

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

March 22, 2010

The special meeting of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Monday, March 22, 2010, was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Vice President Whyte in the Superintendent's Conference Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge.

Board Trustees Present: Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Rusty Rathburn, Randy Van Antwerp, and John Whyte

Board Trustees Absent: Bo Snyder

Others Present: Tom Noverr, Assistant Superintendent of Operations; Ric Perry, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Marsha Wells, Superintendent; Tom Zahrt, Director of Human Resources; and Kevin Harty, Legal Counsel

CLOSED SESSION

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy [Section 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act]. Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

The Board moved into closed session at 5:32 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 6:14 p.m.

The Board discussed custodial services bid process and the Board Trustee appointment process.

Recess was called at 6:20 p.m.

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, March 22, 2010, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice President Whyte in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. He welcomed an audience of 50 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Trustees Present: Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Rusty Rathburn, Randy Van Antwerp, and John Whyte

Board Trustees Absent: Bo Snyder

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Wells congratulated the Northern High School Forensics Team and recognized Coach, Mrs. Laurel Scheidt and her staff, on their success competition. She also recognized the Director of Special Education, Mrs. Gail Van Daff, and her staff for accolades received from the

Michigan Department of Education information for compliance with State and Federal regulations as noted by a recent on-site review team.

The Superintendent invited Northern High School Principal, Mr. Jim French, to update the Board on the Task Force findings. Mr. French discussed the diligent handling of air quality concerns at Northern High School by the Task Force and how extensive testing by county health officials has confirmed the safety of the environment. He informed the audience that the Task Force is confident that the building is safe and is looking forward to moving back into the lower level science wing beginning April 5. The Task Force will continue to monitor detectors installed in the building and do everything possible to ensure a safe environment for the students and staff.

Superintendent Wells invited the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Ric Perry, to update the Board on a question raised at a previous Board meeting by a citizen regarding Pay to Participate and Activity Fees. Dr. Perry informed Trustees that he has followed-up with Ms. Amy Knapp regarding any activities outside of the school day will be considered extra and co-curricular activities.

Superintendent Wells reminded the audience of the deadline to submit applications to fill the vacant Board position is March 24th at 2:00 p.m. She added the term for this vacant position runs through June of 2011 and urged anyone interested to contact the Community Relations Manager, Mr. Tom Vance, or the Board Recording Secretary, Mrs. Edna Kent, with questions. The Superintendent thanked Mr. Posthumus for his service to the Board and wished him well.

Financial Report: Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, presented the General Fund Condensed Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the seven month period ending February 28, 2010. Mr. Noverr highlighted a budget impact analysis containing revenues and expenses for both best and worst case scenarios for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 school years presented at the March 8th meeting. He noted some of the significant challenges are the possible reduction in per pupil allocations and the retirement rate increase.

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President Whyte 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. Don Pobuda, 6939 Anthony, a parent, shared concern for the proposed 12th Street Elementary sidewalk.

Ms. Judi Santek, 7537 Autumn Street, a citizen, thanked the Administration and Board for making the Board packets available on the District web site.

Mrs. Jennifer Whistler, 7567 Muirfield Drive, a former Board member and parent, shared concern regarding Board relations.

Mr. Patrick Flynn, 7596 LaJessica Circle, a teacher, shared concern regarding Board relations.

Mrs. Sarah Bricknell, 6371 Cullys Trail, a parent, shared concern regarding Board relations.

Mr. Eric VerHey, 50314 Fulton Road, a teacher and President of the PEA, shared concern regarding Board relations.

Mr. Bob Schafer, 7667 Cobblewood Drive, a citizen, shared concern regarding Board relations.

Mr. Tom Eddy, 8339 Brookwood Drive, a former Board member and citizen, shared concern regarding Board relations.

Mr. Jeff Poliak, 304 Calico, a parent, shared redistricting concerns, thanked Administrators for responding to his questions, and urged the Board not to redistrict the Fabric Streets.

Mr. Bob Walker, 2812 Vanderbilt Road, a citizen and retired teacher, shared concern regarding Board relations.

Mrs. Ann Woolley, 7265 Sandpiper Street, a former Board member and parent, shared concern regarding Board relations.

Mrs. Lissa Hartridge, 3723 Songbird Lane, a citizen, shared concern regarding Board relations.

Mrs. Monica Harris, 8346 Canary, a parent, shared concern regarding Board relations.

Vice President Whyte opened the floor to comments from fellow Board members.

Mr. Whyte thanked Mr. Posthumus for his service on the Board and wished him well.

Mrs. Polderman thanked Mr. Posthumus for his service on the Board and his dedication to the Bond Advisory Committee. She thanked all the community members for their comments adding the Board needs to celebrate the District successes and focus on strategic planning for the future.

Mr. Rathburn thanked Mr. Posthumus for his service on the Board and his dedication to the Bond Advisory Committee. He shared his concerns with the Board Governance and asked Trustees to consider alternatives.

Mr. Van Antwerp thanked Mr. Posthumus for his service on the Board. He also thanked the community members for their comments, acknowledged the Board responsibility of providing strategic direction for the District, and adherence to the Board Governance model.

Mrs. Kurdys thanked Mr. Posthumus for his service to the Board. She discussed the responsibility to work together to improve student achievement and offered congratulations to local Districts on MEAP success.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mrs. Kurdys, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented. Included on the Consent Agenda was the approval of the Minutes of the February 22, 2010, Regular Business Meeting, February 24, 2010, Policy Governance Retreat, March 8, 2010, Special Meeting and Committee Of The Whole Work Session, and March 9, 2010, Special Meeting; and the following Policy and Bylaw Revisions: Policy

2.5 - Financial Condition and Activities, Policy 3.4 - Agenda Planning, Policy 3.9 - Board Committee Structure, Policy 3.9 - Addendum, Appendix B, Bylaws - Board Development, and Bylaws - Board Vacancy.

Motion carried unanimously.

REQUIRED APPROVAL ITEMS

Motion offered by Mr. Van Antwerp, supported by Mrs. Kurdys, that the Board of Education approve the 2009/10 Portage Association of Educational Office Personnel Contract Ratification, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mrs. Kurdys, that the Board of Education accept the base bid and add alternates from Apex Contractors, Inc. of Dorr, Michigan, in the amount of \$254,100.00 for the reconstruction of eight tennis courts at West Middle School contingent upon passage of the Building and Site Sinking Fund (BSSF) millage renewal on May 4, 2010. This purchase would be allocated to the 2009/10 BSSF, as presented.

Mr. Tom Noverr provided information to clarify restrictions on use of Bond and BSSF millage funds.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mr. Van Antwerp, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 45 touchscreen all-in-one desktops from CDW-G in an amount not to exceed \$57,105, using proceeds from 2008 Bond Funds #1 and #2, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Central High School Trip to Peru. Dr. Ric Perry, introduced Central High School Spanish teacher, Ms. Lindsay Steenbergen, to provide details and background information on a proposed trip to Peru in June 2011. Ms. Steenbergen shared the trip purpose and educational goals as well as responding to Trustee questions regarding the chaperone ratio, the grade level of students participating, and how students will be selected, should there be more applications than anticipated.

Central High and Northern High Audio Visual Project Bids. Mr. Dan Vomastek, Director of Information and Technology Systems, and Mr. Chris Hamilton, Technology Designer of Secant Technologies, presented details relating to the Central and Northern High School Audio Visual (AV) Technology Project award as follows: Classroom AV to Central Interconnect of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$574,464.80; Small System AV to I.Comm of Wixom, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$68,731.51; and Large System AV to TPC Technologies of Niles, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$212,997.60. These awards, totaling \$856,193.91 are to be funded from the 2008 Bond Fund #1. Mr. Vomastek and Mr. Hamilton responded to questions from

Trustees regarding: bids, pricing, budget, life expectancy, and the existing system at Northern High School.

Lake Center Elementary School Asbestos Bid Recommendation. Mr. Tom Noverr provided background information on all bid categories for Asbestos Abatement at Lake Center Elementary School during the Spring and Summer of 2010. He shared details of the recommendation to award this project to Martin and Associates with funding from the 2008 Bond Fund #2. The recommendation is based upon BDN Industrial Hygiene Consultants' evaluation of eight bids received and successful post-bid interviews. Mr. Noverr responded to Trustee questions pertaining to: variance between bid pricing, comparable unit pricing, budget figures, consulting costs, and monitoring any additional costs.

Moorsbridge Elementary School Carpet Bid Recommendation. Mr. Tom Noverr shared details on the bid from Central Tile and Terrazzo of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in the amount of \$61,385 for the replacement of carpeting at Moorsbridge Elementary contingent upon passage of the Building and Site Sinking Fund (BSSF) millage renewal on May 4, 2010. This purchase would be allocated to the 2009/10 BSSF. Mr. Noverr responded to Trustee questions regarding the specific type of carpet, the grade of the carpet and added there are no serious safety concerns with the current 16 year-old carpeting.

Agenda Item Request. Mrs. Kurdys provided an overview of the request to discuss the Chinese Language Program proposal. Trustee discussion that followed pertained to Board Policies, Curriculum Instruction Council's review of the program, contract, expenses incurred by the District, families interested in the program, and potential expansion. Trustees came to a consensus that the Administration would provide a presentation on the Chinese Language Program proposal to the Board at the May Work Study Session.

Vice President Whyte opened the floor to comments on any of the discussion items.

Mr. Bob Schafer, 7667 Cobblewood Drive, a citizen, shared concern regarding the audio visual equipment as it pertains to a specific student population.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary