

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

February 23, 2009

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, February 23, 2009, was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Johnson in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. She welcomed an audience of 20 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Board Trustees Absent: Melanie Kurdys

RECOGNITION

Superintendent Wells invited the Director of Technology Systems, Mr. Michael Batterson, to provide background on the Excellence In Education grant process. Mr. Batterson shared background and introduced the District-wide team that attended the National Association School Resource Officers (NASRO) Conference made possible by this grant: Police Liaison Officer, Mr. Ray Scott; Police Liaison Officer, Mr. Paul Sherfield; Northern High School Counselor, Ms. Sherri Swinehart; Assistant Principal from Northern High School, Ms. Leslie Hainrihar; Community High School Administrator, Mr. Craig Ross; Assistant Principal from Central High, Mr. Jason Frink; Assistant Principal from West Middle School, Mr. Denny Roehm; and Assistant Principal from North Middle School, Ms. Kim Kirshman. Ms. Kirshman provided a brief overview of the training this team participated in and the ongoing updates pertaining to contemporary issues facing District students. Ms. Kirshman shared a video detailing this training and thanked the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for their support through this grant.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Wells welcomed a fellow educator from England and invited the Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ms. Denise Bresson, to provide further introductions. Ms. Bresson introduced Mr. Glen Whalley, Assistant Head Teacher, Walbottle Campus, in Newcastle, England. Mr. Whalley will be participating in the Third Annual Internationalizing Education Conference organized by the Michigan State International Outreach Program. Michigan State Office for K-12 Outreach and the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals contacted the District to host an administrator to job shadow with Mr. Whalley in an effort to establish relationships with this organization for student study abroad opportunities and administrator exchanges. Mr. Whalley shared some background of his job responsibilities, the purpose of this trip to expand on a global focus, and responded to a few Trustee questions. The Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Dr. Ric Perry, informed the audience that Mr. Whalley came to Portage because of the District's International Baccalaureate Program.

Superintendent Wells informed the audience bond construction projects at 12th Street Elementary School, the bus and maintenance facility, and Northern High continue to be on schedule. The District is preparing for a dedication and open house for 12th Street Elementary in late August. The Superintendent commended and

thanked the Waylee Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for being the first group to contribute funds for the new 12th Street Elementary PTO.

Superintendent Wells invited the Director of Assessment and Student Information Systems, Mr. Dan Vomastek, to provide an update on the redistricting project. Mr. Vomastek shared an update pertaining to student enrollment projections after the February count and grandfathering requests. He offered accolades to the elementary PTO's and building staff for their reassurances and welcoming atmosphere to the new families.

Superintendent Wells reminded the audience that conferences are taking place in the District this week. She also discussed the Federal Stimulus Package coverage in the media cautioning the District is waiting for details. She stressed this is a temporary measure and that the District must still seek avenues for cost savings.

Financial Report: The Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, discussed District monitoring of the American Recovery Investment Act of 2009 (the Stimulus Package). He briefed the audience on the following four areas referenced in the financial tables: Title I, Special Education, Incentive Grants, and stabilization funds. Mr. Noverr responded to Trustee questions pertaining to budget cuts and the view that while these stabilization funds could help the District recoup funding, it is temporary. Mr. Noverr presented the General Fund Condensed Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the seven month period ending January 31, 2009.

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.

Ms. Joanne Willson, 7122 Leawood St., a citizen, inquired about sister schools and Young 5's classes. Superintendent Wells responded the District is in the process of working through the grandfathering requests which should be concluded soon and commented that Ms. Willson would be contacted with an update as soon as possible.

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

Mrs. Polderman thanked the Excellence In Education team for their presentation and giving up their time during the summer to participate in NASRO conference with a proactive approach for the District.

Mr. Posthumus provided an update on the successful Portage Athletic Foundation winter fundraiser held at the State Theatre. While he did not have totals, he stated that the amount raised was significantly higher than the \$14,000 that was raised last year and confirmed over 600 attendees participated. He thanked the community for their support of athletics in the District.

Mrs. Whistler offered accolades and commented on attending both Central and Northern High plays and how overwhelmed she was with the student talents honed at both schools.

Mr. Rathburn echoed Mrs. Whistler's comments recognizing the confidence, talent and passion of the student performers, and added how proud he felt as a Trustee to be a part of this District.

President Johnson thanked the PAF and all those that attended their event for bringing in those additional funds. She reminded high school seniors and their parents of scholarships dollars available through the Portage Education Foundation and the Portage Rotary and encouraged them to check with the counseling offices of each high school for further information.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented. Included on the Consent Agenda was the approval of the revised Minutes from January 26, 2009 Regular Business Meeting, February 9, 2009 Policy Development Meeting, and February 9, 2009 Committee Of The Whole Work Session. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUIRED APPROVAL ITEMS

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mr. Posthumus, that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution for Amendment #1 to the 2008/09 General Fund Appropriations Act, as presented.

Mr. Noverr reviewed background information shared at the February 9th meeting and responded to Trustee questions pertaining to Special Education expenditure difference, math text books, and staffing costs. Mr. Rathburn commented on appreciating the conservative nature of the student count in the District's budgeting process.

Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mr. Rathburn, that the Board of Education adopt the Supplemental Resolution authorizing issuance of 2009 Refunding Bonds as qualified tax exempt obligations, as presented.

Mr. Noverr shared background information and reminded the Trustees that on March 11, 2009, sales of the bond issue would begin. Mr. Noverr responded to Trustee questions pertaining to taxpayer savings and advantages for the District.

Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education authorize the District to enter into a Four Year Energy Savings Agreement with Energy Education, Inc., and authorize the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents, as presented.

Superintendent Wells shared information on the Energy Savings Agreement adding the District is operating as efficiently as possible and is always looking for ways to trim energy costs. She also discussed management and training on site by a part time employee. The Superintendent introduced Mr. Michael Bitar, President, Midwest Division of Energy Education, Inc. Mr. Bitar further explained the energy cost savings and how the focus is placed on maximizing the efficiency of the District's current equipment. Mr. Bitar responded to Trustee questions pertaining to the District point person, the broad

spectrum of machines in District buildings, bringing new buildings on-line, and universities and community college participation. Mrs. Whistler thanked Mr. Bitar for pointing out previous successful energy saving strategies used in the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Posthumus supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the following from Sarcom, Grand Rapids, Michigan: VoIP Infrastructure in an amount not to exceed \$117,062.51; Phones in an amount not to exceed \$37,784.61; and Network Infrastructure in an amount not to exceed \$275,036.51, as presented.

The Director of Technology Systems, Mr. Michael Batterson, shared details about this action item pointing out the decrease in overall maintenance by having one infrastructure supporting all three categories. President Johnson inquired if this bid was significantly under budget. Mr. Batterson responded it was \$140,000 under budget. Mr. Rathburn acknowledged this as a long-term asset taking us well into the future.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mr. Whyte, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of Panduit Server Racks with air ducting, metered power strips, and ground bars from BTS Telecom, St. Joseph, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$21,205.73, as presented.

Mr. Batterson shared background information on this request. President Johnson inquired if this bid was at or under budget and Mr. Batterson responded he did not have that figure available. For the audience's benefit, President Johnson pointed out these funds would be coming from Bond Proposal 1.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Whyte, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the 12th Street Elementary Furniture Bid Award, as presented.

The Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Richard Perry, and Mr. Mark Reile, Architect from TMP Associates, presented sample chairs, desk, and file cabinets as well as discussed rebidding of two categories. President Johnson reminded the audience these funds would be coming from Bond Proposal 2.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the purchase agreement for the house and property located at 830 Idaho in the amount of \$139,000.00 and designate the Superintendent or her designee to execute all necessary closing documents, as presented. This purchase would be made from the 2008/09 Building and Site Sinking Fund.

Mr. Noverr shared details pertaining to this purchase agreement and thanked local realtor, Mr. Dan Jaqua, for his work on this project at no cost to the taxpayers. Mr. Noverr and Superintendent Wells responded to numerous Trustee questions pertaining to the significant safety issue, achievement of some benefits by

blending work at the site, and site change orders. In her absence, President Johnson shared comments on behalf of Mrs. Kurdys that she disagrees with this purchase coming out of the Building and Site Sinking Fund as opposed to the Bond fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION
AMENDMENT #1 2008/09**

Be it resolved that this resolution shall be the general appropriations of Portage Public Schools for the fiscal year 2008/09. A resolution to make appropriations; to provide for the expenditures of the appropriations; and to provide for the disposition of all revenue received by Portage Public Schools.

Be it further resolved, that the total unappropriated fund balance and revenues to be available for appropriations in the General Fund of Portage Public Schools for the fiscal year 2008/09 is as follows:

Beginning Unappropriated Fund Balance	\$ 6,778,346
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REVENUES -

Local Sources	\$23,201,473
State Sources	52,235,055
Federal Sources	1,524,503
Incoming Transfers and Other Financing Sources	<u>608,441</u>

Total Revenues	<u>\$77,569,472</u>
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Total Available to Appropriate	<u>\$84,347,818</u>
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Be it further resolved, that \$78,136,720 of the total available to appropriate is hereby appropriated in the amounts and for the purposes set forth as follows:

EXPENDITURES –

Instruction:

Basic Programs	39,506,241
Added Needs	6,539,846
Adult Education	115,772

Support Services:

Pupil	4,604,852
Instructional Staff	4,942,694
General Administration	796,608
School Administration	4,383,430
Business Services	955,225
Operations and Maintenance	8,040,271
Transportation	2,862,414
Central Services	1,848,861

Community Services	2,043,418
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Other Financing Uses:

Outgoing transfer to Athletic Fund	1,165,117
Debt Service	<u>331,971</u>

Total Expenditure Appropriation	<u>\$78,136,720</u>
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Be it further resolved that no Board of Education member or employee of the School District shall expend any funds or obligate the expenditure of funds except pursuant to appropriations made by the Board of Education and in keeping with the budgetary policy statement previously adopted. Changes in the amount appropriated shall require approval by the Board of Education.

Be it further resolved that the superintendent is hereby charged with general supervision of the execution of the budget as adopted by the Board of Education and shall hold the directors and department heads responsible for performance of their responsibilities within the amounts appropriated.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF
2009 REFUNDING BONDS
(UNLIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION)

Portage Public Schools
County of Kalamazoo, State of Michigan

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools, County of Kalamazoo, State of Michigan, held in the Board of Education offices on the 23rd day of February, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

PRESENT: Members _____

ABSENT: Members _____

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ supported by Member _____.

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2008, the Board of Education of the School District adopted a Resolution Authorizing Issuance (the "Resolution") for the purpose of authorizing the issuance of its of 2009 Refunding Bonds (Unlimited Tax General Obligation) (the "Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, February 17, 2009, the President signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which increased the maximum amount of tax exempt obligations which may be issued by a governmental entity in a calendar year which may be designated as "qualified tax exempt obligations" pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") from \$10,000,000 to \$30,000,000; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable for the School District to supplement the Resolution to take advantage of the new higher limit and to authorize the Authorized Officers to designate the Bonds as "qualified tax exempt obligations", which is anticipated to increase the savings associated with the issuance of the Bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Authorized Officers are each hereby individually authorized to designate the Refunding Bonds as "qualified tax exempt obligations" for purposes of deduction of interest expense by financial institutions pursuant to the Code, if and only if it is determined by either of such officers at the time of sale of the Refunding Bonds that the School District does not reasonably anticipate issuing tax-exempt obligations, including the Refunding Bonds, in the same calendar year in an aggregate principal amount in excess of the limits established by the Code.

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

AYES: Members _____

NAYS: Members _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Secretary

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools, County of Kalamazoo, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on February 23, 2009, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

Secretary