

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**April 16, 2012**

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, April 16, 2012, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice President Van Antwerp in the Community Room 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: Tom Eddy, Ted Hartridge, Rusty Rathburn, Randy Van Antwerp and Joanne Willson

Board Trustees Absent: Geoff Howe and Bo Snyder

Vice President Van Antwerp noted a revision to the agenda as the proposed Organizational Chart was moved to a Discussion Item.

**DISTRICT RECOGNITIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Community Relations Manager, Mr. Tom Vance, introduced and recognized one of the two District high school students that achieved perfect ACT test scores. The Board and Superintendent Perry congratulated both students and shared certificates of recognition.

**REPORTS**

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent, Dr. Ric Perry, congratulated Mrs. Shirley Johnson for being named the recipient of the Portage Rotary Community Service Award. Dr. Perry thanked Mrs. Johnson for her dedicated service to education in the community.

Dr. Perry reminded the audience of two forums to further discuss facilities concepts: April 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Central High School Community Room and April 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Northern High School Community Room.

Dr. Perry informed the audience of the Community Excellence In Education Award ceremony taking place on April 18.

Mr. Tom Vance reported the results of a recent new family survey. Mr. Vance responded to Trustee questions regarding: conducting this survey on a yearly basis, adding Mr. Vance's name and phone number to the District web site, introduction planned for Kindergarten students, exit interviews for students and parents and further clarification on future surveys.

Mrs. Lynne Cowart, Director of Curriculum, shared a math analysis and intervention update. Mrs. Cowart responded to Trustee questions pertaining to MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program), the Performance Series, teaching variances, timeline to see results from corrective actions, and directing resources to address the issue as well as the process.

**Financial Report:** The Business Manager, Mrs. Karla Colestock, presented a financial report for the nine month period ending March 31, 2012. She discussed the budget development process noting the key factor being the retirement rate increase. Mrs. Colestock responded to Trustee questions regarding incentives, differences in the funding (Title I, Title II, At-Risk and Professional Development funds). Mr. Rathburn urged stakeholders to contact local legislators regarding education funding.

## **COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS**

Vice President Van Antwerp 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, Vice President Van Antwerp opened the floor to comments from fellow Board members.

Mrs. Willson informed Trustees of plans to request three agenda items for future Board discussion.

Mr. Rathburn encouraged parents to promote student exercise and reminded the audience of the Lake Center Elementary Anchor Run scheduled for May 18. He also informed the audience of the May 24 kick-off event for Girls On The Run. Mr. Rathburn recognized and congratulated Mrs. Shirley Johnson for being named the recipient of the Portage Rotary Community Service Award.

Mr. Eddy also recognized and congratulated Mrs. Shirley Johnson for being named the recipient of the Portage Rotary Community Service Award. He shared thoughts on MEAP testing and concern for legislators that are not focusing on education.

Mr. Hartridge discussed attending the International Baccalaureate Recognition of Distinction Ceremony and the powerful impact of this event on the 41 diploma candidates as well as the educators of distinction. He recognized and thanked Dr. Perry; Northern High School Principal, Mr. Jim French; Central High School Principal, Mr. Eric Alburtus; and IB Coordinators, Mr. Rick Searing and Mr. Chuck Schira for the success of this event. Mr. Hartridge also recognized and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Neal and Amy Miedema for sponsoring the ceremony.

Vice President Van Antwerp recognized and congratulated Mrs. Shirley Johnson for being named the recipient of the Portage Rotary Community Service Award. He also discussed attending the IB Recognition of Distinction Ceremony and noted the impact that educators of distinction made in the lives of these students.

Mrs. Lynne Cowart recognized and thanked all the teachers for their work on the math analysis.

Vice President Van Antwerp opened the floor to Board Committee reports.

Mrs. Willson reported the Curriculum and Assessment Committee met and discussed math, the reading series, a ski team proposal, updated testing schedules and a survey pertaining to student engagement.

Mr. Eddy urged stakeholders to attend one of the Community Forms planned to further discuss facilities concepts: April 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Central High School Community Room and April 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Northern High School Community Room.

Mr. Hartridge reported the Finance Committee discussed the bus and van purchases as well as a Kindergarten furniture purchase. He confirmed that the furniture purchase was from multiple vendors and under the budget threshold and would not require Board approval. Mr. Hartridge noted the Finance Committee would meet again on May 1 and May 10 to discuss budgets and urged attendance at the meetings.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Vice President Van Antwerp presented the following Consent Agenda items for approval by the Board of Education: The minutes of the March 26, 2012, Special Meeting and Regular Business Meeting and a Staff Appreciation Week Proclamation.**

**There being no objections, motion carried unanimously.**

Vice President Van Antwerp read the Staff Appreciation Week Proclamation.

## **REQUIRED APPROVAL ITEMS**

**Motion offered by Mr. Eddy, seconded by Mr. Hartridge, that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Extending Terms of School Board Members, as presented.**

Vice President Van Antwerp provided background information on the Resolution. He urged potential Trustee candidates to attend the Board Candidate Informational Session scheduled for June 4, 2012.

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

**Motion offered by Mr. Rathburn, seconded by Mrs. Willson, that the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Policy and Bylaws, as presented.**

Vice President Van Antwerp provided background information on revisions to the Michigan election law as they pertain to Policy 3.4 – Agenda Planning and the following Bylaws: Article II, Board Membership, Election and Orientation; Article III, Board Officers; and Article IV, Board Meetings.

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

**Motion offered by Mrs. Willson, seconded by Mr. Hartridge, that the Board of Education authorize an Interfund Loan transfer between the General Fund and the 2002, 2008, and 2009 Debt Retirement Funds in an amount not to exceed \$275,000.00, as presented.**

Mrs. Colestock shared details on the recommendation and responded to Trustee questions regarding: the shortfall due to timing of tax collections, bond ratings, reoccurrence of this shortfall and levy rates.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Motion offered by Mr. Eddy, seconded by Mr. Hartridge, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to purchase five (5) 77 passenger regular busses and one (1) special needs**

**lift-equipped bus from Holland Bus Company for a total of \$524,498. These busses are all Bluebird Brand with Cummins engines. The cost of the five regular busses of \$417,925 would be an expenditure from the 2011-12 General Fund budget, and the lift bus cost of \$106,573 would be an expenditure from the 2012-13 General Fund budget, as presented.**

Mrs. Colestock and the Transportation Manager, Mr. Mike Westbrook, provided background information on the busses and responded to Trustee questions pertaining to savings to the District by moving the recommendation forward at this time and the due diligence as the recommendation was reviewed by the Facilities Committee.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion offered by Mrs. Willson, seconded by Mr. Hartridge, that the Board of Education approve the recommended purchase of four (4) new eight passenger vans from Cole Buick for a total of \$106,564. This expenditure would come from the 2012-13 General Fund budget, as presented. Mrs. Willson offered a friendly amendment to change the expenditure to come from the 2011-12 General Fund budget.**

Mrs. Colestock provided background information on this recommendation as well as the current availability of vehicles necessitating this expense moving to the 2011-12 budget year.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

Dr. Perry shared a proposed organizational chart with the Board and responded to Trustee questions regarding splitting and combining positions, possible outsourcing with KRESA (Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency), accountability, importance and limitations on salary and structure.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent  
Recording Secretary

**STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK  
PROCLAMATION**

**Whereas,** public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility, and equality; and

**Whereas,** by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

**Whereas,** Portage Public School educators and support staff members work tirelessly to serve our children and community with quality care and expert professionalism; and

**Whereas,** quality schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise;

**Now, Therefore,** I, Bo Snyder, President of the Board of Education, do hereby proclaim May 7-11, 2012, as **Staff Appreciation Week** in the Portage School District, and encourage all citizens to support the vital role our staff plays in the success of our learning community.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012

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Bo Snyder, President  
Portage Public Schools  
Board of Education

**RESOLUTION EXTENDING TERMS OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

At a regular meeting of the Members of the Board of Education (the “Board”) of Portage Public Schools, County of Kalamazoo (the “District”), held in the Community Room of the Administration Building, on Monday, April 16, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Members Tom Eddy, Ted Hartridge, Rusty Rathburn, Randy Van Antwerp and Joanne Willson

Absent: Members Geoff Howe and Bo Snyder

The following resolution was offered by Member Mr. Eddy and seconded by Member Mr. Hartridge.

**WHEREAS:**

1. The District is a school district duly constituted under Act 451 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1976, as amended.
2. The District is required to be in compliance with a Public Act 233 which requires that elections for Members be held on November even-year election dates beginning in 2012, that one Member must be elected at each election, and that the term of any Member cannot be reduced by these legislative changes in school election law.
3. Public Act 233 extends the terms of existing Members by six months for those Members elected in even-year elections and by 18 months for those Members elected in odd-year elections.
4. The initial rotation will be 2 Member terms up for election in 2012 and then 3 or 4 Member positions up for election every two years beginning in 2014.
5. Public Act 233 provides the option to change Member terms from 4-6 years to avoid a 4-3 Member rotation schedule by amending Board Bylaws.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools:

1. That the Board determines, in accordance with Public Act 233, that the terms of the existing seven Members listed below shall be extended until a successor is elected with terms expiring on the following dates:

<b><u>Members</u></b>	<b><u>Term Expires</u></b>	<b><u>Period of Extension</u></b>
Rusty Rathburn	12/31/2012	6 months
Bo Snyder	12/31/2012	6 months
Randy Van Antwerp	12/31/2014	18 months
Joanne Willson	12/31/2014	6 months
Geoff Howe	12/31/2014	6 months
Tom Eddy	12/31/2016	18 months
Ted Hartridge	12/31/2016	18 months

2. That the Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the County of Kalamazoo, Election Division.

3. That all resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution and the same hereby are rescinded.

Ayes: Members Tom Eddy, Ted Hartridge, Rusty Rathburn, Randy Van Antwerp and Joanne Willson  
Nays: Members None

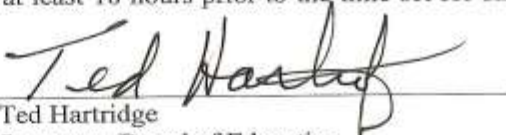
Motion declared adopted.

  
Ted Hartridge  
Secretary, Board of Education

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools, County of Kalamazoo, State of Michigan, at a meeting held on April 16, 2012, the original of which is on file in my office and available to the public. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1976, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least 18 hours prior to the time set for said meeting.

Dated: April 16, 2012

  
Ted Hartridge  
Secretary, Board of Education