

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 9, 2007

The organizational meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, July 9, 2007, was called to order at 7:29 p.m. by Mrs. 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: Tom Eddy, Shirley Johnson, Melanie Kurdys, Wendy Mazer, Deb Polderman, Dale Posthumus, and Jennifer Whistler

Board Trustees Absent: None

Mrs. Johnson opened the floor to nominations for the office of president for the 2007-2008 school year. A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, nominating Mrs. Johnson. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Johnson declared the nominations closed and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Johnson announced she will assume the office of President.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mr. Eddy, nominating Mrs. Whistler for vice president. A motion was offered by Mrs. Kurdys, supported by Mrs. Mazer, nominating Mrs. Mazer for vice president. President Johnson declared the nominations closed and asked for a roll call vote. Mrs. Mazer and Mrs. Kurdys voted for Mrs. Mazer; Mr. Eddy, President Johnson, Mrs. Polderman, Mr. Posthumus, and Mrs. Whistler voted for Mrs. Whistler.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Whistler, nominating Mrs. Polderman for treasurer. There were no other nominations. President Johnson declared the nominations closed and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Johnson announced that Mrs. Polderman will assume the office of Treasurer.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that in accordance with Policy #8280, Mrs. Edna Kent, Administrative Assistant, be appointed as Secretary to the Board of Education and the Board's Recording Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the minutes of the June 25, 2007 special and regular meetings be approved. Mrs. Mazer requested a correction on page 15, paragraph five, adding her School Improvement Planning update pertaining to Waylee Elementary and the Community Education Center. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mrs. Whistler, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Business Manager, and the Board of Education Treasurer to access safety deposit boxes at Comerica Bank. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the recommended schedule of 2007-2008 Board of Education meetings be adopted.

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PORTAGE, MICHIGAN**

SCHEDULE OF 2007-2008 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS*

ALL MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 8111 S. WESTNEDGE

July 9, 2007	January 14, 2008
July 23, 2007	January 28, 2008
August 20, 2007	February 11, 2008
	February 25, 2008
September 10, 2007	March 10, 2008
September 24, 2007	March 24, 2008
October 8, 2007	April 21, 2008
October 22, 2007	
November 12, 2007	May 5, 2008
November 26, 2007	May 19, 2008
December 17, 2007	June 2, 2008
	June 16, 2008

* Unless otherwise announced, all meetings will commence at 7:30 p.m. Notice of special meetings shall be posted in the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge Avenue.

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was offered by Mr. Eddy, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the roofing contract for Amberly Elementary: Modern Roofing, Inc., in the amount of \$346,487.00. These expenditures will be from the 2007-08 Building & Site Sinking Fund (BSSF) followed by several questions, answers, and comments. Motion carried 6-0 with Mrs. Kurdys abstaining.

This concluded the action portion of the agenda. President Johnson then opened the meeting for comments.

Mr. Eddy welcomed Mr. Posthumus and Mrs. Kurdys to "the club" and stated he hoped they found that serving as Board Trustees would be an extremely rewarding experience. He also welcomed

Superintendent Wells to the District stating, "It's going to be an exciting year with lots of great things to accomplish."

President Johnson formally welcomed Mrs. Kurdys and Mr. Posthumus to the Board, Superintendent Wells back to Portage, and stated she is looking forward to great things happening in the District this year.

Mr. Mark Anthony Martin, 10519 Dandale, a community member, discussed a FOIA request and other information questions.

Superintendent Wells acknowledged this as her first official meeting in the District, commented on all that is happening in our buildings over the summer months from classes to the thorough cleaning taking place District-wide, and stated she is looking forward to the upcoming school year.

An update regarding the facilities and technology planning was presented by the Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, and Ms. Gail Allevato, the Chief Marketing Officer with TMP Architects. Mr. Eddy asked that the Board Executive Committee finalize the Facilities and Finance Committee membership quickly so these groups can promptly begin work. He also commented that the information received at the June 25th work study has energized this planning process. Mrs. Kurdys stated she is not convinced yet that we can't tighten the budget further. President Johnson reiterated Phase I mostly covers high schools and emphasized the increase in square footage. She commented on some rooms that are at capacity, traffic flow problems, and cafeteria size. President Johnson informed the audience of a study Central High School did comparing their instructional space to several other new high schools. Finally, she reinforced the District will focus on academics in the upcoming Bond request.

Ms. Judi Santek, 7537 Autumn St., a community member, discussed decommissioning Waylee Elementary and stressed the District needs to inform the parents of these students exactly what we plan to do with their children and explain redistricting throughout the entire District.

Ms. Mildred Taraszka, 410 Marylynn Court, a community member, welcomed Superintendent Wells back to Portage and questioned the number of middle school pools and assistant principals needed should a middle school be eliminated and what the cost-savings would be.

President Johnson responded to a few questions stating the middle school component is Phase 3 and is only in preliminary form right now. Many more conversations need to happen before Phase 3 is finalized. She also reinforced the need to thoroughly research redistricting.

Superintendent Wells commented on recently going through a similar situation in her previous District and stated the Bond proposal will be closely scrutinized in light of the tough economic times with a primary focus on increasing academic achievement and essential and critical issues that need to be faced at this time. She reinforced the District will be conservative and fiscally responsible with their request.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary