

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

October 12, 2009

The closed session meeting of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Monday, October 12, 2009, was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by President Whistler in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge.

Board Members Present: Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Dale Posthumus, Rusty Rathburn, Randy Van Antwerp, Jennifer Whistler, and John Whyte

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tom Noverr, Assistant Superintendent of Operations; Ric Perry, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Marsha Wells, Superintendent; Tom Zahrt, Director of Human Resources; and Kevin Harty, Legal Counsel

CLOSED SESSION

Motion offered by Mr. Posthumus, 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 5:01 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 6:15 p.m.

The committee of the whole work session of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Monday, October 12, 2009, was called to order at 6:29 p.m. by President Whistler in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Building, 8111 S. Westnedge. She welcomed an audience of 20 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Trustees Present: Melanie Kurdys, Deb Polderman, Dale Posthumus, Rusty Rathburn, Randy Van Antwerp, Jennifer Whistler, and John Whyte

Board Trustees Absent: None

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

President Whistler 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 informed the audience of the public comment guidelines.

Ms. Lissa Adams, 3554 Cloverleaf Ln., a parent, shared concerns regarding walk zone changes and safety at Amberly Elementary.

Ms. Millie Taraszka, 410 Marylynn Ct., a citizen, thanked Mr. Casey Peters, Project Manager from AVB Triangle Associates, for a tour of the Lake Center Elementary School site and further explanation of brick work in new construction project.

President Whistler opened the floor for Board Trustee comments.

Mrs. Kurdys echoed Ms. Taraszka's comments adding thanks to the construction management team also. She also discussed the ReImagine Grant and inquired as to when the Board would receive an update from the Transportation Advisory Committee.

President Whistler responded the Transportation Advisory Committee will be making their recommendation to the Administration on Wednesday, October 14. and the Superintendent will make the Board aware of its recommendations prior to taking final action.

Mr. Whyte congratulated Central Middle School for being recognized at the state and national level for its character education program and earning the National Character Education Award.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Kalamazoo County Early Childhood Education Presentation. Dr. Timothy Bartik, Senior Economist with the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, provided background on the Kalamazoo County Early Care and Education System's plan to provide fully accessible, high-quality, early childhood education to every 4-year old in Kalamazoo County by the year 2012. He discussed rationale of the proposal, funding, community involvement, implementation, and monitoring. He responded to numerous Trustee questions pertaining to possible millage funding, curriculum development, assessments, working with Western Michigan University, facilities, and partnering with parents to encourage involvement in the education process.

Bond Project Updates, Lake Center Elementary Traffic Signal Recommendation. Mr. Ryan Leaser, Project Manager, AVB Triangle, provided background on the Lake Center Elementary Bid Package 3 traffic signal. Mr. Leaser, Mr. John Spencer, Owner's Representative, and Mr. Tom Noverr, responded to Trustee questions pertaining to: the new entrance at Lake Center, use of equipment on traffic lights currently in place, quotes, crossing guard at the site, and comparable costs for similar projects.

Bond Project Updates, Central High School Technology Infrastructure. The Director of Technology Systems, Mr. Michael Batterson, shared background information on the infrastructure bid to Parkway Electric & Communications of Holland, Michigan. Mr. Batterson and Mr. Chris Hamilton, Technology Consultant from Secant Technologies, responded to Trustee questions pertaining to: how this project differs from others recently approved, heating and cooling involved requiring a thicker cable, specific brands of clocks being installed, lack of local bidders, and budget.

Bond Project Updates, Financial Update. Mr. Tom Noverr provided a 2007 Bond budget analysis of projected revenues, expenses, and construction contingency for Bond Fund #1 and #2. He responded to Bond related questions from Trustees pertaining to: shared projects with the City of Portage, four additional classrooms at 12th Street Elementary, Administration Building and Technology and Training Center changes, and Building and Site Sinking Fund. Mr. Noverr also shared District strategic planning budget impact analysis for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 school years with updated assumptions and variables. He responded to Trustee questions regarding: student counts, proration possibilities, future deficits, possible loans, state payments, and Intermediate School District potential cuts. Superintendent Wells informed the Board that a list of options to close the revenue shortfall gap is being fine tuned. She shared plans to present to key stakeholders inviting them to look at the District in order to solicit input and provide feedback on restructuring and collaborating. There was Trustee discussion about Owner's Linkage Committee involvement, framing questions for the stakeholders, and the Board came to a consensus that it would like the Administration to bring forward \$1.5 million in suggested cuts for the 2009/10 school year at a special work session on November 16.

District Strategic Priorities. Superintendent Wells shared a revised draft plan of District strategic priorities, based on prior Board discussions and individual meetings with each Trustee about key issues and priorities. She responded to Trustee questions regarding Schools of Choice, potential new students to the District, and student achievement. President Whistler urged Trustees to review and provide feedback to Superintendent Wells before the end of October.

Agenda Item Request #5, Utilization of The Educational Baldrige Express Survey. After Trustee discussion, the Board agreed to move this Agenda Item Request to their November 9th Committee of the Whole Work Session.

ACTION ITEM

Motion offered by Mr. Posthumus, supported by Mrs. Polderman, that the Board of Education approve the Michigan High School Athletic Association Women's Lacrosse Cooperative Agreement for the 2009/10 school year with the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Portage Public Schools Board of Education supports the Cooperative Agreement between Northern High School and Central High School for Women's Lacrosse for the 2009/10 school year.

Dr. Ric Perry provided background information and emphasized the women's lacrosse booster club will be responsible for paying all costs associated with the sport. He also responded to Trustee questions pertaining to: timing issue and MHSAA deadline, trainer fees, other sports that are not sponsored by the District and the articulated process to become a school sponsored sport.

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

Ms. Judi Santek, 7537 Autumn, a citizen, shared concern for on-line communications, paperless meetings, and inquired about obtaining Board meeting information in advance.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary

**SENIOR HIGH BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION
TO FORM AND SUPPORT A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

(Submit With Application, Advance Preparation Materials and Letter of League Support)

Resolved, Portage Northern High School and Portage Central High School agrees to join together to fund, support and maintain a cooperative team in the following sport(s):

Boys Sports	Girls Sports
	Girl's Lacrosse

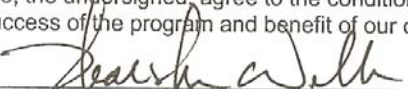
The primary school is: Portage Northern Effective Date: Mar 15, 2010

The respective boards of education must submit the advance preparation material included within this Resolution to the MHSAA for approval.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BOARD OF CONTROL

Portage Northern High School	Portage Central High School
Jim French Administrator	Eric Alburtus Administrator
Chris Riker Athletic Director	Larry Edlund Athletic Director

We, the undersigned, agree to the conditions and content of this Resolution and will work cooperatively for the success of the program and benefit of our children.



 Superintendent


 Board Member
10-12-09

 Date



 Superintendent


 Board Member
10-12-09

 Date

Arrangements detailed in the "Advance Preparation Materials: Questions and Guidelines for Schools to Consider," plus those unique to the cooperating schools on a separate sheet, shall be included in the application and should be addressed by the boards of education when considering this Resolution.