PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL RM #1136, 8135 S. WESTNEDGE, PORTAGE, MI 49002
OCTOBER 26, 2026, 6:30 PM
AGENDA

VISION STATEMENT
We are inspired to be an exceptional community grounded in fostering strengths, growth, and lifelong learning. Every student. Every future.
MISSION STATEMENT
Portage Public Schools will educate all students to achieve their potential.

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
II. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA** **2**
III. **REPORTS**
1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 3
a. BOND PROJECT UPDATE
b. FINANCIAL REPORT 4
IV. **BOARD EDUCATION** **6**
1. UPDATE ON MATH ADOPTION
V. **COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS** **7**
1. BY CITIZENS
2. BY BOARD TRUSTEES
3. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS
VI. **CONSENT AGENDA** **8**
1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
a. OCTOBER 12, 2026 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION 9
2. FIELD TRIP REQUESTS 12
VII. **ASSURANCE OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE - None**
VIII. **REQUIRED ACTION ITEMS - None**
IX. **ACTION ITEMS - None**
X. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
1. PLANTE MORAN REALPOINT CONTRACT EXTENSION (EL 2.5, OP 6320) 15
XI. **ADJOURN**

This meeting is a meeting of the Board in public for the purpose of conducting the District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the Agenda.

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
OCTOBER 26, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

Note Page

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).

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
OCTOBER 26, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

Note Page

III. Reports

1. Superintendent's Report
    a. Bond Project Update

    b. Financial Report

Portage Public Schools
General Fund Budget Progress Report by Function
2026-2027 Fiscal Year

	Three months ended September 30, 2026				Three months ended September 30, 2025			
	Preliminary Budget 2026-2027	% of total	Year-to-date activity	% of budget	Preliminary Budget 2025-2026	% of total	Year-to-date activity	% of budget
Revenue:								
Local	20,296,590	16%	17,766,151	88%	19,978,649	16%	17,243,292	86%
State	91,548,366	73%	1,782,356	2%	89,415,376	73%	198,160	0%
Federal	1,096,718	1%	-	0%	1,203,264	1%	14,837	1%
Local payments-other districts	11,821,889	9%	24,747	0%	12,127,368	10%	435,253	4%
Other/Transfers in	80,000	0%	-	0%	130,000	0%	-	0%
Total Revenue	124,843,563	100%	19,573,254	16%	122,854,657	100%	17,891,542	15%
Expenditures:								
Instruction								
Basic Programs	65,338,256	50%	7,864,000	12%	62,290,929	49%	8,063,311	13%
Added Needs	14,704,421	11%	1,501,665	10%	12,339,549	10%	1,436,830	12%
Total Instruction	80,042,677	61%	9,365,664	12%	74,630,478	59%	9,500,141	13%
Supporting Services								
Pupil Support	11,530,109	9%	1,317,505	11%	11,461,290	9%	1,406,971	12%
Instructional Staff	8,954,025	7%	2,021,804	23%	8,457,575	7%	1,658,998	20%
General Administration	974,545	1%	237,901	24%	873,106	1%	252,220	29%
School Administration	6,835,573	5%	1,151,270	17%	6,601,287	5%	1,161,116	18%
Business	1,344,077	1%	378,355	28%	1,309,382	1%	386,903	30%
Operations and Maintenance	11,538,818	9%	2,822,705	24%	11,051,081	9%	3,343,360	30%
Transportation	4,730,811	4%	691,796	15%	5,707,490	5%	715,276	13%
Central Support Services	3,533,176	3%	1,243,485	35%	3,531,171	3%	1,549,017	44%
Other Support Services	2,045,546	2%	337,758	17%	1,942,324	2%	318,569	16%
Community Services	55,237	0%	2,911	5%	23,468	0%	13,134	56%
Childcare Services	129,705	0%	11,438	9%	270,287	0%	85,894	32%
Total Supporting Services	51,671,622	39%	10,216,929	20%	51,228,461	41%	10,891,458	21%
Other Financing Uses/Capital Outlay	144,836	0%	121,928	84%	142,928	0%	-	0%
Total Expenditures	131,859,135	100%	19,704,521	15%	126,001,867	100%	20,391,599	16%
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(7,015,572)		(131,267)		(3,147,210)		(2,500,057)	

Portage Public Schools
General Fund Budget Progress Report by Object
2026-2027 Fiscal Year

	Three months ended September 30, 2026				Three months ended September 30, 2025			
	Preliminary Budget 2026-2027	% of total	Year-to-date activity	% of budget	Preliminary Budget 2025-2026	% of total	Year-to-date activity	% of budget
Salaries	66,913,980	51%	8,478,888	13%	61,276,322	49%	8,088,720	13%
Benefits	44,401,713	34%	5,930,538	13%	44,529,686	35%	6,261,004	14%
Total Salaries and Benefits	111,315,693	84%	14,409,426	13%	105,806,008	84%	14,349,725	14%
Purchased Services	12,629,428	10%	3,074,238	24%	13,999,493	11%	3,639,899	26%
Supplies	5,804,156	4%	1,711,775	29%	5,957,628	5%	1,641,334	28%
Capital outlay/Other	2,110,358	2%	509,083	24%	238,738	0%	760,641	319%
Total Expenditures	131,859,635	100%	19,704,521	15%	126,001,867	100%	20,391,599	16%

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
OCTOBER 26, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

Note Page

IV. Board Education

1. Update on Math Adoption

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
OCTOBER 26, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

Note Page

V. Comments or Communications

1. By Citizens

2. By Board Trustees

3. Board Committee Reports

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
OCTOBER 26, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

Note Page

VI. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes
   a. October 12, 2026 Committee of the Whole Work Session

2. Field Trip Requests

   That the Board of Education approve the June 2028 student field trip requests, as presented: Northern High trip to Ireland & Scotland, Northern High trip to Belgium, France and Switzerland and the Central High trip to France.

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 12, 2026

The Committee of the Whole Work Session of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Monday, October 12, 2026, 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: Emily Crawford, Kimberly Larson, Terri Novaria, Mary Lou Rohwer, Bo Snyder, Mark Stevenson, Randy Van Antwerp

Board Trustees Absent: None

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion offered by Dr. Stevenson, seconded by Ms. Larson, that the Board of Education approve the agenda as printed.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Presentations – Field Trip Requests

Dr. Michael Pascoe, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, provided introductory remarks. Details of proposed student trips abroad in 2028 were presented to the Board. Trustees shared positive remarks about these wonderful opportunities for our students.

Bond Project Update

Mr. Russ Gerbers, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, provided an updated on bond construction progress at our elementary bond project sites.

Mr. Gerbers also informed the Board that the community engagement session regarding an Early Childhood Center held last week provided valuable input. A staff engagement session regarding renovations at Moorsbridge Elementary is scheduled for next week.

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

President Van Antwerp opened the floor to public comments.

Kat Frink, on behalf of the PEA, shared the good things staff and students are doing across the district.

President Van Antwerp thanked Ms. Frink for her remarks and opened the floor to Trustee comments.

Mrs. Crawford attended the sixth-grade and seventh-eighth grade choir concerts and praised both performances.

Mrs. Rohwer recently attended a Policy Governance training, which she described as interesting and informative.

Ms. Larson commended the marching bands for their hard work and dedication, which are evident in their performances.

President Van Antwerp informed Trustees that he and Trustee Larson, who will serve as the Board's delegate to the Delegate Assembly, will attend the upcoming MASB Fall Conference. He also reminded Trustees of the upcoming Policy Governance Retreat on October 26 and that the Audit Committee will meet in early November.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Van Antwerp presented the following Consent Agenda item for approval by the Board of Education: meeting minutes from the September 28, 2026 Regular Business Meeting.

As there were no objections, the consent agenda was adopted as presented.

ASSURANCE OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

Monitoring Report 2.1, Treatment of Consumers

Motion offered by Mrs. Novaria, seconded by Mrs. Crawford, that the Board of Education accept as presented, the Monitoring Report on 2.1, Treatment of Consumers, as a reasonable interpretation and evidence of compliance with policy.

Superintendent Edwards shared key points from his report.

The motion carried – 6 Ayes (Crawford, Larson, Novaria, Rohwer, Snyder, Van Antwerp) to 1 Nay (Stevenson).

Monitoring Report 2.8, Conflict of Interest

Motion offered by Dr. Stevenson, seconded by Mrs. Novaria, that the Board of Education accept Monitoring Report 2.8, Conflict of Interest, as a reasonable interpretation and evidence of compliance with policy.

Superintendent Edwards provided highlights from his report.

The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Atkinson
Recording Secretary

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every student. Every future.

Janet Johnstone
Coordinator of Instructional Services
Phone: 269.323.5140
fax: 269.323.5141
jjohnstone@portageps.org

TO: Johnny Edwards

DATE: September 29, 2026

FROM: Janet Johnstone/Dr. Michael Pascoe

SUBJECT: Northern High School 2028 field trip to France

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the approval for Portage Central High students to travel to France as described in the attached material. The trip dates are tentatively set for June 15-24, 2028. **The US Department of State Travel Advisory is currently at a Level 2 - Exercise increased caution.**

BACKGROUND:

Jamie Hoekstra is proposing a student trip to France for June 15-24, 2028. They will spend 10 days out-of-state. The purpose of this trip is to allow students the opportunity to put their language skills to the test and enhance their understanding of the culture through a direct first-hand experience. The families involved will be responsible for the cost. The students will not miss any instructional time. Chaperones will be a ratio of approximately 1 adult to every 6 students (number attending: Approx. 6 students, 1 adult).

I have reviewed this proposal and support it.

Please note that Central High School has also proposed a trip to France for the same summer. The district and/or advisors may consider consolidating the trip to one district trip.

JJ/MP
Attachments

8107 Mustang Drive • Portage, Michigan 49002 • 269.323.5000 / fax: 269.323.5001 • portageps.org

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Janet Johnstone
Coordinator of Instructional Services
Phone: 269.323.5140
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TO: Johnny Edwards

DATE: September 29, 2026

FROM: Janet Johnstone/Dr. Michael Pascoe

SUBJECT: Northern High School 2028 field trip to Ireland & Scotland

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the approval for Portage Central High students to travel to France as described in the attached material. The trip dates are tentatively set for June 17-28, 2028. **The US Department of State Travel Advisory is currently at a Level 2 - Exercise increased caution for Scotland & Level 1 – Normal caution for Ireland.**

BACKGROUND:

Daniall Poulsen is proposing a student trip to Scotland & Ireland for June 17-28, 2028. They will spend 12 days out-of-state. The purpose of this trip is to allow students the opportunity to engage in local study of these countries geology, climate, ecology, and earth science. The families involved will be responsible for the cost. The students will not miss any instructional time. Chaperones will be a ratio of approximately 1 adult to every 3 students (number attending: Approx. 15 students, 6 adult).

I have reviewed this proposal and support it.

JJ/MP
Attachments

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Janet Johnstone
Coordinator of Instructional Services
Phone: 269.323.5140
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jjohnstone@portageps.org

TO: Johnny Edwards

DATE: September 29, 2026

FROM: Janet Johnstone/Dr. Michael Pascoe

SUBJECT: Central High School 2028 field trip to France

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the approval for Portage Central High students to travel to France as described in the attached material. The trip dates are tentatively set for June 19-28, 2028. **The US Department of State Travel Advisory is currently at a Level 2 - Exercise increased caution.**

BACKGROUND:

Rachel Flachs is proposing a student trip to France for June 19-28, 2028. They will spend 10 days out-of-state. The purpose of this trip is to allow students the opportunity to enhance the IB curriculum. Curriculum standards are covered in the trip proposal provided. The families involved will be responsible for the cost. The students will not miss any instructional time. Chaperones will be a ratio of approximately 1 adult to every 4 students (number attending: Approx. 32 students, 8 adults).

I have reviewed this proposal and support it.

Please note that Northern High School has also proposed a trip to France for the same summer. The district and/or advisors may consider consolidating the trip to one district trip.

JJ/MP
Attachments

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PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
OCTOBER 26, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

Note Page

X. Discussion Items

1. Plante Moran Realpoint Contract Extension (EL 2.5, OP 6320)

Should the Board opt to move this discussion item to action, the following motions are recommended.

Recommended Motion - Move to Action

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education move the Plante Moran Realpoint Contract Extension discussion item to action.

Recommended Motion

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education approve the contract renewal with Plante Moran Realpoint, LLC for a total cost of $593,040.00 for a two-year period, October 27, 2026 through October 31, 2028, the funds for which will come from the 2026 Bond Fund (first series from the 2025 vote).

PORTAGE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every student. Every future.

To: Johnny Edwards, Superintendent

From: Russ Gerbers, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Cc: Paula Johnson, Director of Finance

Date: October 21, 2026

Re: Owner's Representative Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

I am recommending that the Board of Education approve the contract renewal with Plante Moran Realpoint, LLC for a total cost of $593,040 for a two year period, October 27, 2026 through October 31, 2028. The funds to cover the cost will come from the 2026 bond fund (the first series from the 2025 vote).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The district entered into a 44-month contract with Plante Moran Realpoint in February 2022. In 2025, the district extended the contract for an additional year to provide continuity as the new Assistant Superintendent of Operations became familiar with the district's ongoing construction projects, established partnerships, and the role of the owner's representative.

Over the past year, the Assistant Superintendent of Operations has worked closely with Plante Moran Realpoint, TowerPinkster, and Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. (OAK) to oversee ongoing design, construction, and budget management efforts. This transition period has allowed the district to evaluate the current arrangement and the support provided by Plante Moran Realpoint.

With several major construction projects underway and additional projects moving into design and construction, the district would like to renew the contract with Plante Moran Realpoint for an additional two-year period. As the district's owner's representative, Plante Moran Realpoint provides oversight of project budgets, schedules, and construction activities while coordinating with the district's architectural and construction management partners. This renewal will provide continued accountability, consistency, and support as the district moves forward with its building projects.

Plante Moran's Background

- Plante Moran Realpoint has worked with more than 35 school districts throughout Michigan and has been involved in over $3 billion in construction projects.
- Plante Moran has a team of industry professionals advocating on behalf of its clients, including architects, engineers, construction experts, accountants, and attorneys.

A copy of the proposed two-year contract amendment is enclosed.

Second Amendment to the Owner Representation Services Agreement Between PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS and PLANTE MORAN REALPOINT, LLC

This Second Amendment (this **"Second Amendment"**) to the Owner Representation Services Agreement is effective as of October 27, 2026 (the **"Effective Date"**), between PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS (**"PPS"**) and PLANTE MORAN REALPOINT, LLC (**"PMR"**). This Second Amendment modifies that certain Agreement for Owner Representation Services between such parties, dated as of April 5, 2022 as amended by the prior amendments listed herein (collectively the **"Agreement"**). As used herein and where context dictates, reference to the Agreement may mean the Agreement, as modified by this **Second** Amendment. Where any provision of the Agreement is modified herein, the provisions of this **Second** Amendment shall control; otherwise the terms and provisions of the Agreement shall remain unmodified. All defined terms in this **Second** Amendment shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Agreement, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

WHEREAS, PPS and PMR are parties to the Agreement for PMR to provide Owner Representation Services;

WHEREAS, at the parties previously amended the Agreement with a First Amendment, dated as of October 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to extend the term of the Agreement for an additional two (2) years, through October 31, 2028.

NOW THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration the sufficiency of which is acknowledged, PPS and PMR agree as follows:

1. **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and are hereby made part of this Amendment.

2. **Changes to the Agreement.** The Agreement is amended as follows:

   a. Term. The Agreement's term is modified to conclude on October 31, 2028. This agreement may be renewed annually, contingent upon approval of the Superintendent.

   b. Compensation. PMR's Compensation is modified as follows: compensation for the first year of the extension shall be increased by three percent (3%) over the current fixed monthly fee. Effective as of the extension term, PMR shall be paid a fixed monthly fee of Twenty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Five Dollars ($24,345.00). Compensation for the second year of the extension shall be increased by three percent (3%) over the first year. Effective November 1, 2027, PMR shall be paid a fixed monthly fee of Twenty-Five Thousand and Seventy-Five Dollars ($25,075.00) For any future extensions, PPS shall compensate PMR at the fixed monthly fee then in effect, plus an escalation adjustment to be negotiated annually upon each renewal.

3. **Incorporation Into the Agreement.** When signed by the parties, this Second Amendment shall be deemed part of the Agreement and, except as otherwise provided herein shall be subject to all of the terms and conditions of the agreement.

4. **Amendment Controls**. In the event of inconsistency between the terms and conditions of this Second Amendment and the Agreement, the terms of this Second Amendment shall control.

5. **Agreement Remains in Force.** Except as expressly modified by this Second Amendment, the Agreement remains in full force and effect, and the parties acknowledge and agree to be bound by the terms and provisions thereof.

6. **Partial Invalidity.** If any term, covenant, condition or provision of this Second Amendment or the Agreement is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions shall remain in full force and effect, and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated.

7. **Counterparts.** To facilitate execution of this Second Amendment, the parties may execute this Second Amendment in counterparts and exchange signatures by facsimile transmission or by electronic delivery of a PDF copy of the executed Second Amendment, which facsimile or PDF copy shall be deemed valid and binding.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

Second Amendment to the Owner Representation Services Agreement Between PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS and PLANTE MORAN REALPOINT, LLC

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have indicated their acceptance of the terms of this Second Amendment by their signatures below on the dates indicated:

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	PLANTE MORAN REALPOINT, LLC
By:	By:
Name: Johnny Edwards	Name: Paul Wills
Title: Superintendent	Title: Partner
Date:	Date: