

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY GOVERNANCE RETREAT MINUTES**

August 12, 2010

The policy governance retreat of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Thursday, August 12, 2010, was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by President Hollenbeck in the Basement Conference Room of the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 300 S. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

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

Board Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: Marsha Wells, Superintendent

POLICY GOVERNANCE SESSION

Effective Board Governance Indicators. President Hollenbeck led an extensive discussion regarding the context of the school district in relation to private companies, the concept of the school board members serving as agents of the owners [the community], and the attributes of effective boards. The importance of the role of the BOE/CEO team to provide strategic leadership was discussed in relation to protecting and enhancing the future value of the district. Trustee Van Antwerp provided specific information from the Michigan Association of School Administrators and their Visionary Leadership Award Program and Trustee Rathburn cited information from the K-12 school district that obtained the 2008 Baldrige National Quality Award. There was agreement that these are indicators to strive toward in order to be a 'super tier' district.

Policy, Bylaw & Operating Procedure Review. Discussion took place regarding meeting management, restructuring of three committees [owner linkage, quality, bond] to redefine the scope of the work, and various forms of internal and external communications in order to improve the functioning of the Board within itself, with the Superintendent, and with its stakeholders.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mrs. Kurdys, that the Board of Education move into closed session for discussing periodic personnel evaluations [Section 8 (a) 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 1:00 p.m.

The Board returned into open session at 4:10 p.m. and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Wells
Secretary Pro Tem