

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 12, 2010

The organizational meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, July 12, 2010, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Past Vice President Hollenbeck in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. He welcomed an audience of 15 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Trustees Present: Kevin Hollenbeck, Geoff Howe, Melanie Kurdys, Rusty Rathburn, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp, and Joanne Willson

Board Trustees Absent: None

AFFIRM OATH OF OFFICE

Mrs. Willson and Mr. Howe affirmed their Oath of Office.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Hollenbeck opened the floor to nominations for the office of Board President for the 2010/2011 school year.

Mr. Van Antwerp nominated Dr. Hollenbeck for the position of Board President. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Hollenbeck announced he will assume the office of President.

Mr. Rathburn nominated Mrs. Kurdys for the position of Board Vice President. Motion carried unanimously. President Hollenbeck announced that Mrs. Kurdys would assume the office of Vice President.

Mr. Snyder nominated Mr. Van Antwerp for the position of Board Secretary. Motion carried unanimously. President Hollenbeck announced that Mr. Van Antwerp would assume the office of Secretary.

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mrs. Kurdys, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mrs. Kent, Administrative Assistant, as Recording Secretary to the Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mrs. Kurdys, 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 Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, supported by Mr. Howe, that the Board of Education approve the schedule of 2010/11 Board of Education meetings, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

President Hollenbeck announced the following Board committee and liaison appointments:

Board Committees:

Audit Committee: President Hollenbeck, chair; Mrs. Kurdys and Mr. Van Antwerp

Bond Construction Committee: Mr. Rathburn, chair; President Hollenbeck and Mrs. Willson

CEO Evaluation Committee: Mr. Van Antwerp, chair; Mr. Rathburn and Mr. Snyder

Governance Education Committee: Mrs. Kurdys, chair; Mr. Howe and Mr. Rathburn

Owner Linkage – Ad Hoc Committee: Mr. Snyder, chair; Mr. Van Antwerp and Mrs. Willson

Quality – Ad Hoc Committee: Mrs. Kurdys, chair; President Hollenbeck and Mr. Snyder

Liaison Assignments:

District Advisory Council: President Hollenbeck

Portage Athletic Foundation: Mr. Rathburn

Portage Education Foundation: Mr. Van Antwerp

Legislative: Mrs. Kurdys

Parliamentarian: Mr. Van Antwerp

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Wells welcomed Mrs. Willson and Mr. Howe to the Board. She reported on District academic achievement noting both Central and Northern High Schools were ranked in the top six percent in the nation by *Newsweek Magazine*. The Superintendent informed the audience of the successful trips by Central High students to France and Northern High students to Spain. She shared news of the State's decision to restore \$11 per pupil to the District and noted she remains hopeful funding will not be reduced after the November elections. Superintendent Wells informed the audience the Board toured the new Northern High School commons area prior to the meeting and provided an update on the construction at Central High and the deconstruction of the original Lake Center Elementary building.

The Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Ric Perry, provided a staffing update noting there is currently one full-time and one with a part-time teacher on lay off, and discussed the current open positions. Superintendent Wells confirmed the District has reduced staff and received early notification due to the incentive plan offered.

Superintendent Wells invited the Community Relations Manager, Mr. Tom Vance, to share background on the transition from Portage Cable Access to Public Media Network (PMN). Mr. Vance provided details on the transition to PMN. While future meetings will be aired live, due to building issues, this meeting was being recorded for broadcast at a later date on Channel 99. As in the past, additional airings of Board meetings will be re-broadcast. Once date(s) and air time(s) are established, those details will be posted on the District web site.

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

President Hollenbeck opened the comments and communications portion of the meeting and asked if there were any citizens who would like to speak to the Board. Mr. Rathburn explained guidelines the Board uses for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Kevin Hoffer, 7059 Provence Dr., a parent, shared concern for the Chinese Language Program and discussed options for transportation savings through the consolidation of bus stops.

Ms. Rita McKenzie, 5715 Blue Spruce, a parent and Curriculum Instruction Council Member, shared concern for the Chinese Language Program. President Hollenbeck informed Ms. McKenzie that an Administrator would be contacting her to resolve concerns.

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

Mrs. Kurdys welcomed Mrs. Willson and Mr. Howe to the Board. She shared concerns with the District's delegation to China suggesting a public meeting be held for further discussion.

Mr. Snyder shared his support of the Chinese delegation trip based on grant funding. He suggested the Board discuss a mechanism for raising shared concerns that are typically management decisions to bring forward for Board level discussion.

Mrs. Willson requested District committee minutes (i.e., District Advisory Council, Curriculum Instruction Council, and any others) are included in future Board packets.

Mr. Van Antwerp welcomed Mrs. Willson and Mr. Howe to the Board. He shared news of the successful student achievement ranking by the Michigan Department of Education, acknowledging the District dominated the local list with five of the six top performing schools. Mr. Van Antwerp thanked the teachers and parents for their combined efforts to achieve student success.

Mr. Rathburn welcomed Mrs. Willson and Mr. Howe to the Board. He addressed Trustee Snyder's concern regarding the process the Board uses in order to process discussion items. Mr. Rathburn suggested further discussion at the August Retreat regarding a process for expediting future discussion topics.

Mr. Snyder welcomed Mrs. Willson and Mr. Howe to the Board.

For the benefit of the Board and audience, Superintendent Wells invited Dr. Perry to provide further details on the District group traveling to China this summer for an intensive immersion in the Chinese language and cultural professional development. Dr. Perry shared a timeline of events for the Chinese Language Program proposal with the Western Michigan University (WMU) Confucius Institute, discussed grant funding, assured expense reimbursement would be forthcoming by WMU, and provided background information on the upcoming trip.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mr. Van Antwerp, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda was the approval of the Minutes of June 21, 2010, Regular Business Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

REQUIRED APPROVAL ITEMS

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, supported by Mr. Howe, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following new teachers: Ms. Rebecca Davis, Ms. Casey Kirsten, Mr. Paul Murray, and Ms. Valerie Vandlen, as presented.

Mrs. Gail Van Daff, the Director of Special Education, and Dr. Perry, shared background information and welcomed the new teachers.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Van Antwerp, supported by Mr. Rathburn, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mr. Chuck Haskin to the position of Central Middle School Assistant Principal, as presented.

Superintendent Wells welcomed Mr. Haskins and he thanked the Board for this opportunity.

Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Superintendent Wells welcomed the Central High School Principal, Mr. Eric Alburtus. Mr. Alburtus introduced the new Athletic Director at Central High, Mr. Jim Murray, appointed by the Board on June 21. Mr. Murray acknowledged and thanked the Board for this exciting opportunity.

Motion offered by Mr. Snyder, supported by Mr. Van Antwerp, that the Board of Education approve the revision to the Michigan Schools Energy Cooperative Agreement, as presented.

The Business Manager, Mrs. Karla Colestock, provided background on the revisions to the MISEC Agreement. Mrs. Colestock, the Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, and Superintendent Wells responded to Trustee questions pertaining to the Cooperative Programs portion of the agreement and provided historical details on the Fueling Station Agreement with the City of Portage.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM

Motion offered by Mr. Van Antwerp, supported by President Hollenbeck, that the Board of Education accept the low bid of Cornerstone Construction Management of Portage for the front entrance project at Amberly Elementary in the amount of \$102,650 including accepted bid alternates, as presented. Funding for this project would come from the 2010/11 Building and Site Sinking Fund.

Mr. Noverr, provided background on the project initially discussed at the June 21st Board meeting. He responded to Trustee questions regarding the two phases of this project, entrance identification, security, prioritization and planning for other future building projects, and costs.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM

The Director of Information Systems and Assessments, Mr. Dan Vomastek, and Mr. Chris Hamilton, Secant Technologies, Technology Consultant, provided background information on the Technology Bid Proposal for Video Surveillance Systems at Northern High School, 12th Street Elementary, and Lake Center Elementary. Mr. Vomastek and Mr. Hamilton responded to Trustee questions pertaining to the current equipment, other districts using this same equipment, camera access by Administrators, software upgrades, and infrastructure support.

President Hollenbeck shared his meeting synopsis pertaining to the discussion of security and safety, new hires, staff development, improvements to physical facilities to improve learning, and the Chinese curriculum approval process.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary