

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**May 24, 2010**

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, May 24, 2010, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Whyte in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. He welcomed an audience of 80 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Board Trustees Absent: None

**RECOGNITIONS**

The Community Relations Manager, Mr. Tom Vance, introduced the Central High Chamber Singers and Director of Choirs, Ms. Cindy Hunter. Mr. Vance added the group of advanced choral students from Central High School received a “Superior” rating at the District Choral Festival and a “Superior” rating at the State Choral Festival. The Chamber Singers performed for the Board and audience.

Mr. Vance introduced Central Middle School teacher, Mr. Mike Champion, who provided background information on the middle school students who participated and came away with first, second, and third place in the Michigan Department of Transportation Bridge Building Challenge.

Mr. Vance acknowledged and recognized the Northern High School Forensics Team for winning their ninth consecutive first-place Class A Championship at the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association State Finals. He introduced teacher and coach, Mrs. Laurel Scheidt, who also thanked and recognized assistant coaches, Mr. Mike Scheidt and Mr. Jim Menchinger.

The Director of Special Education, Mrs. Gail Van Daff, provided an introduction and presented the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Awards. Mrs. Van Daff acknowledged the nominees and shared recommendation letters and delivered framed certificates to the following winners: bus driver, Ms. Elaine Staal; Moorsbridge Elementary teacher, Ms. Kathy Bliss; Central High teacher, Ms. Hilary Curtis; and West Middle teacher, Ms. Laurie Kuiper.

Mr. Vance acknowledged and recognized North Middle School teacher, Mrs. Mary Roobol, for completing National Board Certification. He noted Mrs. Roobol has become one of only four faculty members in the District to achieve this certification and Mrs. Roobol address the Board regarding her experiences with the Certification process.

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Whyte thanked the Central High School Chamber Singers for their performance. He also offered accolades and presented certificates of recognition to the Central Middle School MDOT Engineering Champions, the Northern High School Forensics Team, and National Board Certified teacher, Mrs. Roobol.

## REPORTS

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Wells congratulated the District seniors and wished them the very best. She congratulated the students and staff members recognized for all their accomplishments. The Superintendent acknowledged, in light of the budget issues, the District is diligently working on creative ways to maintain quality learning experiences for all students. She informed the audience of a special budget work session planned for Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. Superintendent Wells thanked the Portage Education Foundation individuals who are raising funds to support District programs.

The Superintendent invited Mr. Vance to share an analysis on the recent District survey conducted by The Kercher Center. Mr. Vance highlighted details on the community feedback received and noted the entire report will be accessible on the District web site. He clarified this was a separate effort from the annual parent satisfaction survey that is currently being distributed to District parents.

Superintendent Wells offered condolences to the family and friends of a former high school student as news was received of her tragic death.

**Financial Report:** Business Manager, Mrs. Karla Colestock, presented the General Fund Condensed Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the ten month period ending April 30, 2010. She commented on cautious estimates and shared state budget information as a result of the May State Revenue Estimating Conference. Mrs. Colestock noted the District budget will be addressed in more detail at the special work session that will take place on Thursday. Mrs. Colestock and the Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, responded to a question regarding the impact of the retirement rate increase.

## COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

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.

Ms. Judi Santek, 7537 Autumn, a citizen, shared concerns with District outsourcing.

Ms. Joanne Willson, 7122 Leawood St. a citizen and member of PEPA (Parents for Excellence in the Performing Arts), shared concern about the impact Pay to Participate or Activity Fees will have on District athletics and arts.

Dr. Millie Taraszka, 410 Marylynn Court, a citizen, shared her concerns that science semester courses were not taken consecutively (e.g. Chemistry I and Chemistry II in the same year).

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

Mrs. Kurdys noted the Board has discussed the Consent Agenda items pertaining to the roofing contract and the Food Service contract at a previous meeting and encouraged community member participation in upcoming budget meetings.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion offered by Dr. Hollenbeck, supported by Mr. Rathburn, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented. Included on the consent agenda was the approval of the April 19, 2010, Special and Regular Business Meeting, April 26, 2010, Special Work Session Meeting, May 10, 2010 Special and Work Session Meeting, and May 11, 2010, Special Meeting; Recommendation To Set Public Hearing On Proposed 2010/11 Budget; Roofing Contract Award; and Food Service Management Contract Award.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## **REQUIRED APPROVAL ITEMS**

**Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mr. Van Antwerp, that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution indicating support of the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency General Fund operating budget for the 2010/11 school year, as presented, with an Addendum.**

**Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees voted in favor of the resolution.**

**Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution which endorses, with qualifications, the District's pursuit of eligibility for the second phase of the Race To The Top funds, as presented.**

**Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees voted in favor of the resolution.**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Motion offered by Mr. Van Antwerp, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education accept the low bid of Peters Construction Company for the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary Sidewalk / Trail project in the amount of \$37,746.72. Funding for this project would come from the 2008 Bond Construction Fund #2, as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion offered by Mr. Snyder, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education authorize the purchase of the following cafeteria tables from American Furniture Contractors, Inc. (AFC) for an August 2010 delivery:**

<b>Bid Category A – 10' Mobile Cafeteria Tables</b>	<b>\$15,565.12</b>
<b>Bid Category B – Oval Mobile Cafeteria Tables</b>	<b><u>\$21,925.20</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,490.32</b>

**Funding for this purchase would come from the 2008 Bond Construction Fund #1, as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

The Board discussed the 2010/11 Strategic Priorities draft document for additions and clarifications. Trustees also talked about the evaluation process and 2010/11 goals. Superintendent Wells noted these will be further evaluated at a future Board Retreat.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent  
Recording Secretary

## **KRESA ("ISD") GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET RESOLUTION**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public District was held in the Community Room of the Administration Building on May 24th at 6:30 pm.

Members present were: Kevin Hollenbeck, Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Rusty Rathburn, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp, and John Whyte

Member absent were: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Deb Polderman and seconded by Member Randy Van Antwerp.

### **WHEREAS:**

This Board received the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency General Fund Operating Budget on or before May 1, 2010; and

### **WHEREAS:**

In accordance with Section 380.624 of the Revised School Code, this Board must now adopt a resolution expressing its support or disapproval of the proposed ISD budget, and must submit to the ISD Board any specific objections and/proposed changes the Board may have to the budget prior to June 1, 2010.

### **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Based upon the information received from and recognizing that a limited review of a budget document provides limited oversight of the financial affairs of an organization, the General Fund Operation Budget for the 2010/2011 school year be supported. Furthermore that the Secretary of the Board is hereby directed to submit a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of the ISD Board of Education, along with any specific objections or proposed changes to the budget.

Ayes: Members Kevin Hollenbeck, Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Rusty Rathburn, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp, and John Whyte

Nays: Members None

Motion declared adopted.

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools Portage, Michigan hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting held on May 24, 2010, the original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.

Signed:



Secretary, Board of Education



Portage Public Schools Board of Education  
KRESA 2010/11 Budget Resolution Addendum  
May 24, 2010

*Given the tough economic times facing the communities and school districts of this region, and*

*Given that most school district labor contracts have not yet been settled for the upcoming year, and*

*Given that the forecast for the State funding of public education for next year is in question,*

*The Portage Public Schools Board of Education strongly encourages the KRESA Board of Education to consider adopting a budget which does not include salary increases for step costs. In addition, we strongly encourage the Board to charge the KRESA Administration to look for efficiencies in their own programs that will result in lower costs for the local school districts (i.e. EFE Consortium, EFA Consortium, Special Education Budget).*

**RACE TO THE TOP RESOLUTION**  
**(Prepared 05/12/2010)**

Portage Public School District, Michigan (the “District”)

A regular meeting of the board of education of the District (the “Board”) was held in the Community Room of the Administration Building, in the District, on the 24th day of May, 2010, at 6:30 o'clock in the p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President John Whyte.

Present: Members Kevin Hollenbeck, Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Rusty Rathburn, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp, and John Whyte

Absent: Members None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Rusty Rathburn and supported by Member Deb Polderman:

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (“ARRA”), Pub. L. 111-5, creates an opportunity for States to apply to the United States Department of Education (“USDOE”) to receive Federal funding for education reform through a “Race to the Top” (“RT3”) grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Legislature has adopted, and Governor Jennifer Granholm has signed into law effective January 4, 2010, certain education reform legislation (2009 PA 201-205) in support of Michigan’s efforts to secure Federal funding through the RT3 grant program; and

WHEREAS, the USDOE requires that interested States submit a Phase 2 RT3 grant application and plan by not later than June 1, 2010, that includes a signed Memorandum of Understanding from each of the State’s local and intermediate school districts and public school academies that will participate in that State’s RT3 Plan, if approved and funded by the USDOE; and

WHEREAS, the USDOE has distributed a *Model Participating LEA Memorandum of Understanding* (the “Model MOU”) to serve as a template for each State to develop the required Memorandum of Understanding; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2010, as part of the Phase 2 application process for RT3 grant funding, Michigan’s Superintendent of Public Instruction, Michael P. Flanagan, notified local and intermediate school districts and public school academies that modifications had been made to the Model MOU that could be found on the MDE’s website in a document entitled, *Michigan’s Participating Local Education Agency/Intermediate School District Memorandum of Understanding* (“MOU”) (a copy of which is attached as Attachment A to this Resolution and incorporated by this reference); and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Flanagan has further advised local and intermediate school districts and public school academies that, in order to be eligible to receive Federal RT3 grant funds, should Michigan's Phase 2 application and plan for such funds be approved, interested local districts and academies must submit to their intermediate school district by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2010, a copy of the attached MOU signed by the local superintendent (or equivalent authorized signatory) and school board president; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Flanagan has further advised local and intermediate school districts and public school academies that the signature of teacher union leadership is "preferred" but not "required" for an MOU to be valid; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2010, Superintendent Flanagan posted on the Michigan Department of Education's website a copy of the MDE's Phase 2 RT3 Application and supporting documentation for the purpose of assisting local and intermediate school districts and academies to make informed decisions about signing onto Michigan's Phase 2 RT3 Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Board has determined it to be in the interest of this District to participate in Michigan's Phase 2 RT3 plan, provided:

1. That the District will not be required to expend more resources on implementation and compliance with the RT3 program (including, without limitation, staffing, equipment, training, reporting and operational costs required to comply with the State Plan and the corresponding LEA/ISD Plan during and after the grant period) than the District will receive from the State of Michigan through the State's RT3 grant and the District's Participating LEA/ISD subgrant;
2. That the MOU will not be construed or applied in a manner that effectively obviates the constitutional prohibition against the State's imposition of unfunded mandates upon the District as a result of, or in connection with, the RT3 Program. *See Mich Const 1963, Art. IX, Sec. 29*; and
3. That the MOU will not be construed or applied in a manner that waives the District's rights under, or requires the District to act in violation of, controlling law or contract, including without limitation, the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the Michigan Revised School Code (Act 451 of 1976, as amended), the State School Aid Act (Act 94 of 1979, as amended), the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act (Act 336 of 1947, as amended), the Michigan Teachers' Tenure Act (Act 4 of 1937, as amended), or the terms of an existing collective bargaining agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISOS SET FORTH ABOVE, the Board of Education for the District authorizes the District's Superintendent and Board President to execute the attached MOU to participate in a Phase 2 Michigan Race to the Top Plan that substantially comports with Michigan's RT3 Application and Plan as posted on the MDE's website on May 7, 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the District's Administration is authorized to seek to obtain the signature(s) of [an] authorized representative(s) of Portage Education Association on the attached MOU as requested by the MDE, but that such signature is not required.

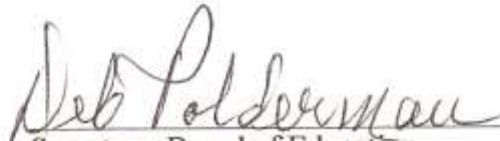
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the District's Administration is directed and authorized to implement all terms of this resolution, including submission of an executed MOU to the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency on or before 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2010, and is delegated all necessary authority to do so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are rescinded.

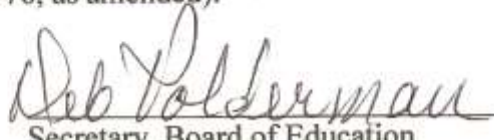
Ayes: Members Kevin Hollenbeck, Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Rusty Rathburn, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp, and John Whyte

Nays: Members None

Resolution declared adopted.

  
Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned, duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the Portage Public School District, Michigan, certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by said Board of Education at a regular meeting held on May 24, 2010, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, PA 1976, as amended).

  
Secretary, Board of Education