

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

February 8, 2010

The committee of the whole work session of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Monday, February 8, 2010, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Posthumus in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. He welcomed an audience of 12 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Trustees Present: Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Dale Posthumus, Rusty Rathburn,
Bo Snyder, and Randy Van Antwerp

Board Trustees Absent: John Whyte

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

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. Seeing no citizens come forward, President Posthumus opened the floor for Board Trustee comments.

Mrs. Kurdys discussed the on line check register inquiring about the length of time this information will be made available. She also inquired about the facilities master plan. Superintendent Wells commented these topics would be addressed during tonight's meeting.

President Posthumus shared news of the well-attended Portage Athletic Foundation (PAF) fundraiser recently held at the State Theatre. He acknowledged he would provide further details regarding proceeds raised at the February 22nd meeting and thanked the community for their support of athletics in the District.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bond Project Updates, Mid Year Bond Project Financial Summary. The Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, provided a 2007 Bond Budget Analysis report. This report contained Bond Fund #1 and #2 projected revenues, current expenses, pending issues, construction contingency considerations, and a budget report summary. Discussion followed and Mr. Noverr and Superintendent Wells responded to Trustee questions regarding: the list of contingency items being kept updated, legal fees, use of funds for roofing projects at the high schools and clarification by Bond counsel for such a project, the clarity of the Northern High site project as construction progresses, Northern site traffic flow issues, track installation at Lake Center Elementary, sidewalk installation at the 12th Street Elementary site, the timetable to move into the new Lake Center building and deconstruction of the original building, and West Middle School tennis court renovations and timing of the project.

Bond Project Updates, Central High/Northern High Technology Bid. The Information Systems and Assessment Director, Mr. Dan Vomastek, and Mr. Alex Ellingsen, Technology Consultant,

Secant Technologies, shared details on the recommended purchase of 120 Sharp LCD Displays from BlueWater Technologies in an amount not to exceed \$365,080.00 from the 2008 Bond Fund #1. Mr. Vomastek and Mr. Ellingsen responded to Trustee questions regarding: manufacturer model changes and the resulting redesigned price increases, matching existing District equipment, storage costs involved when purchasing equipment early, purchasing equipment locally, life expectancy, future equipment replacement, technology cost differential, concern about using one brand, the need for more competitive bidding, and recapping these discussion details to the public at the February 22nd meeting. President Posthumus emphasized the need to avoid single source bid specifications whenever possible.

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mr. Snyder, that the Board of Education move the Central High/Northern High Technology Bid to an action item.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-2.

Motion offered by Mrs. Polderman, supported by Mr. Van Antwerp, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 120 Sharp LCD Displays from BlueWater Technologies in an amount not to exceed \$365,080.00 from the 2008 Bond Fund #1. Prices include extended warranties and storage, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution for Amendment #1 to the General Appropriations Act for 2009/10. The Business Manager, Mrs. Karla Colestock, shared background information on Resolution for Amendment #1 to the General Fund. Mrs. Colestock responded to Trustee questions regarding: the loss of students from the District and a breakdown showing detailed information regarding those students. She also responded to questions about Medicaid Special Education reimbursement, clarification of the contracted staffing costs including salaries and benefits, accrual change, operating and maintenance costs, capital outlay changes, and a reminder that budget cuts have continued to remain as far away from the classroom as possible so not to impact instruction. Mrs. Colestock also responded to earlier questions regarding check registers available on the District web site.

Long Term Financial Planning, Building and Site Sinking Fund. Mr. Tom Noverr provided background information on the Resolution requesting voter consideration at the May 4th School Election of a .5000 millage rate for the District Building and Site Sinking Fund (BSSF) that would begin in school year 2010/11 and run through school year 2014/15. Mr. Noverr responded to Trustee questions pertaining to: District projects, clarification on the projected dates and completion dates, ongoing allocations based on history, use of the term “renewal” for the millage, use of survey results, projects addressing safety issues, and a concern the District should seek a higher millage rate.

Other, Policy Monitoring Reports. Superintendent Wells shared background on the following Policy Monitoring Reports: 2.1 Treatment of Consumers, 2.4 Financial Conditions, 2.5 Financial Conditions, and 2.11 Long Term Asset Planning. She noted as background information, copies of the 2008/09 Monitoring Reports were provided to all Trustees. President Posthumus noted he is still

collecting the Evaluation Forms on these Monitoring Reports and the Board will revisit this topic at a future 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 8:28 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 9:10 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary