

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION**

February 13, 2012

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, February 13, 2012, was called to order by President Snyder at 5:04 p.m. in the Media Center of the Haverhill Elementary School, 6633 Haverhill Road.

Board Trustees Present: Tom Eddy, Ted Hartridge, Rusty Rathburn, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp and Joanne Willson

Board Trustees Absent: Geoff Howe

Administration Members Present: Ric Perry, Tabatha Reeves, Mark Root and Tom Vance

PRESENTATION

Haverhill Elementary School Principal, Mrs. Tabatha Reeves, facilitated a report on Haverhill Elementary School updates. Mrs. Reeves responded to Trustee questions.

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

The work study session of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, February 13, 2012, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Snyder in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. He welcomed an audience of 20 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Trustees Present: Tom Eddy, Ted Hartridge, Rusty Rathburn, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp and Joanne Willson

Board Trustees Absent: Geoff Howe

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report: Interim Superintendent, Dr. Ric Perry, informed the Board of this recent meeting with Dr. Sandra Standish, Director of the Kalamazoo County Ready 4's (KC Ready 4's) Program. He discussed the positive partnership between KC Ready 4's and the District.

Dr. Perry shared news of the Michigan Schools to Watch Visitation Team that will be spending the day at West Middle School on February 15.

Dr. Perry informed the audience that West Middle School's pool remains closed while repair estimates are being sought. He noted the pools are Central Middle and North Middle are the same age and will continue to update the Board about this concern.

Dr. Perry discussed the mold discovery and clean-up that has taken place in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Building.

Dr. Perry urged the audience to attend: the Central High School Performing Arts held over production of The Phantom of The Opera; the Moorsbridge Elementary School Musical Program on February 15 at 6:30 p.m.; and the last Central versus Northern swim meet of the year on February 14 at the Central Middle School pool.

Dr. Perry introduced the Interim Director of Human Resources, Dr. Patricia Koeze. Dr. Koeze shared an update on Teacher Evaluation Process in the District. She responded to Trustee questions regarding multiple evaluations, segments of the observation form, an end of the year summative evaluation form, establishing data to be used to measure student growth, team leader involvement, professional development and communicating the new process.

Mr. Casey Peters, Project Manager from AVB Triangle, shared a Mid-Year Construction Manager and Bond Project Financial Summary pertaining to Northern High, Central High and the Technology and Training Center.

The Business Manager, Mrs. Karla Colestock, provided webinar highlights of the Governor's Budget proposal. She responded to Trustee questions regarding academic progress and best practices requirements, increases to MPSERS (Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System) rates and bond funds.

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

President Snyder 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 one come forward, President Snyder opened the floor to comments from fellow Board members.

Mr. Hartridge highlighted the student talent in both Central High's Performing Arts production of The Phantom of the Opera and Northern High Drama Department's production of And A Child Shall Lead. He stressed the need to support the Performing Arts and urged public input during the upcoming budget discussions.

President Snyder opened the floor to Board Committee reports.

Mr. Hartridge reported the Finance Committee met and invited Mrs. Colestock to provide an overview of the Audit Services bid, budget amendments, Debt Retirement Fund timing issues and negotiations for 2012/13.

Mr. Van Antwerp reported the Policy Committee is formalizing the evaluation process for Dr. Perry. He shared timelines for Dr. Perry and the Trustees to prepare for the March 10 meeting.

Mrs. Willson shared a legislative update pertaining to House Bill 4396 that would remove students with a concussion from athletic events until they are examined and receive a doctor's permission to return to the sport.

President Snyder reported the Executive Committee has been discussing opportunities for improvement to the Regular Business meeting and routing requests to Board Committees first, before they become discussion items at a Work Study Session.

For Board Learning Time, Mr. Eddy shared background information on a bullying presentation by Ms. Marcia McEvoy and work in progress to update the District's Anti-Bullying Regulation.

The Board called recess at 7:50 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

New Hires. Dr. Patricia Koeze shared background information on the new employees, Mr. Justin Olsen and Ms. Beverly Ropp.

All Day Kindergarten Recommendation. Mr. Mark Root, Supervisor of Elementary Instructional Services, shared background information on the recommendation to move forward with implementation of full day Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year. Mr. Root and Dr. Perry responded to Trustee questions regarding: facilities to accommodate the classes, classroom needs, class sizes, Title I and At-Risk available space, Curious Kids program, possible \$1.1 million budget impact, curriculum instruction, student benefits, teacher reassignment or recruitment and other programs in the District.

Bond Technology Project Bid: Technology Enhanced Classroom Computer Purchase Recommendation. Mr. Dan Vomastek, Director of Information and Technology Systems, provided background information on the recommended purchase of 160 computers from Sehi Computer, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$79,200, monies coming from the 2008 Bond Fund #1.

Recommendation For Door Replacement at Multi-Purpose Buildings. Dr. Craig Ross, Community Education Center Administrator, shared details of the proposal from Whitaker Construction Company for the replacement of 28 doors at both Central High and Northern High Multi-Purpose Buildings for the sum of \$64,467. This expenditure would come from the 2011-12 Building and Site Sinking Fund. Dr. Ross and Mr. Bob Small, Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor, responded to Trustee questions regarding the features being installed that will insure longevity of the replacement doors.

Recommendation For Haverhill Elementary Playground. Dr. Craig Ross discussed the recommendation to accept the proposal from Sinclair Recreation for the replacement of Haverhill Elementary School's wooden playground structure for the sum of \$43,667.90. Funding for this expenditure will come from the 2011-12 General Fund. Dr. Ross responded to Trustee questions regarding vandalism and deterioration of the wooden structure.

Revisions to Regulation 5420, Electronic Communications, Internet Safety & Acceptable Use Agreement. Mr. Dan Vomastek provided details on the recommendation to affirm the updated Acceptable Use Agreement for District information systems as embedded within District Regulation 5420.

2011/2012 Budget Amendments: General Fund Budget Amendment #1. Mrs. Karla Colestock discussed the recommended budget amendment resolution to the General Appropriations Act (General Fund). Mrs. Colestock obtained consent from the Board for a budget allocation of \$55,000 to purchase media supplies. She noted that with the results of Amendment #1, the District projected ending fund balance for the current year will be approximately \$7.5 million, or 9.93% of our current year budgeted

expenditures. Mr. Dan Vomastek responded to questions about the breakdown of the budget allocation at the various building levels.

2011/2012 Budget Amendments: Building and Site Sinking Fund Budget Amendment #1. Mrs. Karla Colestock shared details of the resolution, Amendment #1 to the Building and Site Sinking Fund Appropriations Act, for the 2011/12 fiscal year.

Administrative Contracts. Dr. Perry provided background information on the recommendation to authorize the Superintendent to issue Administrator contract extensions, not to exceed two (2) years in duration and without additional compensation in the aggregate. Further Trustee discussion pertained to Policy 2.5.11, length of contracts, lay-off lists and signature requirements from the Board President and Secretary on contracts.

Vision/Strategy Retreat. President Snyder shared plans for collecting community input on District vision and strategy prior to the April 23 Board Retreat and the review of data in order to establish Goals for 2012/13. He discussed facilitation that will take place and reviewed the process that will be led by Dr. Michael Wilmot, President and CEO of Michigan Leadership Institute. Further Trustee discussion pertained to the best way to engage the community, evaluating the District and creating benchmarks. President Snyder confirmed his plans to route a document to the Trustees in preparation for this retreat.

President Snyder opened the floor for comments on the Discussion Items.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary