

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING / COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION  
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ROOM #1136, 8135 S. WESTNEDGE, PORTAGE, MICHIGAN 49002  
JANUARY 16, 2023, 6:30 PM  
AGENDA**

**VISION STATEMENT**

An exceptional, continuously improving learning culture with high expectations, committed to all!

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Portage Public Schools will educate all students to achieve their potential.

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**II. Revisions/Approval of Agenda**

**Recommended Motion:**

**Motion offered by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the Board of Education approve the Agenda as printed (or as amended).**

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**III. Organizational Items**

**1. Affirm the Oath of Office**

Randy Van Antwerp, Emily Crawford and Kimberly Larson were elected to the Board at the November 8, 2022 election. In addition, Ean Hamilton was appointed to the Board on December 12, 2022 to fill a vacancy. All four have officially completed their Acceptance and Oath of Office.

As a ceremonial procedure, the recently elected and appointed members will affirm the Oath of Office. The oath will be read aloud by Superintendent Bielang or Barb Atkinson then each member listed will be asked for his/her response.

Do you Randy Van Antwerp, Emily Crawford, Kimberly Larson, and Ean Hamilton, solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State, and that you will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Member of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools, Kalamazoo County, Michigan according to the best of your ability?

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
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**III. Organizational Items**

**2. Election of Officers (BL 0152)**

The Board’s Past President will officiate during the election of the President. Following the President being elected, that person will conduct the election of the Vice President and Secretary.

The person conducting the election of each position will ask three times for nominations for each position. The nominations will then be closed. The person conducting the election or his/her designee will compile the votes and announce those candidates receiving two (2) or more votes and how each Board member voted. Election of officers shall be by a majority of the full Board. If only one (1) person is nominated for an office, the person conducting the election may declare that person elected by acclamation. A nominee is elected to each position by a majority of support from the Board.

**a. President**

Member \_\_\_\_\_ nominates \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member \_\_\_\_\_ nominates \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member \_\_\_\_\_ nominates \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

**b. Vice President**

Member \_\_\_\_\_ nominates \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member \_\_\_\_\_ nominates \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member \_\_\_\_\_ nominates \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

**c. Secretary**

Member \_\_\_\_\_ nominates \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member \_\_\_\_\_ nominates \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member \_\_\_\_\_ nominates \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING /  
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**IV. Reports**

1. Superintendent's Report
  - a. Bond Project Update

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**V. Board Education**

1. Presentation of Monitoring Report 1.1 (Overall)



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BOARD OF EDUCATION – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING /  
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**VII. Consent Agenda**

1. Organizational Items
  - a. Designate Depositories for School Funds (BL 0154, MCL 380.1221)
  - b. Approve Board of Education Meeting Schedule (BL 0154)
  - c. Designate Person(s) Authorized to Use the Safety Deposit Box (BL 0154, OP 6144)
  - d. Designate the Electronic Transfer Officer (BL 0154, OP 6144)
  - e. Appointment of Board Recording Secretary (BL 0154)
  - f. Approve Board & District Legal Counsel
  
2. Monthly Consent Agenda Items
  1. Approval of Minutes
    - a. December 12, 2022 Policy Governance Retreat & Regular Meeting
    - b. December 20, 2022 Special Meeting & Closed Session Minutes
    - c. January 10, 2023 Special Meeting



Enclosure VII.1.a.  
January 16, 2023

To: Board of Education  
From: Mark Bielang  
Date: January 11, 2023  
Re: Designate Depositories for School Funds

Mark T. Bielang  
*Superintendent*  
Phone: 269.323.5147  
Fax: 269.323.5149  
[mbielang@portageps.org](mailto:mbielang@portageps.org)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

I recommend the Board of Education designate the following depositories for school funds:

- Comp One
- Flagstar Bank
- First National Bank
- Horizon Bank
- Huntington Bank
- JP Morgan Chase
- Macatawa Bank
- Mercantile Bank
- PFM Investment Management
- Southern Michigan Bank & Trust

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Board's Bylaw 0154 – Motions, Item A., calls for the Board to designate depositories for school funds as required by Michigan law (MCL 380.1221).

For your information, the enclosed list shows which funds are located in which institution.

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Summary of Accounts**

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Financial Institution</b>
PPS General Fund – Public Funds Checking	General	Huntington Bank
PPS General Fund - Money Market	General	Horizon Bank
PPS Gen. Fund – Prem. Comm. Money Mkt.	General	JP Morgan Chase
PPS General Fund - Money Market	General	Huntington Bank
PPS General Fund - Savings	General	Flagstar Bank
PPS General Fund - Money Market	General	Macatawa Bank
PPS General Fund - Money Market	General	Mercantile Bank
PPS Payroll - Checking	General	Huntington Bank
PPS NMS Athletics - Checking	General	Huntington Bank
PPS WMS Athletics - Checking	General	Huntington Bank
PPS CHS Athletics - Checking	General	Huntington Bank
PPS CHS Debate - Checking	General	Huntington Bank
PPS NHS Athletics - Checking	General	Huntington Bank
PPS NHS Debate - Checking	General	Huntington Bank
PPS Edu Staff - Checking	General	Huntington Bank
PPS Workers Comp	General	Comp One
PPS BSSF - MM Savings	BSSF	Huntington Bank
PPS Common Debt – MM Savings	Common Debt	Huntington Bank
PPS Lunch – Public Funds Checking	Lunch Fund	Huntington Bank
PPS Lunch - Savings	Lunch Fund	Flagstar Bank
PPS Internal – Public Funds Checking	Internal Fund	Huntington Bank
PPS Internal - Money Market	Internal Fund	Huntington Bank
PPS General Fund – CD	General	First National Bank of Michigan
PPS Construction Fund #1	CF #1	PFM Investment Mgmt.
PPS 2021 Construction Fund	CF	PFM Investment Mgmt.
PPS Muni Money Market	General	Southern Michigan Bank & Trust*

\*New account for interest earning purposes



**2022/2023**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE**  
**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**PORTAGE, MICHIGAN**

All Board of Education meetings (Committee of the Whole Work Sessions, Regular Business Meetings, Organizational Meeting) will be held in Room #1136 of Portage Central High School, 8135 S. Westnedge. In months with two meetings, the first is a Committee of the Whole Work Session (WS) and the second is a Regular Business Meeting (RM).

July 25, 2022 (RM)	February 13, 2023 (Retreat*/WS) February 27, 2023 (RM)
August 22, 2022 (RM)	March 13, 2023 (RM)
September 12, 2022 (WS) September 26, 2022 (Retreat*/RM)	April 10, 2023 (RM)
October 10, 2022 (WS) October 24, 2022 (RM)	May 8, 2023 (WS) May 22, 2023 (Retreat*/RM)
November 7, 2022 (Retreat*/WS) November 21, 2022 (RM)	June 5, 2023 (WS) June 19, 2023 (RM)
December 12, 2022 (RM)	
January 16, 2023 (Organizational/WS) January 30, 2023 (RM)	

\*Policy Governance Retreats held 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room #1 of the Administration Building.

Except as noted above for Policy Governance Retreats or as otherwise posted/announced, all meetings will commence at 6:30 p.m. Notice of meeting changes and special meetings, agendas, agenda packets, and approved meeting minutes are available via the District's website ([www.portageps.org](http://www.portageps.org)) under the Board of Education link. Notice of meeting changes and special meetings are also posted at the main entry of the Administration Building, 8107 Mustang Drive (269-323-5000). Agendas and agenda packets are posted on the Friday prior to the meeting. Board meeting minutes are approved at the next board meeting and then posted to the website.

Upon request to the Administration Office, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in a meeting.



Enclosure VII.1.c.  
January 16, 2023

Mark T. Bielang  
*Superintendent*  
Phone: 269.323.5147  
Fax: 269.323.5149  
[mbielang@portageps.org](mailto:mbielang@portageps.org)

To: Board of Education  
From: Mark Bielang  
Date: January 11, 2023  
Re: Designate Person(s) Authorized to Use the Safety Deposit Box

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

I recommend the Board of Education designate Mark Bielang, Johnny Edwards, Paula Johnson and the Board Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_, as the persons authorized to use the safety deposit box, as presented.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Board's Bylaw 0154 – Motions, Item C., call for the Board to designate those persons authorized to use the safety deposit box.

Through Operational Policy 6120 – Safety Deposit Box, the Board has authorized access to the following District positions:

- Superintendent
- Assistant Superintendent of Operations
- Director of Finance
- Board Secretary

The District maintains two safety deposit boxes at the South Westnedge and Centre Street branches of Comerica Bank. Stored in these boxes are such items as deeds to various parcels of real estate and title insurance. Access to the safety deposit boxes can be accomplished only with the signatures of any two of the above named individuals.



Enclosure VII.1.d.  
January 16, 2023

To: Board of Education  
From: Mark Bielang  
Date: January 11, 2023  
Re: Designate the Electronic Transfer Officer

Mark T. Bielang  
*Superintendent*  
Phone: 269.323.5147  
Fax: 269.323.5149  
[mbielang@portageps.org](mailto:mbielang@portageps.org)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

I recommend the Board of Education designate Paula Johnson, Director of Finance, as the Electronic Transfer Officer, as presented.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Board's Bylaw 0154 – Motions, Item D., calls for the Board to designate the Electronic Transfer Officer (ETO) in accordance with Operational Policy 6144 – Investments.

The Electronic Transfer Officer is the authorized agent who completes electronic fund transfers on behalf of the Board. The Director of Finance oversees electronic fund transfers and is recommended to continue in this role.



Enclosure VII.1.e.  
January 16, 2023

Mark T. Bielang  
*Superintendent*  
Phone: 269.323.5147  
Fax: 269.323.5149  
[mbielang@portageps.org](mailto:mbielang@portageps.org)

To: Board of Education  
From: Mark Bielang  
Date: January 11, 2023  
Re: Recommended Appointment of Board Recording Secretary (BL 0154.E.)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Board's Bylaw 0154 – Motions, Item E., calls for the Board to designate a recording secretary. I recommend the appointment of Barbara Atkinson, Administrative Assistant, as Recording Secretary to the Board of Education.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The role of the Recording Secretary has been to assist the Board in maintaining its records and documents, recording actions of the Board, and otherwise assist the Board with its business functions. The Superintendent's Administrative Assistant has normally held this position.



Mark T. Bielang  
Superintendent  
Phone: 269.323.5147  
Fax: 269.323.5149  
[mbielang@portageps.org](mailto:mbielang@portageps.org)

To: Board of Education  
From: Mark Bielang  
Date: January 11, 2023  
Re: Recommended for Legal Services

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

I recommend that the Board of Education retain Thrun Law Firm, P.C. as the Board's and District's primary legal counsel.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Thrun Law has been providing effective and efficient legal services to the District in the areas of student discipline, labor relations, school finance, school elections, board counsel, and other various school-related matters, for over 10 years. The annual retainer fee for these services is \$2500. The retainer is for one year and runs from January through December. In addition to discounted hourly rates the District has access to periodic E-Blasts, Webinars on various legal topics, annual "spring seminars", timely analysis of State Tenure Commission decisions, special education due process decisions, pupil accounting decisions, and the monthly *School Law Notes* newsletter.

While Thrun Law, PC is the District's official retained legal counsel, we also use the services of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. for the majority of bond issuance matters. Special education legal services in Kalamazoo County, including PPS, are provided by Clark Hill, PLC.

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**POLICY GOVERNANCE RETREAT &  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
DECEMBER 12, 2022**

**POLICY GOVERNANCE RETREAT**

The Policy Governance Retreat of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Monday, December 12, 2022, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Van Antwerp. The meeting was held in Conference Room #1 of the Administration Building.

Board Trustees Present: Keith Crowell, Kurt Droppers, Celeste Shelton-Harris, Bo Snyder, Terri Novaria, Randy Van Antwerp

Board Trustees Absent: None

(Trustee Rusty Rathburn resigned from the Board November 22, 2022, resulting in a vacancy for this meeting.)

Board Members-Elect Present: Emily Crawford, Kimberly Larson

Executive Leadership Present: Mark Bielang, Superintendent

Others Present: Gary Goscenski and Brynn Bogemann, consultants from Perspectives Consulting

**REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion offered by Mr. Droppers, seconded by Mr. Crowell, that the Board of Education approve the agenda as printed.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no comments.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Gary Goscenski of Perspectives Consulting facilitated the discussion portion of the agenda regarding Policy Governance 101 and update on current/future initiatives.

The Policy Governance Retreat adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

The Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Monday, December 12, 2022, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Van Antwerp. The meeting was held in Room #1136 of Portage Central High School. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Trustees Present: Keith Crowell, Kurt Droppers, Celeste Shelton-Harris, Terri Novaria, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp

Board Trustees Absent: None

(Trustee Rusty Rathburn resigned from the Board November 22, 2022, resulting in a vacancy for this meeting.)

## **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion offered by Mr. Droppers, seconded by Mr. Crowell, that the Board of Education approve the agenda as printed.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **REPORTS**

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Bond Project Update**

Mr. Johnny Edwards, Assistant Superintendent of Operations provided an update on bond construction work.

#### 2015 Bond Project:

On the Northern storage barns project, punch list items will be reviewed and inspections coordinated.

#### 2021 Bond Project:

The December 5, 2022 Gallery Walks were a success with approximately 175 individuals – parents, students and the community participating. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Mr. Edwards showed a few photographs from the events. Gallery walks were also scheduled with staff at Central Elementary and Haverhill. Feedback from staff was also very positive.

A seventh design development meeting was held earlier this month to discuss landscape architecture, overall floor plans and review the main office. The next design meeting will be held on December 19, 2022.

Bids have been received for easement work at Haverhill Elementary and for commissioning work. More information will be shared with the Board in January.

Trustees shared that they have heard positive feedback regarding the Gallery Walks and thanked Mr. Edwards for holding these events.

### **Other**

For clarification and to address the misinformation circulating, Superintendent Bielang provided an update on the Portage Northern High Schools' Gay Sexuality Alliance (GSA) student club and their grant initiative.

The District's high schools have a number of clubs and organizations that are considered extracurricular activities. The groups are approved by school administration and by policy are educational in nature. The goal of the GSA is to work towards creating a more accepting environment for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, through education, support, social action, and advocacy. With that purpose in mind, last spring the GSA applied for a competitive grant from an organization, "It Gets Better Project" to support their peers and educate students and adults about some of the issues and challenges faced by their LGBTQ classmates. The GSA students, advisors and school administration were all surprised to receive a letter of award for \$10,000 to establish a transgender-affirming closet at Portage Northern High. The appropriateness of such a resource in a high school setting was discussed. This fall, students, administrators and advisors and others came together and concluded that a richer use of the time and resources would be to expand the use of the grant dollars to create a resource room where any student in need could go to have access to any clothing, shoes, backpacks, etc. that they may need due to financial or other hardships. The students and advisors took this new vision to the It Gets Better Project (granting organization) and they agreed to the new vision. The project will move forward as a resource for students in need with the objective of being available in the fall of 2023.

Superintendent Bielang emphasized the following points for everyone to understand. First, this was a teachable moment. The students taught adults about their care and concern for their fellow students, and the adults had the opportunity to share with students a lesson about following process and community standards, and compromise. Secondly, through respectful, thoughtful negotiations and compromise, students will be assisting to provide every day, basic, and essential items for students in need. Third, parents of the students involved in the project were engaged at the level they desired to be. There was no secret agenda or effort to hide the project from anyone.

As the District strives to fulfill its commitment to equity, which is to be an inclusive environment providing each individual access to resources and opportunities for success, Superintendent Bielang applauded our students for living those values, for their ingenuity, hard work, and ability to write and receive a grant of \$10,000. It shows their commitment to equity and inclusion and to make Portage Public Schools a welcoming environment. He also applauded the students for their maturity to understand that not everyone is at the same place on the journey of understanding equity and for their flexibility and willingness to compromise to make this project accessible to all students.

Superintendent Bielang also paid kudos to the administrators, advisors, and staff who helped facilitate the process in a way that guides our students in a respectful and affirming way.

## **BOARD EDUCATION**

### **Presentation on Monitoring Report 1.1, Elementary**

Dr. Kelly Jensenius, Director of Elementary Education, provided an update on elementary assessments.

Dr. Jensenius looked back at testing and state requirements for testing from spring 2019 to spring 2022 and reviewed the assessments utilized at the elementary level. Acadience third grade oral reading fluency trends over time was reviewed along with a chart showing Acadience cohort oral reading fluency for second, third and fourth grade students over time. M-STEP ELA and Math data for Portage fifth graders versus comparator districts was covered along with next steps.

Dr. Jensenius addressed questions from Trustees.

## **COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS**

President Van Antwerp opened the floor to public comment. Dr. Shelton-Harris read the guidelines for public participation.

Katie Shank addressed the Board regarding pornographic library content.

President Van Antwerp thanked Ms. Shank for her comments and opened the floor to board member comments.

Dr. Shelton-Harris expressed her appreciation for the Policy Governance retreat she attended earlier today.

Mr. Droppers thanked Mr. Crowell and Dr. Shelton-Harris for their board service.

Mr. Crowell stated it has been an honor to serve on the Board, and he expressed his appreciation to the Board for their tutoring and camaraderie along the way.

Mrs. Novaria expressed her appreciation to Mr. Crowell and Dr. Shelton-Harris for their board service, and encouraged all to attend the Portage Northern Collage this weekend.

Mr. Snyder also thanked Mr. Crowell and Dr. Shelton-Harris for their service, and he thanked Superintendent Bielang for listening to the students.

President Van Antwerp expressed this thanks and appreciation to Dr. Shelton-Harris and Mr. Crowell for their board service. He gave a shout out to all involved in the Portage Central Collage – outstanding performance. President Van Antwerp shared a letter of thanks from Nonie Knight and her family for the renaming. He thanked Tom Vance and Nick Miley for their work on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary publication. Nick has completed his work on *Centennial Anthology of Portage Public Schools 1922-2022*. Details will be forthcoming on how to get a copy. President Van Antwerp stated he received multiple communications in support of the hiring of Marianne Joynt as Coordinator of Mental Health Services.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**President Van Antwerp presented the following Consent Agenda items for approval by the Board of Education: the November 21, 2022 Special, Closed Session and Regular Meeting minutes; that the Board of Education authorize an increase to the amount of the District's contribution to Health Savings Accounts for all Administrators to match the required amount of deductible increase as mandated from the Internal Revenue Service.**

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

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Schools of Choice Program**

**Motion offered by Mrs. Novaria, seconded by Dr. Shelton-Harris, that the Board of Education approve participation in Section 105 Schools of Choice Program effective with the 2023-24 school year and making necessary revisions to Operational Policy 5113 – Schools of Choice Program, as presented.**

Per Superintendent Bielang, the District has been accepting applications from nonresident students from school districts contiguous to KRESA (Section 105c of MCL 388.1705) for years and now desires to also accept nonresident applications from within our ISD (Section 105). Most districts within Kalamazoo County have gone to 105. Policy 5113 will require revisions to capture this change.

Questions from Trustees were addressed by Superintendent Bielang.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Approve Honorary Resolutions**

**Motion offered by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mrs. Novaria, that the Board of Education approve the resolutions in recognition and appreciation for Celeste Shelton-Harris, Keith Crowell, and Rusty Rathburn, as presented.**

The honorary resolutions were read aloud.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Board Vacancy – Application Review**

Per President Van Antwerp, with the resignation of Trustee Rusty Rathburn on November 22, 2022, a vacancy on the Board was created. It is up to the Board to fill that vacancy within 30 calendar days as required by law. The vacancy was posted within 14 days as required by policy, and applications accepted.

President Van Antwerp then reviewed the “Filling a Board Vacancy” portion of Bylaw 0142.5-Vacancies. In public session, the Board is to review the applications. If a strongly preferred candidate emerges from the screening process, the Board may select that individual to appoint. If a strongly preferred candidate does not emerge through the Board’s deliberation, the Board will select candidates to be interviewed in public session and following interviews, board members will narrow the field to their top two candidates and then further narrow the field until one candidate emerges as the preferred candidate. The Board will then take action to appoint.

President Van Antwerp thanked everyone who applied for the vacancy. The Board received 28 applications for the vacancy. He pointed out the names are listed on the white board in the back of the room. He asked each board member to name their top three candidates and share why they were selected. A mark will be placed by that candidate’s name on the white board in order to keep a tally.

Each board member shared his or her top candidates and the reasons for their selection. The applicant names were listed on a white board in the meeting space. As board members named their top candidates, a mark was placed by the candidate name in order to keep a tally. From that process, the Board reached consensus on one candidate and opted to move to action to appoint, as allowed under Bylaw 0142.5.

Following is a summary of each board member’s candidate selections:

Mr. Droppers – Jennifer Phillips Repp (Bott), Parker Crutchfiel, Ean Hamilton  
Mr. Crowell – Ean Hamilton, Jennifer Phillips Repp (Bott), Tim Earl  
Dr. Shelton-Harris – Liang Zhang, Ean Hamilton, Dr. Ollie Garfield Barnes, III  
Mr. Van Antwerp – Kammelyn Freed, Parker Crutchfield, Ean Hamilton  
Mrs. Novaria – Ellen Winter, Lee Adams, Ean Hamilton  
Mr. Snyder – Ean Hamilton, Tim Earl (Mr. Snyder stated he only had two candidates to name.)

**Motion offered by Mrs. Novaria, seconded by Dr. Shelton-Harris to bring the item to action -the appointment to fill a vacancy of a trustee.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion offered by Dr. Shelton-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Novaria, that the Board of Education appoint Ean Hamilton to fill the vacancy spot effective immediately.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Hamilton was congratulated and welcomed to the Board.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Atkinson, Recording Secretary

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 20, 2022**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

The special meeting of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Van Antwerp. The meeting was held in Conference Room #1 of the Administration Building.

Board Trustees Present: Keith Crowell, Kurt Droppers, Terri Novaria, Bo Snyder, Celeste Shelton-Harris, Randy Van Antwerp.

Board Trustees Absent: Ean Hamilton.

Executive Leadership Present: Mark Bielang, Superintendent and Brad Galin, Director of Human Resources.

**REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion offered by Mrs. Novaria, seconded by Dr. Shelton-Harris, that the Board of Education approve the agenda as printed.**

**The motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Consider Disciplinary Action of an Employee**

**Motion offered by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mr. Crowell, that the Board of Education move into closed session to consider the disciplinary action of an employee, as allowed under the Open Meetings Act 15.268, Sections 8(a).**

**Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

The Board moved into closed session at 4:02 p.m. Mr. Droppers arrived at 4:05 p.m. The Board returned to open session at 4:25 p.m.

**POST-CLOSED ACTION**

**Motion offered by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mr. Droppers, that the Board of Education accept the Resignation Agreement and Release with Mr. Mike Huber, as presented.**

**The motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

## **COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no comments.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Atkinson, Recording Secretary

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 10, 2023**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

The special meeting of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Van Antwerp. The meeting was held in the Learning Lab of the Administration Building for the purpose of providing new board member orientation/training.

Board Trustees Present: Emily Crawford, Ean Hamilton, Kimberly Larson, Terri Novaria, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp.

Board Trustees Absent: Kurt Droppers

Executive Leadership Present: Mark Bielang, Superintendent

**REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion offered by Mrs. Novaria, seconded by Mrs. Crawford, that the Board of Education approve the agenda as printed.**

**The motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

**COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no comments.

**NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION / TRAINING**

President Van Antwerp and Superintendent Bielang provided new board members - Emily Crawford, Ean Hamilton, and Kimberly Larson – orientation/training as outlined in Bylaw 0142.7 – Orientation.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Atkinson, Recording Secretary

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING /  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION  
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136  
JANUARY 16, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

**Note Page**

**VIII. Assurance of District Performance**

1. Monitoring Report 1.1 (Overall), Global Ends (GP 4.4)

**Recommended Motion:**

**Motion offered by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the Board of Education accept as presented, the Monitoring Report on 1.1 Global Ends, as a reasonable interpretation and evidence of compliance with policy.**

**Portage Public Schools  
Monitoring Report**

Policy Type: Ends  
Policy Title: (1.1) Global Ends

As requested by the Board during the 2016/2017 school year, the Monitoring Report on Ends Policy 1.1 continues to be divided into smaller segments so that adequate time can be spent presenting and discussing this key Ends Statement.

As we indicated in the fall of 2019, this year we divided the report into three segments and reported on them as follows:

- High School Measures – October
- Middle School Measures – November
- Elementary School Measures – December

Monitoring information was presented during the “Board Education” portion of the Board meeting.

This is the final, overall report for 1.1. The Board will be asked to accept Monitoring Report 1.1.

**Certification**

I hereby present my Monitoring Report on Ends Policy 1.1 (overall) in accordance with the monitoring schedule established by the Board. I certify that the information provided in this report is true as of December 1, 2022.

---

Signature

Date

Monitoring Report

Page -2-

Policy Type: Ends

Policy Title: Ends Policy 1.1

**Summary Dashboards**

Improving Over Prior Years Summary 2017-2019, and 2022

Met Expectations:	> +2% from previous 3 year average
Partially Met Expectations:	+/- 2% from previous 3 year average
Did Not Meet Expectations:	< -2% from previous 3 year average

	All Students			Economically Disadvantaged			African American/Black		
	3 yr avg	2022	Change	3 yr avg	2022	Change	3 yr avg	2022	Change
5th M-STEP ELA	67%	59%	-8%	42%	38%	-4%	37%	27%	-9%
5th M-STEP Math	51%	37%	-14%	28%	17%	-10%	19%	7%	-13%
8th M-STEP ELA & PSAT 8/9 EBRW*	68%	79%	12%	46%	61%	15%	34%	42%	8%
8th M-STEP Math & PSAT 8/9 Math*	54%	56%	3%	31%	32%	1%	19%	15%	-4%
11th SAT EBRW	77%	74%	-3%	56%	55%	0%	46%	48%	2%
11th SAT Math	54%	47%	-7%	29%	27%	-1%	22%	13%	-8%
3rd Acadience ORF	77%	68%	-9%						

\* 2017 and 2018 results are from M-STEP; 2019 and 2022 results are from PSAT 8/9.

Approaching Comparator Schools Summary 2017-2019, and 2022

Met Expectations:	Ranking 1 or 2 in change relative to comparator districts
Partially Met Expectations:	Ranking 3 or 4 in change relative to comparator districts
Did Not Meet Expectations:	Ranking lower than 4th in change relative to comparator districts

	All Students															
	SAT EBRW 11th Grade				SAT Math 11th Grade				M-STEP ELA 5th Grade				M-STEP Math 5th Grade			
	3 yr avg	2022	Change	Rank	3 yr avg	2022	Change	Rank	3 yr avg	2022	Change	Rank	3 yr avg	2022	Change	Rank
Portage	77%	74%	-3%	4	54%	47%	-7%	4	67%	59%	-8%	4	51%	37%	-14%	T-5
Grand Blanc	69%	62%	-7%	7	46%	26%	-20%	8	63%	53%	-10%	7	37%	34%	-3%	8
Grandville	71%	63%	-8%	8	53%	39%	-14%	7	65%	60%	-6%	3	53%	41%	-12%	4
Hudsonville	76%	74%	-2%	3	57%	56%	-1%	1	76%	68%	-8%	T-1	61%	58%	-3%	1
Huron Valley	68%	63%	-5%	T-5	45%	40%	-5%	2	55%	52%	-3%	8	45%	36%	-10%	7
Midland	80%	75%	-5%	T-5	62%	53%	-9%	5	62%	55%	-7%	5	41%	43%	2%	3
Traverse City	69%	68%	-1%	T-1	53%	47%	-6%	3	62%	54%	-8%	6	44%	37%	-7%	T-5
Zeeland	68%	67%	-1%	T-1	50%	38%	-12%	6	71%	68%	-4%	T-1	53%	54%	1%	2
State	58%	52%	-6%		37%	30%	-7%		48%	43%	-5%		35%	30%	-5%	

## Monitoring Report

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Policy Type: Ends

Policy Title: Ends Policy 1.1

### Exceeding Comparator Schools Summary: 2022

Met Expectations:	Ranking 1st to comparator districts*
Did Not Meet Expectations:	Ranking lower than 1st to comparator districts*

	All Students	Economically Disadvantaged	African American/Black
5th M-STEP ELA	4	7	5 of 5
5th M-STEP Math	T-5	8	4 of 4
8th PSAT 8/9 EBRW	2	T-4	4 of 5
8th PSAT 8/9 Math	2	6	4 of 4
11th SAT EBRW	T-2	2	T-1 of 3
11th SAT Math	T-3	4	2 of 3
SAT - Total Average	3	2	2 of 3

\* In 2019 we updated the interpretation and established a new baseline.

### Further Analysis

In reviewing the data, the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Office along with the Educational Supports and Intervention Office take seriously both positive and negative moves relative to prior years and to our comparator communities. These key measures of our overall performance are critical to our mission and vision. We also know that these three don't comprise every educational assessment that is at the heart of Ends Policy 1.1 – but they are an important snapshot of our work. We analyze these performance indicators carefully over time, even as the data present as a snapshot.

COVID has had an impact on our data, just like every other industry and institution worldwide. Specifically to this report and the data herein, COVID presents some confounding metrics that have potentially impacted our data in both positive and negative ways. Students were impacted by shifting modalities throughout the start of the pandemic and throughout the 2020-2021 school year. This has a particular impact on students who need any extra support. Our teams of teachers, administrators, and support staff have worked relentlessly to create successful systems of learning during this pandemic. A key impact on this is that many initiatives, projects, curriculum work, and coaching elements have been paused while we work on the health and wellness of the people in our school community.

We continue to interpret “approaching” and “exceeding” as we did for the January 2022 MR 1.1 report. “Approaching” provides a snapshot of our ranking on change relative to the prior three year average. The three-year average reduces the impact that a particular cohort of students has on the overall data. All the schools in our comparator group are ranked according to their relative change to the prior three-year average. This indicates if we are trending towards the top or not, regardless of change in performance or

## Monitoring Report

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Policy Type: Ends

Policy Title: Ends Policy 1.1

test conditions. The three-year average has gaps due to no data being available in the spring of 2020 and incomplete data in the spring of 2021 (due to low participation).

“Exceeding “ is interpreted to mean that we are the first school when ranked relative to comparable communities. We now include our overall ranking relative to comparable communities in the table to provide the detail of our ranking. We also include rankings when there are limited numbers of comparable communities, and we indicate this on the table by the number of schools whose data we are able to access.

Reviewing our performance on the “Improving Over Prior Years Summary”, we compare our 2022 results to the three year average (2017, 2018, and 2019) to minimize the impact of a particular cohort of students. We have four metrics that are +2%, four that are flat, and 11 that are declining. Overall, our middle school scores are the most positive, with four indicators improving. Fifth grade changes were concerning for our teams, with declines across all groups.

Reviewing our performance on the “Approaching Comparator Schools Summary”, we again compare 2022 results to the three year average (2017, 2018, and 2019). These are district-wide measures for 5th and 11th grades. Due to change of assessments for the 8th grade students from the M-STEP to PSAT, we have included 8th grade data in the “Improving Over Prior Years Summary” table, but since our comparators may have different approaches to this shift, we have not included it in the “Approaching Comparator Schools Summary” table. Three of our metrics are flat and one is declining relative to our peers.

Reviewing our performance on the “Exceeding Comparator Schools Summary”, we compare our rank against comparator districts on just the spring of 2022 assessments. Here, we have 1 of our 21 metrics ranking first.

### **Response**

Over the past several years, we have shared with the Board not only our responses to COVID, but also our responses to the needs of our students both academically and socially emotionally. Those responses take into account the data in this report and other data sources. Ultimately, to meet our mission and uphold our vision we are a reflective organization, focusing on our current performance and continuously seeking to improve student learning. We continue to pursue our district vision in support of our mission - no matter the circumstances.

Primarily, our Continuous Improvement (CI) work is front and center in our processes to support improved student learning. Our CI work with principals and building teams includes our district data review days as well as our Continuous Improvement work days set up throughout the school year. These sessions provide a systemic format for us to focus on improvement. As shared before our Continuous Improvement goal is a focus on our Tier 1 (classroom) learning systems and our Culture and Climate.

## Monitoring Report

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Policy Type: Ends

Policy Title: Ends Policy 1.1

Specifically, our work at Elementary is focused on the following:

- Engaging the principals and their leadership teams in the continuous improvement goal of refining our Tier 1 instructional system
- Professional development plan is aligned with the continuous improvement plan and is supported through the coaching system
- Targeted professional development provided through a cohorting process including LETRs reading training and Math Recovery
- Implementing a coaching system that is cross-curricular and whole child focused through the use of the building engagement specialist, reading specialist, and ESI coordinators
- Implement the formative assessment process through all aspects of the school day with a specific focus on mathematics guided by our formative assessment grade level facilitators and supported by district level instructional coach
- Utilize screening data at District Data Reviews to drive student support and system adjustments
- Evaluate building systems and continuous improvement work with each building CI Team
- Engaging in the curricular design cycle with ELA, Math, and Social Studies
- Implementation of priority standards and in depth professional development provided K-5 in both ELA and Math
- Development of proficiency scales to create a clear understanding of how a student can continue to grow their knowledge and skills
- Grade level teams set grade level Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) in ELA based on reading data
- Unpacking of the Social-Emotional Learning competencies
- Coordinator of School and Mental Health Initiatives
- Alignment and strengthening the PBIS Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support System
- Restorative Practices training and implementation
- Establishing or reestablishing Peer-to-Peer programs in all buildings to connect students of all ability types together to promote inclusion, independence, and socialization
- Professional learning provided for staff on diversity, equity and inclusion

Specifically, our work at Secondary is focused on the following:

- Engaging the principals and their leadership teams in the continuous improvement goal of refining our Tier 1 instructional system
- Professional development plan is aligned with the continuous improvement plan and is beginning to be supported through building a coaching system
- Alignment and strengthening the PBIS- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Restorative Practices training and implementation for all buildings
- Trauma-Informed Schools training sessions
- Professional learning provided for staff on diversity, equity and inclusion
- Coordinator of School and Mental Health Initiatives

## Monitoring Report

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Policy Type: Ends

Policy Title: Ends Policy 1.1

- Engaging in the curricular review and design cycle with ELA, Social Studies, and World Languages focused on the identification of priority standards
- Establishing or reestablishing Peer-to-Peer programs in all buildings to connect students of all ability types together to promote inclusion, independence, and socialization.
- Evaluate building systems and continuous improvement work with each building CI Team
- Utilize screening data at District Data Reviews to drive student support and system adjustments
- Review and analysis of Math & EBRW results with department teams from fall PSAT
- Math Instructional Coach (98c Grant)
- Math Recovery Cohort Training for ESI teachers

As Monitoring Report 1.1 has deep ties to the other global ends 1.0 elements, we understand the importance of our academic progress. This report and the other Ends 1.0 reports serve as guideposts for us to improve and build our students for success and as a touchstone on our performance as a district. We continue to believe and invest in our research-based systems and processes. We continue to believe in our staff and specifically our classroom teachers as world-class instructors. And we continue to believe in our students, and the potential they offer to the Portage community and beyond as we submit this Monitoring Report.

## Monitoring Report Evaluation Form

Policy: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Superintendent's interpretation reasonable? Yes  No

Comments:

Is evidence of compliance reasonable? Yes  No

Comments:

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### Comments Regarding Further Policy Development

1. Do you have a concern that is not addressed in this policy?

2. What policy language would address your concern?

Evaluation submitted to Board President By: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted: 9/22/08

Revised: 5/25/09, 3/22/10, 2/26/18

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING /  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION  
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136  
JANUARY 16, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

**Note Page**

**X. Action Items**

1. New Teacher Appointments (OP 3120)

**Recommended Motion**

**Motion offered by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the Board of Education approve the following new teacher appointments, as presented:**

- **Joshua Cardosa**
- **Irene Mayfield**

Enclosure X.1.  
January 16, 2023



To: Board of Education  
From: Bradley Galin, Director of Human Resources  
Date: January 16, 2023  
Re: New Teacher Appointments

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following new teacher appointments:

**Joshua Cardosa, PE, Shared Time** – Joshua is brand new graduate of Western Michigan University majoring in Health and Physical Education. Prior to teaching, Joshua had experience coaching both basketball and soccer at Vicksburg High School.

**Irene Mayfield, English and Social Studies, Central High School** – Most recently in KRESA as part of the CTE program team, Irene is returning to the classroom replacing the retiring Janet Lavasseur. Lauren has her bachelor's from Michigan State University and her master's from Wayne State University.

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING /  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION  
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136  
JANUARY 16, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

**Note Page**

**X. Action Items**

2. Haverhill Elementary Utility & Easement Relocation (OP 6320)

**Recommended Motion**

**Motion offered by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the Board of Education approve Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. to be authorized to issue Notice of Pending Awards, in the amounts of \$350,000 to H & K Excavating, LLC and \$32,518 to Michigan Pavings; the funds for which will come from the 2021 Bond.**

To: Mark Bielang, Superintendent

From: Johnny Edwards, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

CC: Paula Johnson, Director of Finance

Date: January 16, 2023

Re: Haverhill Easement/Early Bid Package #1

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**RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend that the Board of Education approve Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. to be authorized to issue Notice of Pending Awards, in the amounts of \$350,000 to H & K Excavating, LLC and \$32,518 to Michigan Paving. Funds will come from the 2021 Bond.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

An easement runs underground through the Haverhill property. We are not permitted to construct the new Haverhill over the existing easement. Our two options are to either relocate the easement and utilities or position the new school closer to the existing school. For the safety of construction and overall flow to the campus while operating two schools simultaneously, it is in our best interest to move the easement and utilities.

Construction for Haverhill will begin in the fall of 2023. The utilities must be relocated prior to the start of construction. This recommendation is considered an early bid package because the bids for the new Haverhill will not be opened until June of 2023 and the relocation work for the utilities will begin in June 2023. Additional information regarding the easement will occur once the easement agreement with the City of Portage is drafted. There will be other early bid packages in the future for relocating playgrounds and site work.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

Portage Public Schools  
 Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. - Construction Manager  
 Bid Package 1 - Haverhill Elementary Utility Relocations  
 Bid Opening: 12/7/2022 @ 2:00pm



Bid Category No. 01 - Earthwork				
Contractor	Bid Bond	Addendum	Base Bid	Notes
H&K Excavating, LLC (Kalamazoo, MI)	Y	1	\$350,000	
Hoffman Bros., Inc. (Battle Creek, MI)	Y	1	\$436,360	
Lounsbury Excavating, Inc. (Paw Paw, MI)	Y	1	\$439,900	

Bid Category No. 02 - Asphalt Paving				
Contractor	Bid Bond	Addendum	Base Bid	Notes
Michigan Paving (Kalamazoo, MI)	Y	1	\$32,518	
J. Allen & Company Inc. (Galesburg, MI)	Y	1	\$32,750	
A1 Asphalt Inc. (Wayland, MI)	Y	1	\$42,000	
Rieth-Riley Construction (Kalamazoo, MI)	Y	1	\$64,600	

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING /  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION  
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136  
JANUARY 16, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

**Note Page**

**X. Action Items**

3. KRESA Enhancement Millage Renewal (KRESA)

**Recommended Motion**

**Motion offered by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the Board of Education approve the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency Enhancement Millage Renewal Resolution, as presented.**



Mark T. Bielang  
*Superintendent*  
Phone: 269.323.5147  
Fax: 269.323.5149  
mbielang@portageps.org

FROM: Mark T. Bielang, Superintendent

DATE: January 11, 2023

RE: Enhancement Millage Resolution

## **BACKGROUND**

Enclosed is the Enhancement Millage Resolution relative to the regional enhancement property tax. Section 705 of the Revised School Code 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 (KRESA in our case).

Resolutions from KRESA-constituent districts representing over half the students in our service area are required to place this request on the ballot. Resolutions must be passed prior to January 25, 2023 so that the KRESA Board can take the appropriate action. This timeline allows for the question to be voted on at the May 2, 2023 election.

KRESA conducted a survey about the enhancement tax and shared results at a meeting of county superintendents and at the January 11, KCSOA meeting. Based on the survey results, county superintendents recommended that millage rate remains at 1.5 mills and the duration of the request be extended from three (3) to six (6) years, 2023 to 2028, inclusive, and be put to the voters at a special election to be held in each of the constituent districts located with the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency, on May 2, 2023.

It is projected that the revenues raised through this millage will provide a per-pupil revenue of approximately \$425. Portage Public Schools' share is approximately \$3.7 million. Please note that this amount varies from year to year dependent on student enrollment and SEV of property within the local education district boundaries. Next year (2023-2024), legislation requires that charter schools located within the ISD/ESA be included in the distribution of funds collected. The impact of that legislation on PPS is approximately (\$90,000).

Additional information from KRESA is provided as an attachment.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend that the Board of Education approve the Regional Enhancement Millage Resolution, as presented.

Enclosures

Summary of Kalamazoo RESA Property Tax Millages March 2020

Millage Type	Charter Millages		20 Year Max Term Millages			Debt Millages - N/A	Taxable Value:
	<u>General Operating</u>	<u>Special Ed Operating</u>	<u>Special Ed Operating</u>	<u>Enhancement</u>	<u>CTE Operating</u>	<u>Debt</u>	
Original Authorized Mills	0.1500	3.0000	1.5000	1.5000	1.0000	0.3650	9,086,074,886
Actual Mills Levied*	0.1428	2.8663	1.4941	1.4918	0.9903	0.0000	9,086,075
Date of Election	1965	1969/1987	5/2021	5/2020	11/2019	2007	
Term	N/A - in perpetuity	N/A - in perpetuity	6 years	3 years	20 years	N/A	
Expiration Date	N/A - in perpetuity	N/A - in perpetuity	12/31/2026	12/31/2022	12/31/2039	12/31/2020	
Estimated Annual Revenue	\$ 1,297,492	\$ 26,043,417	\$ 13,575,505	\$ 13,554,607	\$ 8,997,940	\$ -	
General Description	Helps fund KRESA General Fund operating expenditures.	Helps fund KRESA and local districts special ed operating expenditures. Local districts receive funding based on ISD special ed plan and special ed payout funding formula.	Helps fund KRESA and local districts special ed operating expenditures. Local districts receive funding based on ISD special ed plan and special ed payout funding formula. Protects local districts General Fund budgets.	Helps fund local districts operating expenditures. KRESA is fiscal agent and revenue is distributed to local districts based on their blended pupil count.	Helps fund KRESA CTE Fund operating expenditures.	Millage to pay off existing bond debt for WoodsEdge Learning Center, etc.	

\*Mills levied may be less than authorized mills due to impact of Headlee reduction.

**KALAMAZOO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**CALENDAR FOR  
REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE ELECTION  
ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023**

1. **On or before January 25, 2023** - One or more constituent school districts representing a majority of the combined pupil membership of the constituent school districts as of the most recent pupil membership count day adopt a resolution directing the ISD to call an election for the purpose of placing a regional enhancement millage question on the ballot.
2. **January 26, 2023** - ISD Board of Education meeting to adopt a resolution calling the election and approving the ballot language.
3. **On or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2023** - Forward ballot wording and resolution to Election Coordinator. **Failure to timely file a certified copy of ballot language may jeopardize the ISD's ability to place the questions on the ballot.**
4. **On or before Saturday, March 18, 2023** - Absent voter ballots must be available to be sent to voters serving in the military or living overseas. Absent voter ballots must be available by **Thursday, March 23, 2023** to be sent to members of the general public.
5. **On or before Monday, April 3, 2023** - Registration notice must be published by the Election Coordinator once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Intermediate School District.
6. **On or before Monday, April 17, 2023** - Last day of registration for this election. Voters may register **in person** through **Tuesday, May 2, 2023** (election day) with the required documentation.
7. **On or before Tuesday, April 25, 2023** - Election notice must be published by the Election Coordinator once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Intermediate School District.
8. Election clerk offices must be open for at least 8 hours on the last Saturday (**April 29, 2023**) and/or Sunday (**April 30, 2023**) before the election to issue and receive absent voter ballots. The election clerk must post notice of those date(s) and time(s) at least 30 days before the election.
9. **Tuesday, May 2, 2023** - The polls of election will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.



# REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE RENEWAL

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, voters in each of the nine school districts in the Kalamazoo RESA service area will be asked to vote on whether to renew a three-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage, which supports the operations of the public school districts and charter schools in the KRESA service area.

### **| Is this a new millage or a millage increase?**

Neither. It's a renewal. The original three-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage that voters first approved in May 2005 and then most recently renewed in 2020. This is a request whether to renew the millage for another six years. If approved, taxpayers would continue paying the same millage rate they have been paying since 2005.

### **| How do school districts currently use the money?**

Each local school board decides district budget needs and priorities. Millage funds are used to support instructional services, support services and other district priorities. Helps fund local districts operating expenditures. KRESA is fiscal agent and revenue is distributed to local districts based on their blended pupil count.

### **| How much do the schools get from this millage?**

As the fiscal agent, Kalamazoo RESA distributes the tax revenues to school districts and charter schools on a per-student basis. Each school district and charter school receive the same per-student amount, which is approximately \$364/student.

### **| Why are charter schools included in the millage renewal proposal when they have not been included in the past?**

Changes to the applicable state law since the millage was originally approved added charter schools as beneficiaries of the millage effective May of 2018. All beneficiaries must be listed on the ballot.

### **| How much would this renewal request cost the taxpayer?**

Since the enhancement millage is a renewal, it would not cause any increase in tax rates. Homeowners would pay based on the taxable value of their home, which is typically about half of the market value. A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approximate market value of \$150,000) pays ~\$112.50/year, which is ~\$9.38/month.

### **| When will the Enhancement Millage be voted on by voters?**

The registered voters in each of the nine school districts in the Kalamazoo RESA service area will be asked to vote on May 2, 2023, on whether to renew the 1.5-mill property tax millage, which supports the operations of the public school districts and charter schools in the KRESA service area.

## When is the last day to register to vote?

The last day to register to vote by mail for this election is Monday, April 17, 2023, using the form available at [www.michigan.gov/documents/MI\\_VoterRegistration\\_97046\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MI_VoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf). An individual can register to vote online by visiting [www.michigan.gov/voterregistration](http://www.michigan.gov/voterregistration). Voters may register in person through Election Day, May 2, 2023, during any hours in which the local election clerk's office is open.

## How many years is the millage good for this renewal?

This time, the millage request would be for 6 years so that school millage requests can be spread out and therefore fewer school resources will be used for preparing for millage renewals that have been clearly supported by the community for over 17 years.

## What is the language on the ballot?

### KALAMAZOO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL - DRAFT

This proposal will allow the intermediate school district to continue to levy regional enhancement millage that expired with the 2022 levy. Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the 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 of taxable valuation) for a period of 6 years, 2023 to 2028, inclusive, to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2023 is approximately \$14,044,867, which funds will be disbursed as required by statute to the following school districts: Climax-Scotts Community Schools, Comstock Public Schools, Forest Academy, Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, Gull Lake Community Schools, Kalamazoo Covenant Academy, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Oakland Academy, Paramount Charter Academy, Parchment School District, Portage Public Schools, Schoolcraft Community Schools, Vicksburg Community Schools and Youth Advancement Academy

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

An Organizational/Committee of the Whole meeting of the board of education of the District (the "Board") was held in Room #1136 of Portage Central High School, 8135 S. Westnedge Avenue, within the boundaries of the District, on the 16th day of January, 2023, at 6:30 o'clock in the p.m. (the "Meeting").

The Meeting was called to order by \_\_\_\_\_, President.

Present: Members

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Member \_\_\_\_\_:

**WHEREAS:**

1. Section 705 of the Revised School Code 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; and
2. This Board determines that it is in the best interest of the District to place a regional enhancement millage renewal question before the voters at a special election to be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, in accordance with Section 705 of the Revised School Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. This District requests Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency, to submit a regional enhancement property tax millage renewal proposal for 1.5 mills for six (6) years, 2023 to 2028, inclusive, to the voters at a special election to be held in each of the constituent districts located within the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.
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 ISD Board on or before Wednesday, January 25, 2023.
3. The 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

Nays: Members

Resolution declared adopted.

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Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

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Secretary, Board of Education

FGH/ssw



## EXHIBIT A

### KALAMAZOO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the intermediate school district to continue to levy regional enhancement millage that expired with the 2022 levy. Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the 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 of taxable valuation) for a period of 6 years, 2023 to 2028, inclusive, to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2023 is approximately \$14,044,867, which funds will be disbursed as required by statute to the following school districts: Climax-Scotts Community Schools, Comstock Public Schools, Forest Academy, Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, Gull Lake Community Schools, Kalamazoo Covenant Academy, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Oakland Academy, Paramount Charter Academy, Parchment School District, Portage Public Schools, Schoolcraft Community Schools, Vicksburg Community Schools and Youth Advancement Academy?

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING /  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION  
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136  
JANUARY 16, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

**Note Page**

**XI. Discussion Items**

1. Wireless Recommendation (OP 6320)



Information and Technology Systems  
8107 Mustang Drive, Portage, MI 49002  
(269) 323-5100 -- help@portageps.org

## MEMO

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To: Mark Bielang, Superintendent  
Fr: Daniel J. Vomastek, Director  
Dt: January 11th, 2023  
Re: Upcoming Wireless Recommendation

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### BACKGROUND

As the Board is aware, we have had ongoing issues with the quality of our wireless network at our two new middle schools. After consultation with several wireless consultants, we have reached the end of the options we have with the existing wireless system. Our next step is to replace it.

To that end, we issued an RFP prior to winter break. Last week we opened the RFPs and began the evaluation of the six proposals we received. It is my intent to bring a final recommendation to the Board at its January 30th meeting

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The base price in the responses ranged from approximately \$90,000 to \$130,000. However, the base bids can be misleading as the proposals have different ongoing costs. Regardless, these amounts are lower than I had expected given the surge in pricing encountered during the world-wide chip shortage.

Fortunately, Portage will be able to apply for eRate funding - this should reduce the total cost by 50%. Our initial applications have already been filed. The remainder of the funds will be drawn from the bond.

There is no guarantee this is going to work, but we have to try. The proposers know that PPS will not issue payment if a replacement system struggles as our current one does. However, there is reason for cautious optimism. We shared our current struggles as a part of the RFP narrative. Most of the proposals included access points (APs) that can scan and adjust for interference in real time. Our current APs have to take themselves offline to run such a scan, meaning they can only do this overnight. The management systems proposed offer more diagnostics and control as well. This type of access point costs several times more than what we have been using, but if this is what it takes to provide reliable service, so be it.

Finally, should a replacement system work, we will make it the district standard moving forward. The existing equipment we have remains in high demand, and we will look to sell it to recover the cost.