. Kurdys, that the Board of Education approve the second lowest bid for General Trades in the 12th Street Elementary bid package

#2. Upon a roll call vote, President Johnson, Mrs. Kurdys, Mrs. Mazer, Mrs. Polderman, Mr. Rathburn, and Mrs. Whistler voted against the motion; and Mr. Posthumus voted in favor of the motion. Motion failed due to lack of support.

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the lowest bid for General Trades in the 12th Street Elementary bid package #2. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Posthumus, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the lowest bid for Drywall and Related Interior Trades in the 12th Street Elementary bid package #2. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Posthumus, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the second lowest bid for Mechanical work in the 12th Street Elementary bid package #2. Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees present voted in favor of the motion with Mr. Posthumus abstaining.

Mr. Posthumus stated he would prefer to see future bid information that contains a location for the bidder and does not include names. President Johnson thanked Mr. Noverr, Mr. Peters, Mr. Reile, and Mr. John Spencer, the Owners Representative, for all their efforts with this bid package.

Motion offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the June 16, 2008 Regular Meeting noting requested corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

President Johnson opened the floor for comments from Trustees pertaining to Board Trustee compensation and a brief discussion of options followed.

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, supported by Mr. Rathburn, that the Board of Education move Board Trustee Compensation item to action. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, supported by Mr. Rathburn, that the Board of Education waive its compensation for the 2008/09 school year. Upon a roll call vote, President Johnson, Mrs. Polderman, and Mrs. Whistler voted against the motion; Mrs. Kurdys, Mrs. Mazer, Mr. Posthumus, and Mr. Rathburn voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Motion offered by Mr. Posthumus, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education move the 2009 Organizational Meeting item to action. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Posthumus, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education set their next Organizational Meeting for July 13, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mr. Posthumus, that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purpose of discussing student discipline. Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

President Johnson noted that two additional closed sessions would also occur for the purpose of discussing negotiations and a property acquisition.

The Board moved into closed session at 8:35 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 8:50 p.m.

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mr. Posthumus, that the Board of Education approve the expulsion of a student. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

The Board moved into closed session at 8:55 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 9:10 p.m.

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purpose of discussing property purchase. Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

The Board moved into closed session at 9:15 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 9:53 p.m.

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education approve the Land Contract agreement with Koens Investments for the purchase of the property at 320 East Centre Avenue for the price of \$491,000 and that the Superintendent or the Assistant Superintendent for Operations be authorized to sign all necessary documents associated with this purchase. It is the District's intent to pay for this purchase through Bond Proposal #1 funds. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary