

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

November 23, 2009

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, November 23, 2009, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice President Posthumus 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: Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Dale Posthumus, Rusty Rathburn, and Randy Van Antwerp

Board Trustees Absent: John Whyte

PUBLIC HEARING

Vice President Posthumus invited the Director of Information Systems and Assessment, Mr. Dan Vomastek, to share background information on the School Code requirement to hold this Public Hearing. Vice President Posthumus opened the Public Hearing on the subject of the Internet Safety Regulation. Seeing no one come forward, Vice President Posthumus closed the Public Hearing.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Wells shared a Bond construction update on Lake Center Elementary and both Northern and Central High.

Superintendent Wells invited the Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, to provide updates on the District's walk zones. Mr. Noverr discussed bussing options that have been explored in order to provide services to Amberly students at minimal additional cost, utilizing space on other bus routes. He responded to Trustee questions regarding the number of students affected, timeframe for service, and communications to those families. For equity purposes, an adjustment would also be made to include some Haverhill students.

The Superintendent reported the District anticipates a State cut of \$127 per pupil will take place, for a total of \$2.5 million from the 2009/10 school year. She informed the audience the District is exploring options with all bargaining groups and further discussion on these options will take place at the December 7th Special Meeting. Superintendent Wells reminded the audience of the financial presentation planned for Monday, November 30, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Middle School Little Theatre. She discussed the District Strategic Priorities Plan focusing on high academic achievement, recruitment, fiscal management, and long term asset protection.

Superintendent Wells shared news of the outreach from the new Confucius Institute at Western Michigan University which will expand international opportunities for area K-12 schools and local businesses.

The Superintendent thanked the Board for their continued involvement in the creation of the Strategic Priorities Plan focusing on student success.

Superintendent Wells congratulated all fall athletics for their success this season, adding a special note to the Central High School women's volleyball team and Coach, Ms. Dawn Jaquays.

The Superintendent thanked Mrs. Whistler for her service on the Board and wished her well.

Financial Report: The Business Manager, Mrs. Karla Colestock, informed the audience of the General Fund Condensed Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the four months ended October 31, 2009, and provided background information on District ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding. Mrs. Colestock shared highlights of the 2008/09 Audit and introduced Mr. Stephen Blann, Auditor from Rehmann Robson. Mr. Blann provided details on the 2008/09 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Single Audit Report, and Management Letter and responded to Trustee questions. Mr. Tom Noverr followed-up with an overview of detailed information available on the financial page of the District web site.

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President Posthumus 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.

Mr. Eric VerHey, 50314 Fulton Road, Leonidas, President of the Portage Education Association, shared concerns regarding budget reductions, options to keep the Portage edge, and urged citizens to contact legislators to fully support public education.

Ms. Martha Keeler, 6427 Marlow St., a parent and teacher, shared concerns regarding budget reductions and urged legislator contact to support school funding.

Ms. Kendra McVay, 8532 Hathaway Rd., a teacher, shared concerns regarding budget reductions.

Mr. Bob Walker, 2812 Vanderbilt Rd, a citizen and retired teacher, shared concerns regarding budget reductions and urged the Board, Administration, bargaining groups, and community to work together to explore possible solutions.

A District high school student shared concerns regarding budget reductions and stressed the importance of programs that set the District apart citing the International Baccalaureate Program.

Ms. Maggie Higgins, 6537 Robinswood, a teacher, shared concerns regarding budget reductions.

Mrs. Janet LaVasseur, 3255 N. 38th Street, a teacher, shared concerns regarding budget reductions and the effect on District athletics.

Vice President Posthumus opened the floor to comments from fellow Board members.

Mrs. Kurdys thanked Mrs. Whistler for her service on the Board. She shared concerns with some of the technology items on the agenda, thanked the speakers for sharing budget reduction concerns and ideas, thanked the Administration for the outreach to District stakeholders on the budget, and shared thoughts on the topic of borrowing funds.

Mr. Rathburn thanked Mrs. Whistler for her service on the Board and offered accolades to those involved with the production of Northern High's "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin.

Mr. Van Antwerp thanked Mrs. Whistler for her service on the Board.

Mrs. Polderman thanked the speakers for sharing budget reduction concerns, offered condolences to the family and friends of a teacher, Ms. Ellen Mullin, and thanked Mrs. Whistler for her service on the Board.

Vice President Posthumus thanked Mrs. Whistler for her service on the Board, thanked the speakers for sharing feedback, and commended the dynamic PTO's (Parent Teacher Organization) and teachers for their commitment to District students. Vice President Posthumus discussed the process and timeline in place to appoint a Board member noting applications are available on the District web site. He also informed the audience that the Board will take action to fill the officer vacancy at the December 14th meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items moving the District Strategic Priorities Plan to an action item, as presented. Included on the Consent Agenda was the approval of Minutes of the October 26, 2009, Regular Business Meeting, November 9, 2009, Committee Of The Whole Work Session, and the November 16, 2009, Special Meeting; and Policy 3.3, Board Members' Code of Conduct Revisions. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUIRED ACTION ITEMS

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education adopt the Internet Safety Resolution, as presented.

This item was discussed in detail at the November 9th Committee Of The Whole Work Session and Mr. Dan Vomastek shared background information for the benefit of the audience.

Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Motion offered by Mr. Van Antwerp, supported by Mrs. Kurdys, that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution authorizing Portage Schools to continue summer tax collections in 2010, as presented.

This item was discussed in detail at the November 9th Committee Of The Whole Work Session and Mr. Tom Noverr reviewed the Resolution for the benefit of the audience.

Upon a roll call vote, all Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mr. Rathburn, that the Board of Education accept the 2008/09 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Single Audit Report, and Management Letter, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education accept the proposal from ROK to upgrade the District's access control system, in an amount not to exceed \$25,993.01, proceeds coming from the 2008 Bond Fund #1, as presented.

This item was discussed in detail at the November 9th Committee Of The Whole Work Session. Mr. Dan Vomastek shared background information for the benefit of the audience and responded to a Trustee question about the project bid.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 15 netbook computer carts from Trivalent Group, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$54,791.25, proceeds coming from the 2008 Bond Funds #1 and #2, as presented.

This item was discussed in detail at the November 9th Committee Of The Whole Work Session. Mr. Dan Vomastek shared background information for the benefit of the audience. In the Trustee discussion, concern was expressed about the expensive nature of the carts compared to previous versions and that there was only one acceptable bid. Mr. Vomastek responded to Trustee questions about lack of vendor response and broadening the vendor search in the future.

Motion carried by a 4-1 vote.

Motion offered by Mr. Van Antwerp, supported by Mr. Rathburn, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 104 netbook computers from Trivalent Group, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$67,087.28, proceeds coming from the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Funds, as presented.

The Director of Special Education, Mrs. Gail Van Daff, shared background information on this purchase for the benefit of the audience, including how the equipment will allow data collection to improve teaching and learning. This item was discussed in detail at the November 9th Committee Of The Whole Work Session. Trustee discussion followed pertaining to limited vendors, data collection, and funding for the purchase. Concern about specifying equipment that might result in only one vendor was again expressed. Mrs. Kurdys stated support for the collection of data with such equipment and seeing future reports regarding results.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mr. Van Antwerp, that the Board of Education award the Lake Center Elementary Audio/Visual Technology Project to I.COMM Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$237,200.00, proceeds coming from the 2008 Bond Fund #2, as presented.

This item was discussed in detail at the November 16th Special Meeting and Mr. Michael Batterson shared background information for the benefit of the audience. Mr. Batterson and Mr. Chris Hamilton, Technology Consultant from Secant Technologies, responded to Trustee questions pertaining to the audio portion of the request, low bid, and concern about the investment.

Motion carried by a 4-1 vote.

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education authorize an agreement with CTS Communications Corporation for maintenance of the District's existing fiber optic system and for exchange of fiber optic filaments, as presented.

This item was discussed in detail at the November 9th Committee Of The Whole Work Session and Mr. Michael Batterson shared background information for the benefit of the audience.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Van Antwerp, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the District Strategic Priorities Plan, as presented.

Discussion pertained to the extensive framework and discussions resulting in this document. Mrs. Kurdys expressed concern that the District is capable of more than is committed in the document in the expectation of becoming a 'great' school district. There was acknowledgement that it is a work in progress. It will be posted on the District web site.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-1.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Mr. Tom Noverr provided background on the 12th Street Elementary School Additional Classroom Bid from Cornerstone Construction Management of Portage in the base bid amount of \$447,500.00 for the construction of a four classroom addition. Mr. Noverr responded to Trustee questions pertaining to proceeding with this project in light of the budget situation, enrollment forecasts, nearby neighborhood elementary assignments, and cost savings.

Discussion pertained to various advantages or disadvantages in moving forward at this time--advantages of the low project bids that are \$200,000 under the original budget and employment for area residents during construction, while disadvantages include enrollment projected to decline and lack of immediate plans for use of the expanded capacity. Discussion included possible uses for space such as all day kindergarten, day care, implementing phase 2 of the redistricting plan and possible other uses of the funds such as paying down the debt sooner.

Vice President Posthumus noted this recommendation will appear as an action item at the December 14th meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion offered by Mr. Van Antwerp, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining 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 8:44 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 9:40 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary

Portage Public Schools, Kalamazoo County, Michigan (the "District").

A regular meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") of the District was held in the Community Room of the Administration Building, in the District, on the 23rd day of November, 2009 at 6:30 o'clock in the p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dale Posthumus, Vice President.

Present: Members Mrs. Melanie Kurdys, Mrs. Deb Polderman, Mr. Dale Posthumus, Mr. Rusty Rathburn, and Mr. Randy Van Antwerp

Absent: Members Mr. John Whyte

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Mr. Rathburn and supported by Member Mrs. Polderman:

WHEREAS, the District participates in the Universal Services Fund program (also known as the "E-rate" program); and

WHEREAS, in order to receive E-rate funding for internet services the District must comply with portions of the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA") contained within 47 USC 254; and

WHEREAS, USAC, the company that administers the E-rate program, has indicated that it will seek from participants proof of compliance with applicable portions of CIPA, with specific focus on the public notice/hearing requirement; and

WHEREAS, the District complied with the CIPA public notice/hearing requirements in the month of June, 2004, however, 47 CFR 54.216 and the FCC's Fifth Order and Report only require E-rate records be kept for a minimum period of five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, more than five (5) years have past since the District complied with CIPA's public notice/hearing requirement, and some documents related to the District's compliance may no longer be available; and

WHEREAS, the District has at all times taken appropriate action in compliance with CIPA, as amended from time to time, to enforce a policy of Internet safety for minors and adults that includes monitoring the online activities of minors and the operation of technology protection measures with respect to any of its computers with Internet access which protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are obscene; child pornography; or harmful to minors; and has enforced the operation of such technology protection measures to the best of its abilities during any use of such computers by minors or adults, and has further educated minors, as part of its amended Internet safety policy, about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response; and

WHEREAS, reasonable public notice was provided that on this date the District would hold a public meeting to address the District's Internet safety policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board of Education acknowledges and reaffirms the public notice and public meeting actions taken in the month of June, 2004. This resolution shall act as documentation that in the month of June, 2004, the District complied with the aforementioned public notice/meeting requirements mandated by CIPA, as contained within 47 USC 254.

2. The Board of Education further reaffirms the Internet safety policy enacted at the June, 2004, meeting, which has since been amended from time to time, to comply with statutory amendments to CIPA, and is attached hereto in its amended form.

3. The Superintendent of Schools or his designee is hereby directed to take appropriate actions to ensure that the District continues to comply with CIPA and the attached Internet safety policy, which is readopted concurrent with this resolution.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members Mrs. Melanie Kurdys, Mrs. Deb Polderman, Mr. Dale Posthumus, Mr. Rusty Rathburn, and Mr. Randy Van Antwerp

Nays: Members None

Motion declared adopted.

Deb Polderman
Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools, Kalamazoo County, 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 November 23, 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.

Deb Polderman
Secretary, Board of Education

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RESOLUTION ON SUMMER TAX COLLECTIONS

WHEREAS, this Board of Education by resolution on **December 11, 1995**, determined to impose a summer tax levy to collect all of school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the district, beginning with 1996 and continuing from year to year until specifically revoked by this Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Board of Education pursuant to 1976 PA 451, as amended (the “School Code”), hereby invokes its previously adopted ongoing resolution imposing a summer tax levy of all school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the district and continuing from year to year until specifically revoked by this Board of Education and requests each city and/or township in which this districts located to collect those summer taxes.

2. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, is authorized and directed to forward to the governing body of each city and/or township in which this district is located a copy of this Board’s resolution imposing a summer property tax levy on an ongoing basis and a copy of this resolution requesting that each such city and/or township agree to collect the summer tax levy for 2010 in the amount as specified in this resolution. Such forwarding of the resolution and the request to collect the summer tax levy shall be sent so that they are received by the appropriate governing bodies before January 1, 2010.

3. Pursuant to and in accordance with Section 1613(1) of the School Code, the Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized and directed to negotiate on behalf of this district with the governing body of each city and/or township in which the district is located for the reasonable expenses for collection of the district’s summer tax levy that the city and/or township may bill under MCLA 280.1611 or MCLA 280.1612. Any such proposed agreement shall be brought before this Board for its approval or disapproval.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

AYE: Mrs. Melanie Kurdys, Mrs. Deb Polderman, Mr. Dale Posthumus, Mr. Rusty Rathburn, and Mr. Randy Van Antwerp

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. John Whyte