

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

February 9, 2009

The committee of the whole work session of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Monday, February 9, 2009, was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Johnson in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. She welcomed an audience of 12 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Board Trustees Absent: None

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent Wells invited the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, Dr. Ric Perry, to provide details to the Board related to a middle school safety issue. Dr. Perry shared details about the malfunctioning basketball hoops in the gymnasium at West Middle School. He confirmed there were no injuries and the manufacturer is checking all similar equipment in the District.

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.

No citizens came forward to speak and President Johnson opened the floor for Board Trustee comments.

Mrs. Kurdys shared observations from the Great Start Teleconference she participated in and links to District Ends Statement and Goals.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

President Johnson announced she was moving the order of Discussion Items and invited the Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, to discuss the Budget Amendment.

Financial Update, 2008/09 General Fund Amendment #1. Mr. Noverr shared modifications due to the 2007/08 audit, enrollment demographics, staffing, and foundation allowance. Mr. Noverr and the Business Manager, Mrs. Karla Colestock, responded to numerous Trustee questions and indicated that follow up information was going to be provided. A request was made to provide the Board with a more detailed breakdown in increased staffing costs which Superintendent Wells acknowledged she would share.

Financial Update, 2009/10 Financial Outlook. Mr. Noverr presented a financial outlook for the 2009/10 school year highlighting foundation allowance, the economic stimulus package, potential loss of enrollment, employee costs, and budget reductions. He provided the Board with a budget impact analysis worksheet of assumptions and variables and discussed the State budget process. Mr. Noverr responded to Trustee questions pertaining to full day Kindergarten and retirement incentives. Superintendent Wells reminded the Board that budget discussions will continue to unfold during March and April.

Financial Update, 2007 Bond Project Review. Mr. Noverr provided an analysis of the expenditures and revenues for 2007 Bond Issue #1 and #2. He responded to Trustee questions pertaining to projected interest earnings, contingency funds, playground equipment, projected bids, deduct alternatives, and furniture. Superintendent Wells informed the Trustees more analysis will take place before March 30th.

Financial Update, Refinancing of Debt Retirement. Mr. Noverr informed the Trustees that discussions are taking place with Umbaugh and Associates, Certified Public Accountants. The District does anticipate moving forward with preliminary plans to refinance the debt retirement fund.

Bond Project Updates, Technology Phone System Bid. The Director of Technology Systems, Mr. Michael Batterson, and Mr. Alex Ellingsen, Technology Consultant from Secant Technologies, shared background information pertaining to the Voice Over IP telephone system, equipment to support data networking, and equipment racks for the server room. Mr. Batterson and Mr. Ellingsen responded to Trustee questions pertaining to bids, acceptable products, life expectancy and quality.

Bond Project Updates, 12th Street Elementary Furniture Bid. Dr. Ric Perry, provided an update on the furniture purchases for 12th Street Elementary. He informed the Trustees that Categories A and L will be included in the final request being brought forward at the February 23rd meeting. Dr. Perry and Mr. Mark Reile, Architect from TMP Associates, responded to Trustee questions about bids, coordinated delivery, and product specifications.

Bond Project Updates, Central High School Bid Time Line. President Johnson shared an updated Central High School bid award timetable.

Bond Project Updates, Visit to 12th Street Elementary. President Johnson announced the Board will tour the 12th Street Elementary site on Thursday, March 5, at 4:15 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the Central High School Electrical Equipment Bid to Graybar in an amount not to exceed \$79,818.00, as presented.

Mr. Casey Peters, Project Manager from AVB Triangle, shared background information related to the Central High School electrical equipment procurement package. He responded to Trustee questions pertaining to disqualified bids, sales tax and installation components.

Motion carried unanimously.

Strategic Areas of Focus. Several areas that had been previously discussed by the Board were prioritized into two tiers of importance to address in the next six months. In the first tier were:

- Analyzing the Financial Future
- Supporting Struggling Students
- Identifying Critical Skills Students Need for the Future
- Determining the District's Regional Specialty – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

After Trustee discussions, it was suggested the first step would be to establish a timeline for the Board to address these topics. After discussion, it was agreed that the first area of focus would be the support for struggling students. Superintendent Wells proposed working with the Administrative Team to establish a timeline for review of these topics and will present ideas to the Trustees for consideration.

Motion offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education move Policy 1.0 Global Ends statement to an action item. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve Policy 1.0 Global Ends statement, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

President Johnson opened the floor for comments pertaining to the discussion portion of the meeting and asked if there were any citizens who would like to speak to the Board. No citizens came forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary