

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION**

June 1, 2009

The committee of the whole work session of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Monday, June 1, 2009, was called to order at 6:27 p.m. by President Johnson in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. She welcomed an audience of 40 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Trustees Present: Shirley Johnson, Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Dale Posthumus, Rusty Rathburn, Jennifer Whistler, and John Whyte

Board Trustees Absent: None

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

President Johnson 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 informed the audience of the public comment guidelines.

Ms. Jodi Harrison, 8823 Balmoral Street, a parent, shared concern regarding elementary redistricting of her student.

President Johnson informed Ms. Harrison that someone from the District would be in responding to her concerns.

Mrs. Mary Roobol, 406 Fairfax, a teacher, shared concern regarding privatization of 2nd and 3rd shift custodial positions.

Mr. Charlie Wiles, 2628 E. Shore Drive, a citizen and employee of The Bowerston Shale Company, shared information and concern for bid selection and local vendors.

Mrs. Joyce Wiles, 2628 E. Shore Drive, a citizen, shared concern regarding non-local vendor selection.

President Johnson opened the floor for Board Trustee comments.

Mr. Posthumus inquired if the Construction Update portion of the meeting would respond to the concerns discussed by Mr. Wiles. Superintendent Wells acknowledged that topic would be discussed.

Mrs. Kurdys requested a copy of the District response to Ms. Harrison on the redistricting concerns. Superintendent Wells commented the Board would be copied on any written response, but anticipated that a personal contact with Ms. Harrison would occur that week.

President Johnson offered best wishes and congratulations to all graduates and thanked fellow Trustees for attending the graduation ceremonies.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bond Project Update, Construction Manager's Report. The Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, invited Mr. Casey Peters, AVB Triangle Construction Manager, to provide construction updates. Mr. Peters shared updates on 12th Street Elementary, Northern High School, Central High School, and Lake Center Elementary. Mr. Noverr, Mr. Peters, and Mr. Mark Reile, Architect from TMP Associates, responded to questions pertaining to Northern High's science wing, Central High's auditorium and site construction safety precautions, high school traffic safety, and city and state approved traffic plans.

Mr. Noverr provided an update on the bus and maintenance facility construction progress and responded to Trustee questions pertaining to landscape work added as a result of community concern for the site.

Mr. Reile, Mr. Peters, and Mr. Gary Kalleward, Construction Manager, shared background on the process used to review the contractor's brick selection for Central High School as well as concern with some suppliers. They responded to Trustee questions pertaining to change orders for brick work and Masonry Institute guidelines. Superintendent Wells commented she would follow up on this item and update the Board.

Bond Project Update, Technology Bid Recommendations, Northern High School Science Wing Audio Visual Equipment. The Director of Technology Systems, Mr. Michael Batterson, introduced Mr. Steve Burdick and Mr. Nathan Withers, Technology Consultants from Secant Technologies. They provided background on the bid package to provide technology equipment to the science wing and media center at Northern High and responded to Trustee questions pertaining to budget, components, vendors, and the number of rooms being equipped.

Bond Project Update, Technology Bid Recommendations, 12th Street Elementary and Northern High School Teacher Computer Station Equipment. The Director of Assessment and Student Information Systems, Mr. Dan Vomastek, provided background information on the teacher computer station bid recommendation for 12th Street Elementary and Northern High. He responded to Trustee questions pertaining to life expectancy, warranties, budget, use of equipment, training and staff development, and tracking benefits of utilization.

2008/09 Budget Amendments, General Fund Budget Amendment #2. Mr. Noverr introduced Mrs. Karla Colestock, Business Manager, who shared background on the General Fund Budget Amendment #2. Mrs. Colestock responded to Trustee questions pertaining to math textbook purchase and a reduction in the curriculum budget. Superintendent Wells asked Trustees to e-mail curriculum related questions to the Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ms. Denise Bresson, for further background.

2008/09 Budget Amendments, Debt Retirement Fund Budget Amendment #1. Mrs. Colestock shared background on the Debt Retirement Fund Budget Amendment #1 and responded to Trustee

questions pertaining to Bond issues, changes in local property taxes, bond refunding, potential for short-term growth, and interest rate decline.

2008/09 Budget Amendments, School Service Fund Budget Amendment #2. Mrs. Colestock shared background on the School Service Fund Budget Amendment #2 and responded to a Trustee question pertaining to a line item change to allow for rebates.

2008/09 Budget Amendments, Building and Site Sinking Fund Budget Amendment #2. Mrs. Colestock shared background on the Building and Site Sinking Fund Budget Amendment #2 and responded to Trustee questions pertaining to a tile project at the Community Education Center, McCamley Field parking and refunding to the Building and Site Sinking Fund.

2009/10 School Year Preliminary Budget, Budget Overview and Assumptions. Mr. Noverr shared a presentation on the preliminary 2009/10 budgets that encompassed a review of recent budget reductions, financial snapshots, assumptions and uncertainties, the bottom line of the General Fund, reductions and adjustments, key points about other District funds, and the budget calendar. Mr. Noverr responded to Trustee questions pertaining to step increases but no salary increases, differentiation of ongoing and interim revenues, class sizes, the District's Enrichment Center program, on line learning opportunities, and District legal counsel. President Johnson reiterated that Bond funds cannot be used to address the District deficit. Trustees questioned the number of students affected by the proposed recommendation to change walk zones and the Transportation Manager, Mr. Louk Markham, commented he would follow-up with the Board regarding those details.

President Johnson called a recess at 9:00 p.m.

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:08 p.m.

2009/10 School Year Preliminary Budget, Custodial Services Bid Recommendation. Mr. Noverr reviewed the development process for the custodial services bid and shared background on the impacts of this recommendation. He responded to Trustee questions pertaining to current wages and benefits, clarified this would be a contract, after school building activity history, the possibility of current employees being hired by the recommended firm, and turnover rates. Mr. Noverr will provide further information to the Board about the possibility of Grand Rapids Building Services, Inc. hiring current employees and how many of those employees will be eligible for retirement.

Governance Education Committee Update. Mrs. Kurdys provided an update that the Committee is compiling a calendar for the 2009/10 school year and suggested Trustees correspond with possible agenda items to consider. She shared some possible retreat dates and background information and coordination of a trainer to work with the Board. Trustee comments pertained to combining meeting dates in July, setting the Organizational Meeting, training fees, trainer references, models and biography. The Superintendent noted she would work with Mrs. Kurdys to create this professional development proposal and the Board was in agreement this would be discussed further at their June 8th Policy Development Session.

President Johnson opened the floor for citizen comments pertaining to the agenda discussion items.

Mr. Jason Fitch, 6422 Robinswood, a citizen and employee of Consumers Concrete, shared concern for bid selection and local vendors.

Mr. Charlie Wiles, 2628 E. Shore Drive, a citizen and employee of The Bowerston Shale Company, shared concern for bid selection and local vendors.

Mrs. Joyce Wiles, 2628 E. Shore Drive, a citizen, shared concern regarding non-local vendor selection.

REQUIRED APPROVAL ITEM

Motion offered by Mr. Whyte, supported by Mrs. Polderman that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution indicating support of the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency General Fund Operating Budget for the 2009/10 school year, as presented, with an addendum.

Mrs. Polderman informed the audience that the Audit Committee received clarification to questions raised at the May 18, 2009, meeting from KRESA's Business Office Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Holly Norman. Mrs. Polderman, Mrs. Colestock, and Superintendent Wells responded to Trustee questions pertaining to salary and step increases and self-sufficient departments. The Board reached agreement to adopt a budget with an addendum which reflects, aside from step costs, no increase in the salary schedule.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried by a vote of 6-1.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion offered by Mrs. Whistler, supported by Mr. Posthumus, that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purpose of discussing negotiations 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 10:10 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 10:20 p.m.

REQUIRED APPROVAL ITEM

Motion offered by Mr. Posthumus, supported by Mr. Rathburn, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent or designee to execute a voluntary severance plan with the Portage Association of Educational Office Personnel, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 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 June 1st at 6:30pm.

Members present were: _____

Members absent were: _____

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ and seconded by Member _____.

WHEREAS:

This Board received the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency General Fund Operating Budget on May 11, 2009; 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 on or before June 1, 2009.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Based upon the information received from KRESA and recognizing that a limited review of a budget document provides limited oversight of the financial affairs of an organization, the KRESA General Fund Operation Budget for the 2009/2010 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 _____

Nays: Members _____

Motion declared _____.

- 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 June 1, 2009, 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 2009/10 Budget Resolution Addendum
June 1, 2009

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 reflects, aside from step costs, no increase in the salary schedule.