

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING REVISED MINUTES**

January 24, 2011

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, January 24, 2011, was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by President Hollenbeck in the Media Center of Lake Center Elementary School, 10011 Portage Road, Portage, Michigan.

Board Trustees Present: Kevin Hollenbeck, Geoff Howe, Melanie Kurdys, Rusty Rathburn, Bo Snyder and Joanne Willson

Board Trustees Absent: Randy Van Antwerp

Administration Present: Denise Bresson, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development; Dan Vomastek, Director of Information and Technology Systems; Mark Root, Lake Center Elementary School Principal; and Marsha Wells, Superintendent

Staff Present: Jenny Kitchen, Teacher; Pat Champion, Reading Specialist; Effie McCarren, Teacher; Lisa Koop, Teacher; Ben Critz, Teacher; and Beth Oudekerk, Teacher

PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation on the Lake Center Elementary School - School Improvement Plan. Principal, Mr. Mark Root, led a discussion of Lake Center's target goals for this year, how they were selected, the key strategies taking place and their plans to evaluate progress. Mr. Root and his building chairs responded to Trustee questions.

The Board called recess at 5:55 p.m.

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, January 24, 2011, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Hollenbeck in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. He welcomed an audience of 60 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Board Trustees Absent: None

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report: The Community Relations Manager, Mr. Tom Vance, introduced the following journalism teachers: Ms. Cheryl Braford, Mr. Ben Neal, and Ms. Amanda Thorpe and students were recognized.

The Board received a Curriculum Presentation regarding Elementary World Language Programs and a Science proposal update from Ms. Denise Bresson, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Superintendent Wells encouraged Board and community members alike to attend the upcoming musical Hairspray, presented by Central High School.

Superintendent Wells noted January is National School Board Recognition month and thanked the Board members for their hard work and dedication to Portage Public Schools.

Superintendent Wells congratulated Central Elementary custodian, Mr. Steve Verburg, for his recognition and receipt of the 2010 National C.L.E.A.N. Award.

Superintendent Wells offered her condolences to the family of Dr. Thomas Berglund, who passed away unexpectedly.

Superintendent Wells wished a speedy recovery to the young man recently involved in a car accident with a Portage school bus. She also offered best wishes to driver of the bus.

Financial Report: Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Tom Noverr, presented a financial report for the six month period ending December 31, 2010.

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

President Hollenbeck opened the comments and communications portion of the meeting and asked if there were any citizens who would like to speak to the Board. Mr. Van Antwerp explained guidelines the Board uses for this portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Karen Witvoet, 10722 Center, Angling Road Elementary Principal, addressed the Board in support of Superintendent Wells.

Mrs. Linda Teare, 2534 Tattersall, a citizen, addressed the Board in support of Superintendent Wells.

Mr. Bob Walker, 2812 Vanderbilt, a citizen, addressed the Board in support of Superintendent Wells.

Mr. Tom Eddy, 8339 Brookwood Drive, a citizen, announced his Board of Education candidacy.

Mr. Patrick Flynn, 7596 LaJessica Circle, a teacher, addressed the Board in support of Superintendent Wells.

Ms. Shirley Johnson, 2253 Idlewild, a citizen, addressed the Board and requested the Board and Superintendent work through this adversity.

Mr. John Baker, 9906 Pineview, a citizen, addressed the Board with his concerns regarding handicap parking and seating arrangements.

Mr. Brennan Mange, a student, addressed the Board with fiscal concerns should immediate action be taken against Superintendent Wells.

Ms. Marjorie Dykema, 6876 Towhee, a citizen, voiced her concerns with the Board regarding her retirement from Portage Public Schools.

Mr. Joe Heywood, 1603 Edington, a citizen, addressed the Board in support of Superintendent Wells.

Mr. Jim Menchinger, 7223 Leewood, a citizen, addressed the Board in support of Superintendent Wells.

Mr. Jim Chamness, 6560 S. 12th Street, a citizen, addressed concerns with the leadership at 12th Street Elementary.

Mrs. Wendy Mazer, 5124 Shepherds Glen, a citizen, voiced support for the Board.

Mrs. Judi Santek, 7537 Autumn Street, a citizen, spoke to the Board with her concerns regarding low attendance from community members at the Board meetings.

Mrs. Debbie Rude, 6650 Oleander Lane, a citizen, shared support for the Board.

Mr. Kurt Droppers, 1401 Lama Road, a citizen, thanked the Board for all of their hard work.

Mrs. Alissa Hartridge, 3723 Songbird Lane, a citizen, addressed the Board with concerns regarding media attention.

Mr. Dave Nicolette, 6809 Wellbury, Haverhill Elementary School Principal, addressed the Board in support of Superintendent Wells.

President Hollenbeck opened the floor to comments from fellow Board members.

President Hollenbeck shared comments to clarify quotes made in a recent news article.

Superintendent Wells responded to comments made by Mr. Chamness, informed the audience of their previous meeting and contrasting views.

Superintendent Wells addressed Ms. Dykema's concerns surrounding her retirement.

Mr. Snyder thanked the attendees for sharing their opinions.

Mr. Howe thanked the attendees for their comments and apologized for any misrepresented press coverage.

Mrs. Kurdys thanked the attendees for their comments and added there are no concerns with District teaching staff.

Mr. Rathburn discussed District successes and recommended Trustees become more engaged with building staff. He also urged everyone to attend the production of Hairspray. Mr. Rathburn informed the audience of the Portage Athletic Foundation's fundraisers, "Steppin Out at the State" on February 12, and plans for a golf outing. He discussed the Board's use of the Carver Governance Model.

Mr. Van Antwerp spoke in support of Superintendent Wells and the District. He discussed media coverage, District accomplishments, Policies, and a turn-around plan.

President Hollenbeck commented on numerous citizen communications he has received regarding the Board. He also discussed goals and informed the audience of Board Candidate Information meeting on Monday, January 31 at 5:30 p.m. to provide information for anyone interested in serving as a Trustee. President Hollenbeck thanked Mr. Eric Alburtus, Central High School Principal, and Mr. Mark Root, Lake Center Elementary Principal, for the informative meetings held in their buildings. He acknowledged and thanked the Trustees families.

President Hollenbeck opened the floor to Board Committee reports.

Mrs. Kurdys provided a Quality and Scorecard Ad Hoc Committee update.

The Owner's Linkage Ad Hoc Committee chair, Mr. Snyder, reported on the January 21 meeting.

Mrs. Kurdys reported on behalf of Mr. Rathburn, chair of the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, in regards to the Tower Pinkster meeting.

President Hollenbeck, liaison on the District Advisory Council, shared the January meeting highlights.

Mrs. Willson shared an article from the American School Board Journal of January 2011 regarding how schools can engage their community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Van Antwerp requested the minutes of the January 17, 2011, Special Meeting be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion at a future meeting.

President Hollenbeck presented the following Consent Agenda items for approval by the Board of Education: The minutes of the December 13, 2010, Regular Business Meeting, January 10, 2011, Special Meeting and Committee of the Whole Work Session; and the Revision to Policy 3.9, CEO Evaluation Process.

There being no objections to any items, President Hollenbeck declared approval by general consent.

REQUIRED APPROVAL ITEM

Motion offered by Mr. Van Antwerp, seconded by Mr. Snyder, that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution for Regional Millage Renewal, as presented.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, seconded by Mrs. Kurdys, that the Board of Education approve the furniture, furnishings and equipment purchases as noted in Enclosure #4 for Central and Northern High Schools from the 2008 Bond Fund #1, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mr. Howe, that the Board of Education authorize the purchase of musical instruments, highlighted in Attachment A, for Central and Northern High Schools from Washington Music Center, Wheaton, Maryland, at a cost not to exceed \$69,133. Funds for this purchase will come from the 2008 Bond Fund #1, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mrs. Willson, seconded by Mrs. Kurdys, that the Board of Education accept the proposal from B&B Pools, Livonia, Michigan, for the purchase of new sand filters for each of the swimming pools for the sum of \$65,025. This expenditure would be from the 2010/11 Building and Site Sinking Fund, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, seconded by Mr. Rathburn, that the Board of Education direct the Administration to set aside \$700,000 of bond contingency funds to ensure the District is able to maintain the current debt levy rate for the 2011/12 school year, as presented.

Mr. Noverr shared details on this recommendation.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion offered by Mrs. Kurdys, seconded by Mr. Snyder, that the Board of Education move into closed session for the purpose of discussing attorney-client privileged material [Section 8 (h) of the Open Meetings Act].

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

The Board moved into closed session at 9:30 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 10:50 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Adams
Recording Secretary Pro Tem

RESOLUTION FOR REGIONAL MILLAGE RENEWAL

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

A regular meeting of the board of education of the District (the "Board") was held in the Community Room of the Administration Building, on the 24th day of January, 2011, at 6:30 o'clock in the p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Hollenbeck, President.

Present: Members Dr. Hollenbeck, Mrs. Kurdys, Mr. Van Antwerp,
Mr. Howe, Mr. Rathburn, Mr. Snyder and Mrs. Willson

Absent: Members None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Mr. Van Antwerp and supported by Member Mr. Rathburn:

WHEREAS:

1. Section 705 of the School Code of 1976, as amended, authorizes a school district to request that the question of a regional enhancement property tax be submitted to the voters by the intermediate school district at the next regular school election or at a special election, if the request is made within 180 days prior to the regular school election held in the majority of the constituent districts; and

2. This Board determines that it is in the best interest of the District to place a regional enhancement millage question before the voters at the May 3, 2011 election in accordance with Section 705 of the School Code of 1976, as amended to renew the millage that expired with the 2010 property tax levy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This District requests Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, to submit the question of a regional enhancement property tax for 1.5 mills for three (3) years, 2011, 2012 and 2013 to the voters at a special election to be held in each of the constituent districts located within the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, on May 3, 2011.

2. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee is hereby authorized to deliver a certified copy of this resolution and its attachments to the Secretary of the Board of Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency on or before February 22, 2011.


3. A regional enhancement property tax question to be submitted to the voters is set forth on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and is approved and incorporated herein by reference.

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 Dr. Hollenbeck, Mrs. Kurdys, Mr. Van Antwerp,
Mr. Howe, Mr. Rathburn, Mr. Snyder and Mrs. Willson

Nays: Members None

Motion declared Adopted


Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools, Kalamazoo County(ies), 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 January 24, 2011, 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.


Secretary, Board of Education

 THRUN
LAW FIRM, P.C.

PJB/ssw

EXHIBIT "A"

**REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE
RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the proposed millage will be collected by the intermediate school district and distributed to local public school districts based on pupil membership count.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000.00) on taxable valuation for a period of 3 years, 2011, 2012 and 2013, to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes; if approved, the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect the first year of levy, 2011, is approximately \$11,238,288 (this is a renewal of millage which expired with the 2010 tax levy)?