

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL RM #1136, 8135 S. WESTNEDGE, PORTAGE, MI 49002
MARCH 9, 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.

| | |
|---|-----------|
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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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BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
MARCH 9, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

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III. Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

a. Presentation of 2026 NHS Student Trip to Japan

Should the Board opt to take action on this item, the following recommendations are provided:

Motion offered by ____, seconded by ____, that the Board of Education move the 2026 NHS student trip to Japan to action.

Motion offered by ____, seconded by ____, that the Board of Education approve the 2026 NHS student trip to Japan, as presented.

b. Bond Project Update

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

TO: Johnny Edwards
DATE: March 2, 2026
FROM: Janet Johnstone/Dr. Michael Pascoe
SUBJECT: Northern & Central High Schools 2026 field trip to Japan

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the approval for Portage Central High and Northern High students to travel to Japan as described in the attached material. The trip dates are tentatively set for June 22 – July 2, 2026. **The current travel advisory is level 1, to exercise normal caution.**

BACKGROUND:

Sarah Nott is proposing a student trip to Japan for June 22 – July 2, 2026. They will spend 11 days out-of-state. immersive cultural and educational experience that enhances their Critical thinking and problem-solving skills, cross-cultural communication, independence and responsibility, global citizenship, and open-mindedness and cultural sensitivity. 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. 13 students, 3 adults).

I have reviewed this proposal and support it.

JJ/MP
Attachments

Portage Public School District
Advanced Activity Trips Custom Report

| Trip Type Name | Trip ID | Account Name | Description | Start Date | End Date | Requested Adults | Requested Students | Purpose of Trip Event Description Educational Goals | No PPS Transportation Alternate Method | Overnight Trip must include attachments and costperson |
|----------------|---------|--------------|-------------|------------|----------|------------------|--------------------|---|--|--|
|----------------|---------|--------------|-------------|------------|----------|------------------|--------------------|---|--|--|

StartDate: 6/22/2026, EndDate: 7/2/2026

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------|---|----|---|----------|-----|
| Field Trip Only (No PPS Transportation) | AT-04712 | NHS External Billing | NHS/CHS Students - Japan | 6/22/2026 | 7/2/2026 | 3 | 13 | Cultural immersion student international travel opportunity. Please see educationaltravel.com/nott-2026. See attached for additional information. | Airplane | Yes |
|--|----------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------|---|----|---|----------|-----|

Re: Japan trip approval(s)

1 message

Sarah Nott <sjnott@portageps.org>
To: Janet Johnstone <jjohnstone@portageps.org>

Fri, Feb 27, 2026 at 11:33 PM

Hi there-

This trip is indeed open to all students- it has had our anime club's name tied to it in the past, because several of the students who first expressed desire/ helped initiate the trip were anime club members; but the trip has never been targeted towards a specific group or exclusive to any student demographic. I titled it 'PNHS/PCHS' this year because this is (I'm excited to share) the first year we've also been able to enroll travelers from PC.

I can certainly provide a more detailed description and standards- although I'm sure that the board will agree that the very experience of traveling with compassion, engagement, and a learner's mindset through a culture so different from our own is justification enough, and an experience that is rather conclusively not available 'locally'.

Here are just a few of the academic standards that this trip will touch on. I've categorized them by subject, but can provide them in a more narrative form or tied to the specific stops we'll make if you feel that's what is desired.

1. Michigan K–12 Social Studies Standards

World History & Geography

Analysis of East Asia's historical development, including industrialization, imperialism, World War II, and post-war economic growth.

Examination of globalization, economic interdependence, and international trade relationships.

Geographic analysis of how Japan's physical landscape influences population distribution, transportation systems, and resource management.

Civics

Comparative study of constitutional government structures (United States and Japan).

Evaluation of civic participation in democratic societies.

Examination of international diplomacy and U.S.–Japan relations.

Students will engage with museums, historical sites, and civic institutions to deepen their understanding of global political and economic systems.

2. Michigan English Language Arts Standards (9–12)

Reading Informational Text: Analysis of primary and secondary sources related to Japanese history, government, and society.

Speaking & Listening: Structured academic discussions, presentations, and cross-cultural exchanges.

3. Michigan Science Standards (NGSS-Aligned)

Engineering & Design: Urban infrastructure, high-speed rail systems, and advanced robotics.

Environmental Science: Analyze internal and surface processes that shape geological features over time.

4. Career & Technical Education & College Readiness

Advanced manufacturing and robotics

Global trade and international business partnerships

Technology-driven economies

5. Michigan Merit Curriculum – Visual Arts Standards (High School)

Respond: Analyze and interpret traditional and contemporary Japanese art forms, including architecture, design, sculpture, and public art installations.

Connect: Examine how Japanese visual art reflects cultural values, historical events, religious traditions, and societal change.

Create: Produce original artwork inspired by observed techniques and new artmaking skills.

If it is helpful to the board, we also take specific classes together while on this trip: one on Japanese brushwork and calligraphy (called *sumi-e*), one on the structure of Japanese high schools including an afternoon spent attending classes with students at one such school, one on introductory Japanese phrases and numbers, and one on Japanese food and cooking.

In addition to academic growth, the trip as a whole supports development of:

Critical thinking and problem-solving skills

Cross-cultural communication

Independence and responsibility

Global citizenship

Open-mindedness and cultural sensitivity

Please don't hesitate to let me know if there is anything else you'd like me to add, or if there is a different way you'd like me to structure this description.

I hope you enjoy your weekend!

With appreciation,

Sarah

.....

Sarah Nott

Art Teacher - Portage Northern HS

p:269-323-5540 - Insta @artnott

sarahnott.com - she/her

Teacher working hours are from 7:25 to 2:55, Monday through Friday. I will do my best to reply to student and parent emails in a timely manner, but please allow two business days for a response. I encourage students to advocate for themselves, as I will prioritize emails to students in order to effectively address their learning concerns. Thank you for your patience and understanding



Japan

educationaltravel.com/Nott-2026

June 23 - July 02, 2026

Day 1 Overnight Flight to Osaka

Day 2 Konichiwa Osaka

Meet your tour director and check into hotel

Day 3 Osaka

Optional Hiroshima full-day excursion by bullet train : Atomic Dome visit, Peace Memorial Park visit, Peace Memorial Museum visit , Shukkei-en Garden visit

Day 4 Osaka--Kyoto

Travel to Kyoto
Nara excursion : Nara Deer Park visit, Todai-ji temple visit, Kasuga Grand Shrine visit
LEAP Japanese Calligraphy class

Day 5 Kyoto

Kyoto guided sightseeing tour: Kinkaku-ji temple (Golden Pavilion) visit, Nijo Temple visit, Heian Shrine visit
Gion Corner visit

Day 6 Kyoto--Hakone

Travel to Hakone by bullet train
Hakone excursion : Owakudani Boiling Valley visit, Hakone Ropeway , Lake Ashi cruise, Hakone Shrine visit

Day 7 Hakone--Tokyo

Travel to Tokyo
Free time to explore Tokyo with your tour director
Meiji Shrine visit
Akihabara Electric Town visit
LEAP Japanese cooking class

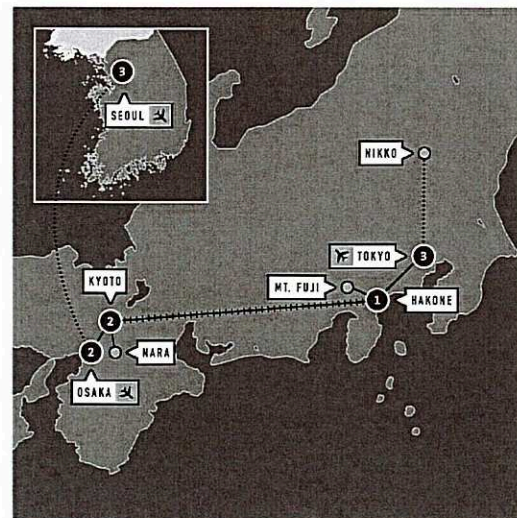
Day 8 Tokyo

Tokyo guided sightseeing tour
LEAP Japanese School Visit
Asakusa Sensoji Temple visit & Nakamise Street

Day 9 Tokyo

Karaoke experience and dinner
Optional Nikko excursion

Day 10 End Tour



Reserve your spot!

MyTrip ID: Nott-2026

Registration deadline: March 05, 2026

What's included

We provide everything you need for a remarkable trip:

- Round-trip airfare and other transportation described in the itinerary
- Basic Medical, Dental, Emergency Evacuation Insurance during trip (U.S. travelers only)
- Up to three college credits upon course completion (grades 9-12) or high school credit (grades 6-12) for U.S. travelers only.
- Centrally located three- and four-star hotels
- Plentiful daily breakfast to start the day energized and ready to go
- Appetizing, culturally representative, three-course dinner daily
- Full time, multilingual, WorldStrides tour director who is LEAP-trained in experiential education
- Local guide at sites and on city tours as described in the itinerary
- LEAP! Learning through Exploration and Active Participation; trademarked immersive approach of learning by doing
- Entrances and transportation to sites and activities described in your itinerary
- Local guide and local bus driver tips; see note regarding other important tips
- 24/7 On Tour Emergency Support
- Note: On arrival day only dinner is provided; on departure day, only breakfast is provided
- Note: Tour cost does not include airline-imposed baggage fees, any required passport or visa fees, optional excursions, or recommended Tips for the Tour Director or multi-day Bus Drivers. Optional excursions, optional pre-paid tips, or other individual/group customizations will be listed as separate line items in the total trip cost, if included.

Tour investment

Students (travelers under the age of 23): \$6,976

Adults (age 23 and over): \$7,461

Automatic monthly payment plan

Pay just \$99 upon enrollment and the balance will be divided into equal monthly payments, charged automatically to your credit card or checking account. As of March 02, 2026, your monthly payment would be just \$3,438.50.

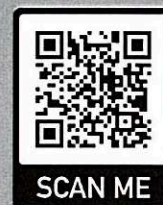
Travel protection

We recommend covering your educational investment with one of our two comprehensive travel protection plans offered through Trip Mate. For details, visit worldstrides.com/travel-protection-plans.

Enroll online,
by phone, or by mail



Visit educationaltravel.com/Nott-2026



Use Nott-2026 to register



1.800.771.5353



Mail in your paper application to:

WorldStrides Programs
Attn: Participant Services
701 E. Water Street, Suite 200
Charlottesville, VA 22902

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
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VI. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes

a. February 23, 2026 Regular Business Meeting & Closed Session

b. CHS 2027 Student Trip to Puerto Rico

That the Board of Education approve the June 2027 Portage Central High student trip to Puerto Rico, as presented.

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

The Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education of Portage Public Schools held on Monday, February 23, 2026, was called to order at 6:34 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 Mrs. Rohwer, that the Board of Education approve the agenda as printed.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Presentation of 2027 Proposed Student Trip to Puerto Rico

Spanish teachers Rachele Reidel, Bonnie Moss, and Kate Twichell detailed plans for the proposed Central High student trip to Puerto Rico in June 2027 and responded to Trustee questions.

Trustees were appreciative of this opportunity for the students.

Bond Project Update

Mr. Russ Gerbers, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, updated the Board on construction projects. Construction at the new Woodland Elementary site continues to move forward as planned, with work on Unit C nearing completion and work on Unit A scheduled to begin soon. The final design meeting for the new Amberly Elementary project has been completed, and a gallery walk is planned for April. Additionally, the design team recently met regarding the Angling Road Elementary project.

Financial Report

Ms. Paula Johnson, Director of Finance, highlighted areas of the General Fund Budget Progress Report by Function and by Object for the seventh-month period ending January 31, 2026 compared to the same period in 2025.

Ms. Johnson also shared highlights from the Governor's proposed executive budget.

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

President Van Antwerp opened the floor to public comments.

Dennis Kozian shared positive stories highlighting the great work our staff and students are doing across the district.

President Van Antwerp thanked Mr. Kozian for his comments, and opened the floor to Trustee comments.

Mrs. Novaria looks forward to Superintendent Edwards' upcoming Black History Month presentation at North Middle School.

Mr. Van Antwerp announced the January edition of *Business View Magazine* included a great article about Portage Public Schools in their Best in Education segment. He added the Policy Committee would meet later this week.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Van Antwerp presented the following Consent Agenda item for approval by the Board of Education: approve minutes from the February 9, 2026 Committee of the Whole Work Session.

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

REQUIRED ACTION ITEMS

MASB Board of Directors Election

Trustees commented about the candidates; action followed.

Motion offered by Mrs. Novaria, seconded by Ms. Larson, that the Board of Education cast its vote for candidate TiAnna Harrison to represent MASB Region 6 in the 2026 MASB Board of Directors Election, and authorizes Barb Atkinson to cast the Board's vote via the online ballot provided by MASB.

The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

2025-26 Budget Amendments

Mr. Snyder expressed his appreciation for the work that goes into developing the budget.

Motion offered by Mrs. Rohwer, seconded by Dr. Stevenson, that the Board of Education approve the General Fund Budget Appropriations Resolution 2025/26 Amended Budget #1, as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

National School Breakfast Week Proclamation

Motion offered by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mrs. Novaria, that the Board of Education approve the National School Breakfast Week Proclamation, as presented.

Ms. Larson read the proclamation aloud. President Van Antwerp thanked Susan Livingston, Director of Food Services, and her team for their work.

The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

TWL Lighting

Mr. Russ Gerbers reviewed the recommendation to replace lighting systems at 12th Street Elementary. The Board opted to move this discussion item to action.

Motion offered by Mrs. Novaria, seconded by Mrs. Crawford, to move the 12th Street Lighting discussion item to action.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mrs. Novaria, that the Board of Education authorize Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. to issue a Notice of Pending Award for the 12th Street Elementary Lighting Project to Esper Electric in the base bid amount of \$572,965.00 and a total project cost, inclusive of fees and related expenses, not-to-exceed \$739,463.00. Funding for this project will be provided through the 2019 Building and Site Sinking Fund.

The motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion offered by Mrs. Novaria, seconded by Mrs. Rohwer, that the Board of Education move into closed session for two purposes (1) to consult with its attorney on pending litigation, specifically Driver vs Portage Public Schools, and (2) to consider the purchase of property as allowed under the Open Meetings Act 15.268, Sections 8(e) and 8(d) respectively.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board entered into closed session at 7:01 p.m. and returned to open session at 7:45 p.m.

POST-CLOSED ACTION

Purchase of Property

In open session, the Board took the following action.

Motion offered by Mrs. Rohwer, seconded by Mrs. Crawford, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Property, as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Atkinson
Recording Secretary



**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK
March 2-6, 2026**

WHEREAS, we recognize March 2–6, 2026, as National School Breakfast Week and honor the dedication of Portage Public Schools’ food service staff. This observance highlights the important role breakfast plays in helping students stay alert, strengthen memory and problem-solving skills, and achieve academic success; and

WHEREAS, each day, 27 food service employees prepare and serve an average of more than 1,800 breakfasts while managing ordering, storage, delivery, and strict food safety and nutrition standards, all with care and attention to student needs; and

WHEREAS, these skilled and caring professionals make meaningful contributions to student well-being and education, and this week provides an opportunity to express our gratitude for their service. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION that we proudly commemorate March 2–6, 2026, as National School Breakfast Week and commend all who contribute to the success of our breakfast program. Together, we make a positive difference in the lives of our students.

Proclaimed this 23rd day of February, 2026
Portage Public Schools Board Of Education

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

Portage Public Schools, Kalamazoo County, Michigan (the “District”).

A regular meeting of the Board of Education (the “Board”) was held in the Central high School, Room 1136, within the boundaries of the District, on the 23rd day of February, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Randy Van Antwerp, President.

Present: Members Emily Crawford, Kimberly Larson, Terri Novaria, Mary Lou Rohwer, Bo Snyder, Mark Stevenson, Randy Van Antwerp

Absent: Members None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Rohwer and supported by Member Crawford.

WHEREAS, the District wishes to purchase approximately 14.79 acres of vacant real property, which is located at 5201 Angling Road within the City of Portage, Kalamazoo County, Michigan (the “Property”) from Robert A. Baker and Karen R. Baker (together the “Seller”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it would be in the best interests of the District to purchase the Property from the Seller, under the terms and conditions contained in the Purchase Agreement, attached hereto and made a part hereof as Attachment “1”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board hereby authorizes the purchase of the Property from the Seller.
2. The Board authorizes and directs Russell Gerbers, the Assistant Superintendent of Operations, or his designee, to execute the Buy and Sell Agreement “1” and to make any revisions to the Purchase Agreement not inconsistent with this resolution, and to take any other action to purchase the Property, including signing closing documents, all subject to review and approval by the District’s legal counsel.
3. 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 Crawford, Larson, Novaria, Rohwer, Snyder, Stevenson, Van Antwerp

Nays: Members None

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF PROPERTY
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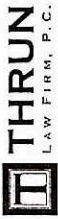
Resolution declared adopted.


Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting held on February 23, 2026, 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).


Secretary, Board of Education

PGC/ssw



ATTACHMENT "1"

PURCHASE AGREEMENT

This Purchase Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into this ___ day of _____, 2026 ("Effective Date"), by and between **ROBERT A. BAKER & KAREN R. BAKER**, husband and wife, whose address is 424 Riverside Drive, Ste 200, Battle Creek, Michigan 49015 (together, the "Seller") and **PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**, a Michigan general powers school district organized and operating under the provisions of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1, *et seq.*, as amended, whose address is 8107 Mustang Drive, Portage, Michigan 49002 ("Purchaser") (individually, a "Party" and collectively, the "Parties") for real property, consisting of approximately 14.79 acres, located at 5201 Angling Road within the City of Portage, Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

I. Property Transferred. The Purchaser will purchase and the Seller will sell the real property, and any structures thereon, as legally described in Exhibit "A", and all easements and all other interests and rights of the Seller which are appurtenant to the real estate, including, but not limited to, all right, title, and interest, if any, of the Seller in and to any land lying in street, road, or avenue in front of, within, or adjacent to, or adjoining such land (collectively, the "Property"). The Seller will not list or sell the Property to any other person while this Agreement is in effect.

II. Purchase Price. The Property will be purchased for the sum of Two Million and 00/100 (\$2,000,000.00) (the "Purchase Price"). The Purchase Price will be paid in certified funds at Closing.

III. Closing. The Closing of the sale described herein will take place at the office of the Title Company identified below. Closing will be held not later than May 29, 2026, unless the parties agree in writing to another date (the "Closing"). The Purchaser will take possession of the Property upon Closing.

IV. Evidence of Title. The Seller will, as soon as practical and in any event within thirty (30) days from the Effective Date of this Agreement, obtain a commitment for an owner's policy of title insurance in the amount of the Purchase Price. The title company is the Devon Title Company, 3250 Centre Avenue, Suite 2, Portage, Michigan 49024 (the "Title Company"). Within ten (10) days of receiving the commitment for title insurance, the Purchaser will notify the Seller of any restrictions, reservations, limitations, easements, liens and other conditions of record (together the "Title Defects"), all Title Defects disclosed in such commitment which would interfere with Purchaser's proposed use of the Property and are therefore objectionable to the Purchaser. Should the Purchaser notify the Seller of any such Title Defects, the Seller will have until Closing to cure or remove the same. If such Title Defects are not cured by Closing, the Purchaser may, at the Purchaser's option, terminate this Agreement, or alternatively, set a date with the Seller to extend the closing date to a mutually agreed upon closing date so as to provide the Seller with an additional opportunity to cure said Title Defects. In the event such Title Defects are not cured by the closing date, or any extension thereof, and the Purchaser elects not to waive its title objections, the Agreement will be terminated, and neither Party will have any further obligations with regards to this Agreement.

V. Inspections; Tests and Zoning Approvals. The Purchaser will have the right and license to enter upon the Property, upon reasonable advance notice to the Seller, for the purposes of making any and all appraisals, explorations, soil tests, inspections, environmental reports, wetlands and flood plain evaluations, water and perk tests, mechanical and electrical system inspections and the like, and zoning and rezoning approvals, all of which inspections and approvals will be completed within ninety days (90) from the Effective Date of this Agreement (the "Inspection Period"). The Purchaser will have until the end of that Inspection Period to determine whether it is satisfied with the condition of the Property. In the event that the Purchaser is not satisfied with the condition of the Property or has not obtained all necessary zoning approvals and so notifies the Seller within the Inspection Period, the Agreement will terminate, and except as provided below, neither Party will have any further obligations with regards to this Agreement.

VI. Survey. During the Inspection Period, as defined above, the Purchaser may obtain, at its sole expense, a survey of the whole Property (the "Survey"). The Survey, if obtained, shall be certified to the Seller, the Purchaser, and the Title Company. If the Purchaser objects in writing as to the condition of the Survey during the Inspection Period, the Seller shall have ten (10) days after receipt of notification of such objections, or such greater period of time as may be mutually agreed in writing between the Seller and the Purchaser within which period the Seller may, but shall not be required to, cure or remove any such Survey objection or obtain title insurance against such objection in a manner acceptable to the Purchaser.

VII. Conditions Precedent. In addition to any other conditions contained in this Agreement, the obligation of the Parties to consummate the sale contemplated by this Agreement is subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions prior to Closing:

- (a) The Purchaser, at its expense, will obtain a survey on the Property in order to adjust the property line between Tax Parcel No. 10-00005-040-G and Seller's adjoining Tax Parcel No. 10-00005-041-G to the east of Seller's existing garage by approximately twenty (20) feet. Upon completion of that survey, Seller will reasonably cooperate and submit an application to the City of Portage or applicable governing authority to effectuate the lot adjustment in accordance with that survey, and obtain municipal approval of same;
- (b) Each of the representations or warranties of the Parties will be true and correct as though made again as of the closing date of this Agreement and no representations or warranties will have been violated or breached prior to Closing;
- (c) The Parties will perform and comply with all agreements and conditions required to be performed or complied with as of the date of Closing;
- (d) There will be no material adverse change in the Property, excepting normal wear and tear; and
- (e) No action or proceeding to restrain, prohibit, or declare illegal the transactions contemplated hereby will be pending or threatened, nor will any order restraining or prohibiting the transactions contemplated hereby have been issued by any public

authority, governmental agency, or court, nor will any attachments, garnishments, levies, liens, or other litigation have been filed or be in effect regarding the transactions contemplated by this Agreement or the Property.

(collectively, the "Closing Contingencies"). In the event any of the Closing Contingencies have not been satisfied and a Party so notifies the other Party as set forth herein, this Agreement will terminate, and neither Party will have further liability or responsibility thereunder, except as expressly provided herein.

VIII. Warranty Deed. At the Closing, the Seller will deliver to the Purchaser a Warranty Deed, subject only to such encumbrances permitted by Purchaser after reviewing the title commitment. The Warranty Deed will transfer all permitted land divisions under the Land Division Act, PA 288 of 1967, as amended.

IX. Closing Costs. The Seller will pay the transfer tax, if any, the costs of the title policy, survey fees, survey recording fees, and any attorneys' fees incurred by the Seller. At the Closing, the Purchaser will pay the recording fees for the Warranty Deed, and any attorneys' fees incurred by the Purchaser. Also at the Closing, each Party will pay 1/2 of the costs required by the Title Company to close this transaction.

X. Time of Essence. Time is of the essence with respect to all dates and times set forth in this Agreement.

XI. Taxes. The Seller will pay all real property taxes, if any, assessed or assessable on the Property prior to the date of Closing, regardless of when the taxes are due. The Purchaser will be responsible for all real property taxes on the Property that are assessed or assessable on or after the date of Closing.

XII. Special Assessments. Special assessments which are incurred or become a lien on the Property before the date of Closing will be paid by the Seller. Special assessments which become a lien on the Property on or after the Closing date will be paid by the Purchaser.

XIII. Attorney's Opinion. The Purchaser acknowledges that the Seller has recommended that the Purchaser retain an attorney to pass on the marketability of the title to the Property and to review the details of the sale before the Closing.

XIV. Notices. All notices required or given under this Agreement will be in writing and either delivered personally or mailed by regular mail addressed to the Parties at their addresses specified above. Mailed notices will be effective upon mailing.

XV. Whole Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and will be deemed to supersede and cancel any other agreement between the Parties relating to the transactions herein contemplated. Each Party acknowledges that no representation, inducement, or condition not set forth herein has been made or relied upon by either Party.

XVI. Amendments. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a document in writing executed by each of the Parties named above.

XVII. Successors and Assigns. This Agreement will bind and benefit the Parties and their respective successors and assigns.

XVIII. Governing Law. This Agreement will be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Michigan.

XIX. Counterpart Signatures. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, including facsimile copies, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which will together constitute one and the same instrument.

SELLER:

**ROBERT A. BAKER & KAREN R. BAKER,
husband and wife**

By: _____
Robert A. Baker

Dated: _____

By: _____
Karen R. Baker

Dated: _____

PURCHASER:

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
a Michigan general powers school district**

By: _____
Russell Gerbers

Its: Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Dated: _____

EXHIBIT "A"


Real property located within the City of Portage, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, and legally described as follows:

COMM AT THE W 1/4 COR OF SEC 5-T3S-R11W; TH N00DEG22'22"W 300.01 FT ALONG THE W LI OF THE NW 1/4 OF SAID SEC 5 TO THE N ROW LI OF INTERSTATE HWY 94 TO THE POB; TH N00DEG22'22"W 363.80 FT ALONG SAID W LI TO THE S LI OF THE N 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF SAID NW 1/4; TH S89DEG20'15"E 663.69 FT ALONG SAID S LI TO THE W LI OF THE E 1/2 OF THE W 1/2 OF SAID NW 1/4; TH N00DEG22'20"W 250 FT ALONG SAID W LI TO THE WESTERLY EXT OF THE S LI OF LOT 13 OF "THE WOODS" SUBDIVISION; TH S89DEG20'15"E 663.69 FT ALONG SAID WESTERLY EXT & ALONG THE S LI OF LOT 12 OF SAID SUBDIVISION TO THE E LI OF SAID W 1/2 OF THE NW 1/4; TH S00DEG22'18"E 606.95 FT ALONG SAID W LI OF THE W 1/2 OF THE NW 1/4 TO SAID N ROW LI OF INTERSTATE HWY 94; TH N89DEG37'59"W 1327.27 FT ALONG SAID N ROW LI TO THE POB. CONTAINING 14.79 ACRES OF LAND. SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS, CONDITIONS & RESRTICTIONS OF RECORD. SPLIT ON 01/10/2011 FROM 00005-041-F, 00005-040-E.

Tax Parcel No. 10-00005-040-G

Common Address: 5201 Angling Road, Portage, Michigan 49024

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

TO: Johnny Edwards
DATE: February 3, 2026
FROM: Janet Johnstone/Dr. Michael Pascoe 
SUBJECT: Central High School 2027 field trip to Puerto Rico

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the approval for Portage Central High students to travel to Puerto Rico as described in the attached material. The trip dates are tentatively set for June 15-21, 2027. **There is no travel advisory as Puerto Rico is a United States territory.**

BACKGROUND:

Rachele Reidel is proposing a student trip to Puerto Rico for June 15-21, 2027. They will spend 7 days out-of-state. The purpose of this trip is to allow students the opportunity to use the Spanish language in an authentic setting. 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 6 students (number attending: Approx. 18 students, 3 adults).

I have reviewed this proposal and support it.

JJ/MP
Attachments

Portage Public School District
Advanced Activity Trips Custom Report

| Trip Type Name | Trip ID | Account Name | Description | Start Date | End Date | Requested Adults | Requested Students | Purpose of Trip Event Description Educational Goals | No PPS Transportation Alternate Method | Overnight Trip must include attachments and costperson |
|----------------|---------|--------------|-------------|------------|----------|------------------|--------------------|---|--|--|
|----------------|---------|--------------|-------------|------------|----------|------------------|--------------------|---|--|--|

StartDate: 6/15/2027, EndDate: 6/21/2027

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|----|---|----------|-----|
| Field Trip Only (No PPS Transportation) | AT-04581 | CHS External Billing | CHS Spanish - Puerto Rico | 6/15/2027 | 6/21/2027 | 3 | 18 | The purpose of this trip is to allow students the opportunity to use the Spanish language in an authentic setting while being able to experience the culture firsthand. | Airplane | Yes |
|--|----------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|----|---|----------|-----|

Proposal for Trip to Puerto Rico Summer of 2027

By: Bonnie Moss, Rachele Reidel, and Kate Twichell

Documents included:

Page 1: Cover page

Page 2-4: Tentative Itinerary

Page 5-6: Specific Educational Goals

Pages 7-9: Why travel abroad enhances learning

Pages 10-14: Information about the travel company World Strides

Day 1 Hola San Juan

Meet your tour director and check into hotel

San Juan city walk: Museo de Casa Blanca, La Muralla, La Fortaleza
This afternoon we will embark on a tour exploring Puerto Rico's rich history.

Day 2 San Juan

San Juan guided sightseeing tour: Plazas San José y Colón, Calle de Cristo, Castillo San Felipe del Morro visit, El Capitolio, Teatro Tapia, and San Juan Museum visit

LEAP Experience sustainable farming in San Juan

Jump into the buzzing capital of Puerto Rico. San Juan's 16th-century historic district offers up a taste of Renaissance Spain, while the modern hotels, busy cafés, and traffic-packed streets in the new sections give the city a distinctly 21st-century energy. Start your invasion at El Morro, one of the oldest standing forts in the Caribbean. The fort rises 140 feet above the sea and contains ramparts, tunnels, and dungeons open for exploration. Thick city walls connect this fort with the similar fortifications of El Castillo San Cristobal and La Fortaleza, and the heavy wooden doors of the San Juan Gate were once the only way for visitors to pass into the heavily fortified city. See the less militaristic side of colonial life at the Casa Blanca, an elaborate house originally built for town founder Ponce de Leon. The beautiful 16th-century Catedral de San Juan soars up nearby. Find harmony at the Pablo Casals museum, dedicated to the world-famous cellist (and containing a rather eerie cast of his hands), and relaxation at the Condado, San Juan's answer to Miami Beach. Known as El Morro, this fortification built between 16th and 18th centuries, was designed to protect the island from seaborne enemies. El Capitolio is the center of government for Puerto Rico. Please note that guided tours and visits are not available, this is a photo-stop only.

Day 3 San Juan

El Yunque Caribbean National Forest visit

Luquillo beach free time

Bioluminescent Bay excursion

Surrounded by millennium-old trees, catching the barest glimpse of the bright feathers of the Puerto Rican parrot and listening to the distinctive chanting of the coquí frogs (said to stop singing if ever taken away from the island), you'll understand why native Puerto Ricans considered this forest the home of the god of happiness. El Yunque is the only tropical forest within the U.S. National Forest Service and is a fantastic place to experience all the animal and plant riches that a rainforest has to offer.

Day 4 San Juan

Ponce tour director-led sightseeing: Parque de Bombas, Lions Fountain, Ponce Cathedral, Casa Alcaldia

Picturesque Ponce is quite possibly the prettiest city in Puerto Rico. Colonial architecture, colorful balconies, horse-drawn carriages, and marble-lined sidewalks all combine to give Ponce its unbeatable charm. The town's elegant cathedral rises from the main square, across from the almost gaudy former firehouse -- the building's bright red and black stripes contrast with the surrounding edifices' calm pastels. Step inside and check out the museum honoring the bravery of the city's firemen and showcasing antique fire engines.

Day 5 San Juan

Visit a local cave and Caguana Ceremonial Indigenous Park and Heritage Center visit

Visit one of Puerto Rico's many caves such as Cueva Ventana ("Window Cave") or the Río Camuy Cave Park. Learn about the Indigenous people who lived in Puerto Rico before the arrival of the Spanish. At the Heritage Center, operated by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, you'll see artifacts, petroglyphs, and a number of stone-lined ball courts that archaeologists have uncovered. This is one of the most important Taino-culture archaeological sites in the world.

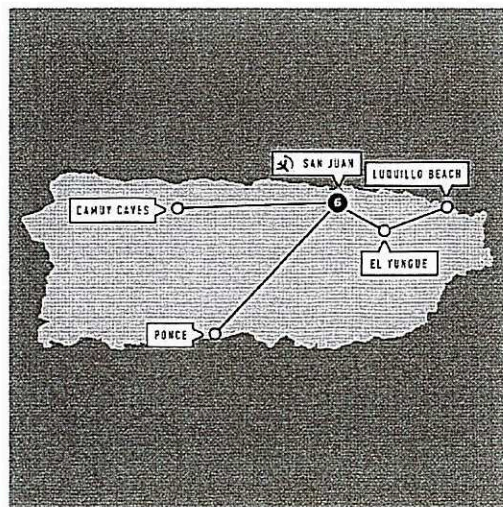
Day 6 San Juan

Free time in San Juan

LEAP Salsa Time!: The tradition of salsa dancing awaits you! Locals show you how to move to Latin American rhythms.

Day 7 Flight home from San Juan

Travel home



Specific Educational Goals of the Trip to Puerto Rico:

C1.1N.SL.i

Ask for and obtain information in everyday situations in the target language about time, place, price, size, relating to restaurants, stores, transportation, and services

C1.2.A.L.b

Understand interpersonal communication, spoken messages, interviews, group discussions and lectures in the target language on a variety of familiar and unfamiliar topics

C2.2.M.C.a

Describe the significance of current cultural icons (arts, architecture, music, literature, and the creators of these products)

C2.2.M.F.b

Compare the products that are native to a community, region or country with those of one or more other communities, regions, or countries

C2.2.M.G.b

Identify and describe major geographic features (rivers, mountains, deserts, forests) of additional countries or regions in which the language is spoken

C4.1.A.c

Recognize that register/honorifics reflect culture, and use this knowledge to adjust language accordingly and strengthen the understanding of both languages

C4.1.A.d

Recognize that phonological features (such as pronunciation, intonation, and tone) reflect culture, and use this knowledge to adjust language accordingly and strengthen the understanding of both languages

C4.2.A.a

Describe the institutions, values, beliefs, and perspectives that serve as the foundation of the target culture practices and compare them to one's own

C5.2.A.a

Seek opportunities and use the target language in real life situations within the community

Language, culture, and connections:

How travel abroad enhances student learning

El Castillo San Felipe del Morro, el Museo de San Juan, el Yunque Caribbean National Forest, Rio Camuy Cave Park, Caguana Ceremonial Indigenous Park and Heritage Center, bioluminescent bay visit, dancing salsa, and experiencing sustainable farming: these are all experiences that students will have if they seize the opportunity to travel to Puerto Rico with Portage Central High School in June 2027. While having these amazing experiences, students will also fulfill many state standards and enrich their IB learner profile. They will be enhancing their linguistic and cultural knowledge, as well as making connections to their own culture(s).

Students will have countless opportunities to improve their Spanish language skills in an authentic context. This trip is designed for those who have completed at least Spanish II. They will have the base knowledge to be able to communicate and to add to their linguistic skills.

The following state of Michigan World Language standards will be met during this trip, relating to improving language skills:

- C1.1N.SL.i Ask for and obtain information in everyday situations in the target language about time, place, price, size, relating to restaurants, stores, transportation, and services
- C1.2.A.L.b Understand interpersonal communication, spoken messages, interviews, group discussions and lectures in the target language on a variety of familiar and unfamiliar topics
- C4.1.A.c Recognize that register/honorifics reflect culture, and use this knowledge to adjust language accordingly and strengthen the understanding of both languages
- C4.1.A.d Recognize that phonological features (such as pronunciation, intonation, and tone) reflect culture, and use this knowledge to adjust language accordingly and strengthen the understanding of both languages.
- C5.2.A.a Seek opportunities and use the target language in real life situations within the community

By participating in this trip, students will also be enriching their knowledge of the target culture and making connections to their own culture(s). Studying Spanish in the classroom provides students with many learning opportunities, but experiencing it in an authentic situation makes the language more meaningful and the culture comes to life right before the students' eyes. The first time you kayak in the world's brightest bioluminescent bay, visit the massive river cave park, talk with a native speaker entirely in Spanish, or see and learn how to dance salsa: these are experiences that will change you and will change your perspective of your own background and culture. The United States of America is an amazing country, but it is important to see what it is like to live in other countries. Puerto Rico is a place that is rich in history, art, tradition, flora and fauna.

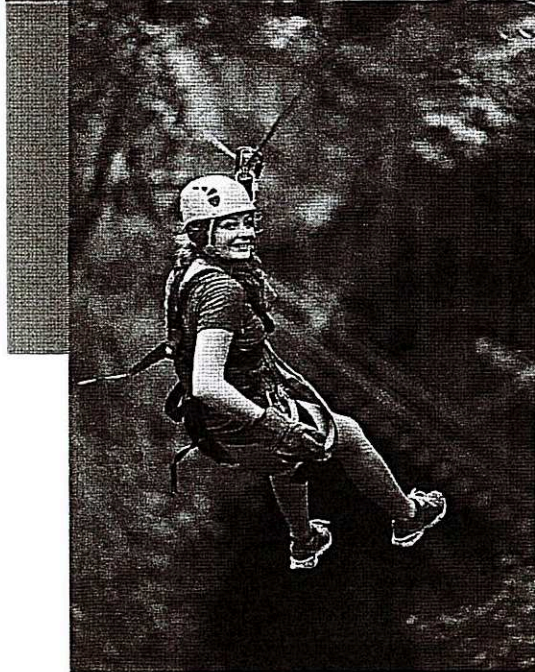
While on this trip to Puerto Rico, students will be meeting the following state of Michigan World Language standards relating to culture and connections:

- C2.2.M.F.b Compare the products that are native to a community, region or country with those of one or more other communities, regions, or countries
- C4.1.A.c Recognize that register/honorifics reflect culture, and use this knowledge to adjust language accordingly and strengthen the understanding of both languages
- C4.1.A.d Recognize that phonological features (such as pronunciation, intonation, and tone) reflect culture, and use this knowledge to adjust language accordingly and strengthen the understanding of both languages
- C4.2.A.a Describe the institutions, values, beliefs, and perspectives that serve as the foundation of the target culture practices and compare them to one's own.

Travel abroad will not only strengthen the curriculum based on the state of Michigan's standards for World Languages, but will also enhance the learner profile based on the International Baccalaureate curriculum. Traveling to Puerto Rico will make IB learners:

- *Better inquirers:* Students' natural curiosity will be nurtured and encouraged while traveling abroad. Students will actively enjoy learning and will be engaged participants throughout the trip.
- *More knowledgeable:* They will gain in-depth knowledge of not only monuments, attractions, flora, and fauna, but also the history, culture, and importance of preservation that surround those attractions.
- *Better communicators:* Students will have the opportunities to practice their Spanish and to understand the nuances of true communication, verbal and nonverbal.
- *More open-minded:* Students will see how differing values, perspectives, and traditions are expressed in another society, as well as how to better understand and appreciate their own culture(s) because of this. They will appreciate both cultural points of view.
- *More reflective:* Students will better understand their culture(s) and themselves. Throughout the trip students will be asked to reflect on similarities difference between the Puertorican culture and the students' own cultures.

While experiencing the language, culture, and biodiversity of Puerto Rico, students will apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the world around them. The students will consider different future paths of study, and perhaps more globally-minded occupations. They will be more academically motivated because they have experienced the language in authentic situations and see its value. As a result, their classroom learning will be enhanced, and these students will be able to return and enrich the classroom experiences of their peers as well. By extending the classroom beyond the four walls, students will learn more and become better IB learners!



Supporting Educational Travel A Guide for School Administration

WorldStrides At a Glance

Our History

In 1964, a middle school history teacher from Chicago discovered the incredible educational experience of traveling to Washington, D.C. with his students. He was so encouraged by the powerful effects travel had on his students' eagerness and ability to learn that he left teaching in 1967 to start Lakeland Tours. His vision to make educational travel easy, fun, and safe for teachers and students came to fruition as Lakeland Tours grew and became the leader in educational student travel.

Who We Are Today

Over the years, Lakeland Tours joined forces with other leaders in the student travel field to form WorldStrides, setting us apart as the premier educational travel organization in the nation. We're specialists in providing educational travel and experiences for students of all ages across their lifetime learning journey, delivering high-quality and high-value learning opportunities that support students' growth and development over time. Each learner's journey is different, which is why we offer a broad range of program categories for groups and individuals, including educational travel, performing arts, career exploration, study abroad, language immersion, sports, and service-learning tours.

Our Mission

All WorldStrides programs are united under one mission: to create experiences that enable participants to view the world and themselves in new ways. We help learners grow as people by developing independence, leadership, problem-solving skills, worldliness, and maturity; and we help them grow as citizens by building compassion, understanding, connections, and perspectives that transcend boundaries and borders.



When planning group travel, it's critical that your travel provider has the resources and experience necessary to smoothly and efficiently coordinate a student travel group in the areas that you will visit. We are confident that our decades-long history as student travel specialists provides us with this level of experience.

Educational travel requires special skills that go far beyond making simple hotel and airline reservations. When emergencies arise, this experience is critical. We also realize that price is important, and our prices consistently provide the highest value for your student travelers' investment. Not all companies have the same priorities or experience, and WorldStrides sets the bar high. In terms of safety, education, and passion for student travel, our team consistently beats all other competitors. WorldStrides is the standard by which every other company measures themselves.

Experience with Educational Travel Groups

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Number of years in student travel business | ✓ 50+ |
| Number of participants during this period | ✓ 9 million+ |
| Number of participants per year | ✓ 450,000 |
| Number of educators that partner with us each year | ✓ 50,000+ |
| Number of full-time staff dedicated to educational travel programs | ✓ 1,000+ |

Qualifications to Coordinate Your Program

| | |
|--|-------|
| Does your travel provider have a single point of contact for all on-program issues? | ✓ Yes |
| Does your travel provider employ and train its own Tour Directors? | ✓ Yes |
| Will a Tour Director stay at the hotel with the group? | ✓ Yes |
| Does your travel provider arrange detailed training for its staff on how to best work with students? | ✓ Yes |

Educational Focus

| | |
|--|-------|
| Does your travel provider employ a full-time Curriculum and Academics team? | ✓ Yes |
| Does your travel provider offer students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit? | ✓ Yes |
| Does your travel provider offer teachers the opportunity to earn professional development? | ✓ Yes |
| Is your travel provider accredited by regional accrediting bodies across the United States? | ✓ Yes |

Who issues accreditation for the organization?

| | |
|---|----------|
| – Western Association of Schools and Colleges | ✓ WASC |
| – Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools | ✓ MSA |
| – Cognia | ✓ Cognia |

Insurance and Consumer Protection

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Does your travel provider maintain liability insurance? | ✓ Yes |
| Does this coverage apply to the Program Leader (teacher)? | ✓ Yes |
| What are the limits of this policy? | ✓ \$50 million |
| What is the cost for supplemental medical and dental insurance? | ✓ \$0 |
| Does your travel provider pay if an emergency mandates an itinerary change? | ✓ Yes |
| Does your travel provider maintain USTOA consumer protection coverage of \$1 million? | ✓ Yes |
| Does your travel provider comply with all Federal and State regulations, including all U.S. Seller of Travel Laws? | ✓ Yes |

The Safety of our Travelers is our #1 Priority

Planning for a Safe Experience Before Departure

BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

Safety is the number one priority at WorldStrides. All participants are expected to demonstrate high standards of conduct, courteousness, and consideration toward others. Students and their parent/legal guardian must agree to adhere to the behavior and conduct rules established by the Program Leader and a code of conduct may be required.

MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

A parent/legal guardian for each participant must complete a medical release form and provide emergency contact information and authorization for treatment in the event of an emergency.

TRAVEL SMART, TRAVEL SAFE

Compiled by our travel experts, 'Travel Smart, Travel Safe' is designed to share some best practices based on our experience sending more than 100,000 students to international destinations. Each group receives a document with information pertinent to their trip and specific to their destination.

Students' Safety While on the Program

ADULT SUPERVISION

With our default chaperone-to-student ratio of 1:6 (customizable), students receive proper attention and supervision. The Program Leader will identify the chaperones for the program. WorldStrides suggests selecting adults who are flexible, helpful, and comfortable with the students.

TOUR DIRECTORS

A specially-trained Tour Director guides each group throughout your program. Tour Directors devote 100% of their attention to the students, challenging them to assess and apply what they learn through firsthand experience, so they take the most away from the program.

ON TOUR SUPPORT

Our WorldAssist team can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week, because safety is our first priority. Should your group require an extended stay due to an airline problem or weather-related issue, WorldAssist will make arrangements to accommodate your group (hotel, meals, re-booking airline seats, and providing additional bus usage).

DOCTORS ON CALL PROGRAM

WorldStrides has an exclusive partnership with The George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine. A George Washington University doctor serves on our staff as the WorldStrides Medical Director, overseeing medical response planning for the organization and providing direct case management in the event of a medical response issue anywhere in the world. Our partnership gives us access to doctors who are available 24 hours a day to provide consultations to all our traveling students, parents, and teachers.

AXA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

WorldStrides also has a partnership with AXA, one of the world's leading providers of behavioral health assistance programs. Travelers have direct access to confidential and immediate support from an experienced, U.S.-based healthcare provider while traveling. This service also provides coordination with local professionals for referrals to provide additional support, if needed.

Other Industry-Leading Safety Measures

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

WorldStrides travelers stay in 3- and 4-star quality hotels located in safe, central locations. They'll enjoy plentiful breakfasts each morning and hearty, three-course dinners that provide an authentic taste of the local cuisine.

EMERGENCY MANUAL

We have developed an extensive emergency manual that details how we deal with all types of emergency situations, and all of our on-site staff members have been trained to carry out these plans. Set procedures, checklists, and immediate access to emergency phone numbers results in faster and more accurate responses, which is critical when dealing with an emergency situation.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

We maintain an industry-leading multi-million-dollar level of liability coverage. Our insurance automatically covers teachers, chaperones, and the school. WorldStrides' insurance is truly geared to protect you. Additionally, accident, illness, and accident-related dental insurance coverage are provided for WorldStrides program participants. Limits per single occurrence are \$7,500 for accident, \$1,500 for illness, and \$750 for accident-related dental.

CERTIFIED STUDENT TRAVEL ORGANIZATION

WorldStrides is a Certified Student Travel Organization (CSTO), verified by the Student & Youth Travel Association (SYTA). This certification highlights our commitment toward meeting and exceeding safety and risk management standards for student travel safety as defined by SYTA.

Flexibility and Assurance

The WorldStrides Team

Our passionate and professional team of travel experts will work closely with your group from the time you decide to lead a WorldStrides program until your group returns home safely. Our primary goal is to provide a safe and secure travel experience. We strive to enrich lives by taking students beyond classroom walls and inspiring student travelers by providing a unique and experiential educational program. WorldStrides has a staff of more than 700 professionals, many of whom are former educators, and all of whom are dedicated to making sure every aspect of your program is a success.

Travel with Confidence

When you travel with WorldStrides or participate in one of our programs, you can rest assured knowing that we have spent five decades putting a network of support in place to safeguard your group and your experience. The world has thrown us lots of curveballs over our 50+ years in business, and we have and will continue to refine our best practices for safety to fit the current environment, and to match the age and stage of life for all of our students. Our resources are deep and our team is prepared. This detailed and challenging work behind the scenes lets educators and students focus on what's most important—learning and enjoying the experience at hand!

We have developed a comprehensive approach to ensure each group's comfort and safety, and your peace of mind. WorldStrides can be reached 24 hours a day, both in the United States and overseas. In the event of an emergency, every participant is covered by an international network that provides medical referral, medical translation, medical monitoring, repatriation, and other emergency services.

50+ Years of Trusted Travel

WorldStrides is by your side every step of the way. If something doesn't go as planned on tour, we've got you covered. Just take it from our Program Leaders and school administrators that we supported during the COVID-19 pandemic:

“

Worldstrides is an amazing company. Not only do they take care of everything while abroad, but they are also the kindest people. From those who helped set up the trip, to those who helped during the trip, I was in complete awe. They really take care of our students and teachers.

Whitney M., Program Leader

”

We recognize that WorldStrides went above and beyond to accommodate our families. Our administration, faculty, and trustees are beyond grateful.

Genifer R., School Administrator

“

You all have been helpful, open, communicative, and understanding in a time that I'm sure has been chaotic and stressful for you. I have talked to many other teachers and families that were supposed to have traveled with other companies, and hands down, you guys had the best refund policy and were the most understanding and helpful of them all.

Liz K., Program Leader

The Educational Value of Student Travel

Learning through personal experience takes education beyond the classroom. Through educational travel, students use knowledge acquired in the classroom to analyze the world around them and make a personal connection by applying their knowledge to their understanding and view of the future.

Educational Innovation

WorldStrides programs are designed to build on your students' natural curiosity while encouraging them to grow through live exploration. Our educational philosophy, LEAP (Learning through Exploration and Active Participation), brings contemporary teaching strategies, used by excellent teachers in the classroom, to the environments encountered while traveling.

LEAP is the entire relationship between each student, the places they encounter, and their Tour Director acting as a cultural mediator, not just a series of activities. Students learn best when they are engaged, and challenged, and in any group, a multitude of learning styles and social skills will be represented, each student deserving an opportunity to shine. LEAP is designed specifically to replace the old-fashioned lecturing style of traditional tour guides with a dynamic, inclusive, and constructivist approach.

Accreditation Sets WorldStrides Apart

In 1996, WorldStrides became the first accredited student travel organization in the nation. Accreditation recognizes educational institutions for performance, integrity, and quality and entitles them to the confidence of the educational community and the public. WorldStrides is accredited through multiple regional accrediting bodies across the nation, including Cognia (formerly AdvancED, parent organization for North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, Northwest Accreditation Commission, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement), Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.



Professional Development for Teachers

WorldStrides' professional development is unique—it is far removed from the time spent in the school's library listening to an "expert" talk for hours. Instead, our professional development opportunities allow teachers to consider the specific needs of their classes, their students, and their school. By working closely with WorldStrides staff from start to finish, teachers gain valuable skills and tools that can be implemented beyond the travel program. Teachers earn professional development certificates that can support teaching license renewal or be used as evidence of program participation.

Academic Credit for Students

Through our Discovery for Credit Program, students have access to courses that will allow them to reflect upon many of the themes and topics explored during their travel program. Students in grades 6-12 at the time of travel can earn free elective high school credit upon successful completion of both the travel program and online course. Through our university partner, George Mason University, eligible students in grades 9-12 at the time of travel can also earn up to three college credits upon successful completion of both the travel program and online course. Students have six months to complete their courses after travel. Upon successful completion, they will receive a transcript directly either from George Mason University or WorldStrides. Students who earn credit with WorldStrides will find this gives them a competitive advantage on college applications, distinguishes them as online learners, and gives them a jump-start on their path to a successful higher education experience.

Educational Travel Programs vs. School Field Trips

Because WorldStrides programs are typically non-school-sponsored, they do not follow the traditional model of a school field trip. When you let your administration know about your plans to travel, it may be helpful for you to highlight the points outlined below.

NON-SCHOOL-SPONSORED STATUS

Unlike a school field trip, a WorldStrides educational travel program is not sponsored by the school and does not require the school or school district to allocate funds.

PROGRAMS DON'T OCCUR DURING SCHOOL TIME

Just like a part-time job or sporting activity, a WorldStrides program does not result in lost class time for students. Additionally, there is no need for a substitute instructor when a teacher leads a travel program.

VOLUNTARY STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Since the trip is not paid for by the school and does not take place during school time, neither the school nor the students are obligated to participate. Similar to summer camp, this program is available for all students, but only some will decide to go.

Summer camps, supplemental enrichment programs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and even the Little League are all non-school-sponsored programs that are embraced by the community and promoted in schools. Most administrators are very supportive of WorldStrides educational travel programs.

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
MARCH 9, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

Note Page

VII Assurance of District Performance

1. Monitoring Report 1.2, Ends (GP 4.4)

Recommended Motion:

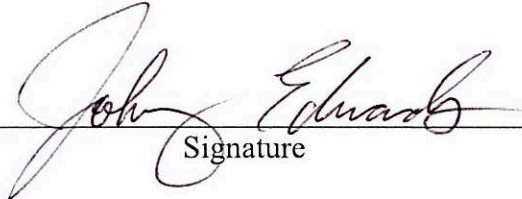
Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education accept Monitoring Report 1.2, Ends, as a reasonable interpretation and evidence of compliance with policy.

**Portage Public Schools
Monitoring Report**

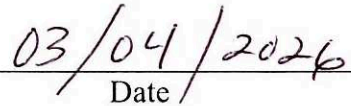
Policy Type: Ends
Policy Title: Ends Policy 1.2

Certification

I hereby present my monitoring report on Ends Policy 1.2 in accordance with the monitoring schedule established by the Board. This report covers the 2024-2025 school year. I certify that the information provided in this report is true as of March 4, 2026.



Signature



Date

Note:

Please note that during the 2020-2021 school year, students were unable to engage in many of the programs and activities that lead to the development of these skills. Many of the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities were not available to students in their traditional formats. Also, the District did not administer the Student Experience Survey to K-12 students in the fall of 2021. Instead, students were given two pulse-check surveys to get feedback on the Return to Learn Plan. Student Experience Survey administration resumed in Spring 2022.

1.2 POLICY LANGUAGE

Students have 21st Century Learning Skills including:

- critical thinking,
- creativity,
- communication, and
- collaboration skills to equip them to learn and to lead with confidence.

Interpretation

I interpret the four “C’s” to be the foundational skills needed by students to be successful in college and careers.

Critical thinking is a skill that every student must possess to think clearly and rationally. Being able to think critically is a matter of survival in the new economy. It is also the foundation of science and democracy. Science requires rationality in designing experiments and testing theories. Democracy requires citizens who can think objectively about social and political issues and are able to avoid biases and prejudices.

Communication skills are critical to future success. Students must have effective written and oral communication skills as well as the ability to use technology to communicate effectively.

Collaboration, even more so than individual performance, is the expectation of most employers. More and more work today is done in global teams; it is rare for any work to be completed by a single person working alone.

Creativity has long been associated with the arts; however, it is important for students to come up with new and useful ideas and generate alternative possibilities.

I interpret being able to **learn and lead with confidence** to mean that students are engaged in their learning activities during the school day, and in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities outside of the school day, that help build and develop the four “C’s”.

Report

These foundational skills, sometimes referred to as “21st Century” skills, are difficult to measure in traditional ways. While individual and group behaviors can be identified for each of the four skills, and certain behaviors can be observed and a tally of their frequency can be made, this is a time consuming task, which we currently do not perform. A concern about creating operational definitions for concepts such as these is that when a concept is defined as the way in which it is measured, a definition that is trite is generated and does not account for the richness of the concept, and therefore, not a reliable assessment of the skill.

Rather than create operational definitions and time-consuming measures for each of the four skills, this report will continue to focus on student enrollment in classes, programs and activities that are known to develop these four skills. While most District course offerings, programs, and activities incorporate instructional practices that help students develop these four critical skills, there are some, in particular, that I will focus on for this report. Beginning with our youngest students, these four skills are introduced and taught at a developmentally appropriate level. At the high school level our graduation requirements demand that students enroll in a wide variety of classes that assure the development of these skills over time.

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes - and end of course exams - rely heavily upon a strong foundation in critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration. AP and IB exams have a cost/benefit relationship; students who devote time and energy in preparing themselves for the end-of-course exams and score well will benefit from reduced costs at the post-secondary level. The number and percentage of students enrolled in AP and IB courses – and taking the related exams – are reasonable indicators that students will graduate high school with a greater ability to learn and lead with confidence.

AP/IB Courses and Exams

The following charts indicate the number of AP and IB courses taken by students at various grade levels as well as performance data on end of year AP/IB exams. IB data includes IB Diploma attainment.

| AP Courses (CHS, NHS only) | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 | | 2024-25 | | |
|---|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Students in at least one (1) AP Course | 516 | 20% | 532 | 20% | 572 | 21% | 594 | 23% | |
| Students in at least one (1) AP Course by grade | 9 | 14 | 2% | 12 | 2% | 7 | 1% | 21 | 3% |
| | 10 | 204 | 29% | 210 | 31% | 224 | 34% | 236 | 38% |
| | 11 | 78 | 12% | 64 | 9% | 85 | 12% | 80 | 13% |
| | 12 | 220 | 37% | 246 | 38% | 256 | 40% | 257 | 40% |
| AP Courses in which a "C" or better was earned (# of AP Courses taken)* | 9 | 25 (26) | 96% | 26 (26) | 100% | 14 (14) | 100% | 48 (50) | 96% |
| | 10 | 218 (234) | 93% | 261 (268) | 97% | 260 (264) | 98% | 251 (253) | 99% |
| | 11 | 177 (178) | 99% | 139 (147) | 95% | 211 (213) | 99% | 149 (156) | 95% |
| | 12 | 487 (520) | 94% | 617 (666) | 93% | 625 (655) | 95% | 640 (684) | 94% |
| AP Exams in which a "3" or better was earned (# of AP Exams taken) | 216 (353) | 61.2% | 340 (567) | 60.0% | 401 (528) | 75.9% | 459 (607) | 75.6% | |

Monitoring Report

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Policy Type: Ends

Policy Title: Ends Policy 1.2

| IB Courses (CHS, NHS only) | | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 | | 2024-25 | |
|---|----|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Students that took at least one (1) IB Course by grade | 9 | 0 | na | 0 | na | 1 | 0% | 0 | na |
| | 10 | 0 | na | 4 | 1% | 5 | 1% | 6 | 1% |
| | 11 | 321 | 50% | 354 | 52% | 374 | 55% | 395 | 64% |
| | 12 | 320 | 54% | 344 | 53% | 386 | 60% | 393 | 61% |
| IB Courses in which a "C" or better was earned (# of IB Courses taken)* | 9 | 0 (0) | na | 0 (0) | na | 2 (2) | 100% | 0 (0) | na |
| | 10 | 0 (0) | na | 7 (8) | 88% | 18 (18) | 100% | 12 (12) | 100% |
| | 11 | 1643 (1681) | 98% | 1829 (1930) | 95% | 2220 (2271) | 98% | 2161 (2227) | 97% |
| | 12 | 1516 (1543) | 98% | 1482 (1522) | 97% | 1868 (1918) | 97% | 2020 (2068) | 98% |
| Students who earned an IB diploma (# attempted) | | 51 (59) | 86% | 39 (46) | 84% | 51 (68) | 75% | 61 (82) | 74% |
| IB Exams in which a "3" or better was earned** (# of IB Exams taken) | | 700 (704) | 99.4% | 678 (688) | 98.5% | 814 (834) | 97.6% | 989 (1026) | 96.4% |

* In 2021-22, all year-long classes became two separate semester classes.

**Some IB Exams that were scored as less than a "3" were exams that were registered for, but not taken due to students dropping the class mid year.

Other Course/Program Offerings

- Art, Music, Physical Education and Technology-related classes all promote the four “C’s”.
- At the elementary level – and through grade 6 – 100% of our students take Art, Music, and Physical Education courses every week.
- At the secondary level (grades 7-12), Art, Music, and Physical Education are primarily elective courses. Enrollment varies by grade due to scheduling restrictions and individual student needs.
- The chart below shows student enrollment numbers during the past three years in selected art, music, physical education, and STEM-related classes.

| Course Selection | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 | | 2024-25 | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | # students | % students | # students | % students | # students | % students | # students | % students |
| Art 7-8 | 543 | 42% | 580 | 45% | 443 | 34% | 512 | 38% |
| Art 9-12 | 679 | 26% | 881 | 31% | 696 | 26% | 741 | 29% |
| Music 7-8 | 490 | 38% | 559 | 43% | 574 | 45% | 569 | 42% |
| Music 9-12 | 532 | 20% | 527 | 19% | 533 | 20% | 521 | 20% |
| Physical Education 9-12 | 1009 | 38% | 1185 | 42% | 981 | 37% | 1058 | 41% |
| Technology, Engineering, & Creativity* 9-12 | 184 | 7% | 164 | 6% | 147 | 5% | 149 | 6% |
| CTE**/EFA 11-12 | 447 | 36% | 253 | 30% | 403 | 30% | 419 | 31% |
| KAMSC | 123 | 5% | 128 | 5% | 125 | 5% | 135 | 5% |

*Technology, Engineering, & Creativity (TEC) replaced Technology and Applied Science in 2021-2022.

** CTE (Career and Technical Education) replaced EFE in 2021-2022.

Co-Curricular/Extra-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities allow students, during and beyond the school day, to participate in opportunities to extend their learning and encourage the development of the four “C’s”.

At the **elementary level**, activities include but are not limited to:

- After-School Enrichment Clubs
 - Chess
 - Dance
 - Music
 - Robotics
- Air Zoo Field Trips
- Author Visits
- Building-based Student Leadership Teams
- Book Clubs/Battle of the Books
- Education for the Arts Programs
- Girls On The Run/Let Them Run
- March is Reading Month
- Our District Library Partnerships
- Peer to Peer
- PLTW lessons
- STEP Classes (offered during the summer)
- Student Council
- Student Safeties

Student participation varies by grade and by building. All buildings have a Student Council or similar leadership team, with approximately 175 students participating district-wide. Education for the Arts impacts our students annually through its diverse offerings of free arts education enhancement programs. We use grant money to support STEAM programming, AirZoo for our 4th graders at several elementary schools, and consumable materials for social-emotional learning at each school.

Additional opportunities exist during the summer months through various camps and classes.

Opportunities are expanded at the **secondary level**. These activities include athletic teams, groups that compete, perform or travel for events, and groups that meet before or after school. At the middle school level, there will typically be 20 or more activities available to students with approximately 60% of the students participating.

At the high school level, the number of activities approaches 100 with approximately 90% of the students participating in at least one activity.

Other Indicators

Being equipped to learn and lead with confidence means that students are thinking about the future, understand what internal and external resources are available and know how to navigate around obstacles.

Several questions on the Student Experience Survey, administered annually to all K-12 students, provide us with information useful in determining student ability to learn and lead with confidence as well as their satisfaction with specials and elective classes. District-wide data is presented in the chart below. Each building receives results specific to its student body. Building-level teams review survey results and base some of their school improvement strategies on the data collected.

| Student Experience Survey | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Number of K-12 students surveyed | 5636 | N/A | 3479 | 4893 | 5392 | 4823 |
| I enjoy Specials and Electives. | 4.16 | | 4.05 | 4.21 | 4.21 | 4.22 |
| I know how to get help when I have a problem. | 4.17 | | 3.83 | 4.02 | 4.07 | 4.13 |
| I set learning goals and track my progress. | 3.84 | | 3.46 | 3.51 | 3.60 | 3.62 |
| My teachers challenge me to think. | 4.14 | | 3.90 | 3.94 | 3.99 | 4.05 |
| I have opportunities to be successful. | 4.17 | | 4.03 | 4.16 | 4.22 | 4.27 |

Curriculum and Professional Learning

To support 21st Century Skills in the teaching staff, we have been equipping middle school teaching staff with Project-Based Learning (PDL) strategies. The middle school buildings' large extended learning spaces offer a transformational resource for modifying and adapting instruction to support this end statement.

At our elementary schools, our librarians participate in PLTW STEM professional learning, which equips them with the skills to integrate innovative STEM practices into their programs. Our STEM Projects offer students immersive, hands-on experiences that encourage them to explore and refine their scientific and problem-solving abilities. Additionally, our team of devoted librarians organizes a diverse range of events and activities throughout the year to foster a passion for reading and learning among our students. Pop-up libraries are a particularly exciting highlight, as they bring the joy of discovering new books and authors to unexpected locations.

As we chart the course for 21st Century elementary schools, we are committed to embracing adaptive change as the driving force behind all discussions and decisions. Collaborative building teams are working together to determine the next steps, with professional learning and instructional coaching serving as essential components in moving this work forward. Our

Monitoring Report

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Policy Type: Ends

Policy Title: Ends Policy 1.2

unwavering focus is on student-centered learning, ensuring that it remains at the forefront of our efforts.

Conclusion Statement

The organization met expectations by providing our students with courses, activities, and facilities that encourage development of 21st century skills. Our teachers are provided with professional development opportunities to enhance their abilities to incorporate teaching these skills into their lessons.

Monitoring Report Evaluation Form

Policy: _____

Is the Superintendent's interpretation reasonable? Yes No

Comments:

Is evidence of compliance reasonable? Yes No

Comments:

For Ends Policies: Comments about long-term achievement of Ends Policy

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, 11/20/23

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
MARCH 9, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

Note Page

VIII. Required Action Items

1. Approve Performance Resolution (MDOT)

RECOMMENDED MOTION

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education approve the Performance Resolution, as presented.



To: Johnny Edwards, Superintendent

From: Ryan Miller, Director of Information and Technology

CC: Paula Johnson, Director of Finance

Date: March 9, 2026

Re: MDOT Permit Approval Form for E-Rate District Wide Fiber Replacement

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the Board of Education approve the Performance Resolution required by the Michigan Department of Transportation, as presented.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the January 26, 2026 regular meeting, the Board approved the award of contracts for our fiber optics project. As part of the project requirements, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) requires the Board's approval of a resolution for purposes of issuing right of way permits and to authorize Ryan Miller, Director of Information & Technology Systems, and Steve VanDyke, Data Center Systems Specialist, to apply for necessary permits to work within state trunkline right of ways on behalf of Portage Public Schools. This resolution confirms that Portage Public Schools will comply with MDOT permit requirements with our contractors, and that we assume responsibility with our contractor for work performed in MDOT right-of-way areas.

I would be happy to answer any questions that the Board may have on this purchase.

Attachment - Resolution

PERFORMANCE RESOLUTION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

This Performance and Indemnification Resolution is required by the Michigan Department of Transportation for purposes of issuing to a Michigan Public School District an "Individual Permit for Use of State Trunkline Right of Way," or an "Annual Application and Permit for Miscellaneous Operations Within State Trunkline Right of Way."

RESOLVED WHEREAS, the Portage Public Schools

(PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT)

hereinafter referred to as the "PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT", periodically applies to the Michigan Department of Transportation, hereinafter referred to as the "DEPARTMENT", for permits, referred to as "PERMIT", to construct, operate, use and/or maintain utility or other facilities, or to conduct other activities, on, over, and under state trunkline right of way at various locations; within and adjacent to its corporate limits;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the DEPARTMENT granting such PERMIT, the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT agrees that:

1. It will fulfill all permit requirements and will, to the extent permitted by law, indemnify, save harmless, represent and defend the State of Michigan, Michigan Transportation Commission, and the DEPARTMENT and all officers, agents, employees and those contracting governmental bodies performing permit activities for the DEPARTMENT according to a maintenance contract:
 - a. from any and all claims and losses occurring or resulting to any and all persons, firms, or corporations furnishing or supplying work, services, materials, or supplies to the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT as the result of the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT's installation, construction, operation, or maintenance activities which are being performed under the terms of the PERMIT on, over, and/or under the state trunkline right of ways, except claims resulting from the negligence or willful acts or omissions of said DEPARTMENT, the State of Michigan or the Michigan Transportation Commission; and
 - b. from any and all claims of every kind for injuries to, or death of, any and all persons, and for loss of or damage to property, and environmental damage or degradation, and from attorney's fees and related costs arising out of, under, or by reason of the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT's installation, construction, operation or maintenance activities which are being performed under the terms of the PERMIT on, over, and/or under the state trunkline right of way, except claims resulting from the negligence or willful acts or omissions of said DEPARTMENT, the State of Michigan or the Michigan Transportation Commission; and
 - c. from any and all claims made by any and all persons, firms, or corporations furnishing or supplying materials, supplies, work, or services on, over, and/or under the State trunkline right of way pursuant to an agreement with the State of Michigan, the DEPARTMENT and/or the Michigan Transportation Commission, as a result of the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT's failure to move or otherwise relocate its facilities in a timely manner after being requested to do so by the DEPARTMENT.
2. Any work performed for the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT will be solely for the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT and not as a contractor or agent of the DEPARTMENT. Any claims against the State of Michigan, the Transportation Commission, the DEPARTMENT, and all officers, agents, and employees thereof will be the sole responsibility of the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT. The DEPARTMENT shall not be subject to any obligations or liabilities by vendors and contractors of the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, or their subcontractors or any other person not a party to the PERMIT without its specific prior written consent and notwithstanding the issuance of the PERMIT.

3. Any unlawful action or conduct taken by the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, which arises either directly or indirectly out of its obligations, responsibilities, and duties under the PERMIT which results in claims being asserted against or judgment being imposed against the State of Michigan, the Michigan Transportation Commission, the DEPARTMENT, and all officers, agents and employees thereof pursuant to a maintenance contract will be considered as a breach of the PERMIT thereby giving the State of Michigan, the DEPARTMENT, and/or the Michigan Transportation Commission a right to seek and obtain any necessary relief or remedy, including, but not by way of limitation, a judgment for money damages.
4. It will, by its own volition and/or request by the DEPARTMENT, promptly and reasonably restore and/or correct physical or operating damages to any State trunkline right of way resulting from the installation construction, operation and/or maintenance of the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT's facilities according to a PERMIT issued by the DEPARTMENT.
5. With respect to any activities authorized by PERMIT, when the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT requires insurance on its own or its contractor's behalf it shall also require that such policy include as named insured the State of Michigan, the Transportation Commission, the DEPARTMENT, and all officers, agents, and employees thereof and those governmental bodies performing permit activities for the DEPARTMENT and all officers, agents, and employees thereof, pursuant to a maintenance contract.
6. The incorporation by the DEPARTMENT of this indemnification resolution as part of a PERMIT does not prevent the DEPARTMENT from requiring insurance before issuance of a PERMIT, in amounts currently carried by the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT.
7. This indemnification resolution shall continue in force from this date until cancelled by the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT or the DEPARTMENT with no less than thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other party. It will not be cancelled or otherwise terminated by the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT with regard to any PERMIT which has already been issued or activity which has already been undertaken.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following position(s) are authorized to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation for the necessary permit to work within state trunkline right of way on behalf of the PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT.

| Name | And/Or | Title |
|--|--------|-------|
| <hr/> | | |
| Ryan Miller, Director of Information & Technology Systems for Portage Public Schools | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Steve VanDyke, Data Center Systems Specialist for Portage Public Schools | | |
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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the
 Board of Education

(Name of Board, etc.)

of the Portage Public Schools of Kalamazoo
 (Name of PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT) (County)

at a regular meeting held on the 9th day of March, 2026.

Signed: _____ Title: Superintendent

Print Name: Johnny Edwards

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
MARCH 9, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

Note Page

X. Discussion Items

1. AMB Bond Project – Earthwork & Construction Prep Contracts (OP 6230)

Should the Board opt to move this discussion item to action, the following recommendations are provided:

RECOMMENDED MOTION – move discussion item to action

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education move the Amberly earthwork and construction prep contracts discussion item to action.

RECOMMENDED MOTION – action to approve

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education approve the award of contracts totaling \$2,899,600 for the Amberly Elementary earthwork and construction prep work to the following contractors, as presented, the funding for which will come from the 2026 bond fund (fourth series from the 2021 vote):

- **Specialized Demolition, Inc. for demolition work, \$23,000,**
- **Cripps Fontaine Excavating, Inc. for earthwork, \$2,823,600, and**
- **Hazelhoff Builders, Inc. for general trades work, \$53,000.**

To: Johnny Edwards, Superintendent
From: Russ Gerbers, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Cc: Paula Johnson, Director of Finance
Date: March 9, 2026
Re: Amberly Earthwork and Construction Prep Package

Recommendation

I move that Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. be authorized to issue Notice of Pending Award, in the amounts indicated below, to the listed contractors, for the Amberly Elementary selective demolition project, contingent upon confirmation that all requirements of the Contract Documents have been met. Further, upon receipt and approval of the required documentation by Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. of the appropriate documentation, contracts will be awarded to these contractors by Portage Public Schools with funding to be provided by the 2026 bond fund (the fourth series from the 2021 vote).

1. Demolition - Specialized Demolition, Inc. \$23,000
2. Earthwork - Cripps Fontaine Excavating, Inc. \$2,823,600
3. General Trades - Hazelhoff Builders, Inc. \$53,000

Total Awards: \$2,899,600

Background Information

The Amberly Earthwork and Construction Preparation Package represents the first of four bid packages that will be issued for the new Amberly Elementary School project. This initial package focuses on preparing the site for construction, including installation of underground utilities and selective demolition of portions of the existing Amberly buildings to create space for the new facility.

As part of this work, five classrooms that will be impacted by the demolition will be relocated to other areas within the existing building to maintain instructional capacity. Any necessary interior modifications to accommodate these relocated classrooms will be completed as part of this project to ensure continued functionality while minimizing disruption for students and staff.

Memo to Superintendent Edwards re AMB Earthwork & Construction Prep Bid Pack
March 9, 2026
Page 2

Bidding Process

This project was competitively bid through the formal bidding process. Three responses were received for each category, demolition, earthwork, and general trades. Copies of all bid tabulations are included for reference.

Specialized Demolition, Inc. was the lowest qualified bidder for the demolition category. Cripps Fontaine Excavating, Inc. was the lowest qualified bidder for the earthwork category. Hazelfhoff Builders, Inc. was the lowest bidder for the general trades category.

I am happy to answer any questions the Board may have on this purchase.

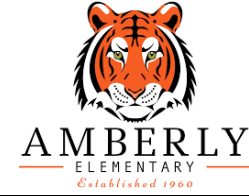
Enclosures - Bid Tabs

Portage Public School
 Amberly Elementary - Bid Pack 1
 Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. - Construction Manager
 February 24th, 2026 - 10:00 AM



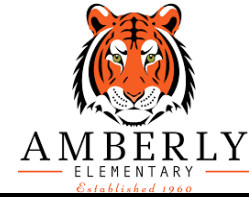
| Bid Category No. 01 - Demolition | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| Contractor | Bid Bond | Addendum | Base Bid | Notes |
| Specialized Demolition, Inc. (Hamilton, MI) | Y | 1,2 | \$23,000 | |
| X-treme Demolition, Inc. (Grand Rapids, MI) | Y | 1 | \$27,300 | |
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Portage Public School
 Amberly Elementary - Bid Pack 1
 Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. - Construction Manager
 February 24th, 2026 - 10:00 AM



| Bid Category No. 02 - Earthwork | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|-------------|-------|
| Contractor | Bid Bond | Addendum | Base Bid | Notes |
| Cripps Fontaine Excavating, Inc. (Kalamazoo, MI) | Y | 1,2 | \$2,823,600 | |
| Lounsbury Excavating, Inc. (Paw Paw , MI) | Y | 1,2 | \$3,536,500 | |
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Portage Public School
 Amberly Elementary - Bid Pack 1
 Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. - Construction Manager
 February 24th, 2026 - 10:00 AM



| Bid Category No. 03 - General Trades | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| Contractor | Bid Bond | Addendum | Base Bid | Notes |
| Hazelhoff Builders, Inc. (Kalamazoo, MI) | Y | 1,2 | \$53,000 | |
| Schweitzer, Inc. (Battle Creek, MI) | Y | 1,2 | \$67,000 | |
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**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
MARCH 9, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

Note Page

X. Discussion Items

2. Installation of Generator at WMS (OP 6230)

Should the Board opt to move this discussion item to action, the following recommendations are provided:

RECOMMENDED MOTION – move discussion item to action

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education move the generator discussion item to action.

RECOMMENDED MOTION – action to approve

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education approve the award of contracts totaling \$471,000 for the generator installation project at West Middle School to the following contractors, as presented, with funding to come from the Lunch Fund Excess Fund Balance and the 2019 Building and Site Sinking Fund:

- James E. Fulton & Sons for earthwork, \$47,800 and
- Parkway Electric & Communications LLC for electrical work, \$423,200.

To: Johnny Edwards, Superintendent
From: Russ Gerbers, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Cc: Paula Johnson, Director of Finance
Date: March 9, 2026
Re: West Middle School Generator Electrical and Earthwork

Recommendation

I move that Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. be authorized to issue Notice of Pending Awards, in the amount indicated, to the contractors and suppliers listed below, pending confirmation that all requirements of the Contract Documents have been met. Furthermore, upon receipt by Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. of the appropriate documentation, contracts be awarded to these contractors and suppliers by Portage Public Schools. Funding to be provided by the Lunch Fund Excess Fund Balance and the 2019 Building and Site Sinking Fund.

Earthwork - James E. Fulton & Sons \$47,800

Electrical - Parkway Electric & Communications LLC \$423,200

Total Awards: \$471,000

Background Information

West Middle School serves as the central hub for elementary food service operations, making reliable backup power essential. A generator is necessary to ensure that power outages do not result in food spoilage or disruptions to meal service. In addition, the generator will provide power to critical life-safety systems during outages. These systems include, but are not limited to, emergency lighting, network connectivity, phones, and paging systems. To ensure the generator is available within the required timeframe, the district separated the bid process into two components: the purchase of the generator and related equipment, and the installation of the generator. This recommendation is for the installation of the equipment.

Memo to Superintendent Edwards re WMS Generator Installation

March 9, 2026

Page 2

Bidding Process

This project was competitively bid through the formal bidding process, and three responses were received for both the electrical and earthwork categories. Copies of both bid tabulations are included for reference. Parkway Electric & Communications LLC was the lowest qualified bidder for the electrical category. James E. Fulton was the lowest qualified bidder for the earthwork category.

I am happy to answer any questions the Board may have on this purchase.

Enclosures - Bid Tabs

Portage Public schools
 West Middle School Generator - Bid Pack 2
 Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. - Construction Manager
 February 19th - 2:00 PM



| Bid Category No. 02 - Earthwork | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| Contractor | Bid Bond | Addendum | Base Bid | Notes |
| James E Fulton (Kalamazoo, MI) | Y | 1,2 | \$47,800 | |
| Cripps Fontaine Excavating, Inc. (Kalamazoo, MI) | Y | 1,2 | \$48,500 | |
| Lounsbury Excavating, Inc. (Paw Paw, MI) | Y | 1,2 | \$64,400 | |
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Portage Public schools
 West Middle School Generator - Bid Pack 2
 Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. - Construction Manager
 February 19th - 2:00 PM



| Bid Category No. 03 - Electrical | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Contractor | Bid Bond | Addendum | Base Bid | Notes |
| Parkway Electric & Communications LLC (Holland, MI) | Y | 1,2 | \$423,200 | |
| Hi-Tech Electric Co. (Portage, MI) | Y | 1,2 | \$424,500 | |
| Martell Electric (Portage, MI) | | | \$803,000 | |
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**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
MARCH 9, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

Note Page

X. Discussion Items

3. Student Chromebook Purchase (OP 6230)

Should the Board opt to move this discussion item to action, the following recommendations are provided:

RECOMMENDED MOTION – move discussion item to action

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education move the Chromebook purchase discussion item to action.

RECOMMENDED MOTION – action to approve

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 1,198 student Chromebooks from Inacomp TSG in the amount of \$249,902.80 as presented, the funds for which will come from the Building and Site Sinking Fund.

To: Johnny Edwards, Superintendent
From: Ryan Miller, Director of Information and Technology
CC: Paula Johnson, Director of Finance
Date: March 9, 2026
Re: Student Chromebook Refresh Order 26-27

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 1,198 student Chromebooks from Inacom TSG in the amount \$249,902.80. The funds for these Chromebooks will come from the Building and Site Sinking Fund.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This recommendation is for the annual purchase of replacement Chromebooks for our 9th grade high school and K-5 elementary students. Typically we see an approximate five year life span for student devices. The two biggest factors impacting the life of a Chromebook are the availability of parts for repair, and minimum device requirements for state testing. The vendors selected by the State of Michigan to provide online testing services tend to be aggressive in these requirements to the point of rendering a perfectly good Chromebook incompatible with the testing software.

We do our best to minimize the impact of this issue by sharing Chromebooks between buildings whenever possible. We are once again selecting the HP G-series Chromebook. We have had the most success with parts availability with these devices, and they are more durable than other entry level devices.

In order to integrate Chromebooks into our Google domain, which is required for device management, each Chromebook must have a Google Chrome management license. Fortunately, we have enough remaining licenses on hand for this amount of new devices, so we don't need to buy additional licenses at this time. This will save us \$30 per device, for a total savings of \$30,000 this year.

Unfortunately, the boom of the Artificial Intelligence industry has caused a severe, global shortage of memory used in computing devices, and has significantly driven up prices. Those prices are forecasted to be 40-60% higher per device, starting April 1, 2026 when the new REMC SAVE computer contracts begin. Our statewide contacts at MI Deal and REMC are encouraging districts to make their purchases as early as possible to avoid the price jumps, and prepare for the upcoming school year.

BIDDING PROCESS

These items were selected through the REMC Bid Save process, and therefore did not require the formal bidding process. I have included the quote, the letter of intent we issued to the vendor to hold our pricing, and the email sent on 2/27 from the REMC SAVE Director informing Michigan districts of the forecasted price increases. If the Board of Education is comfortable, it would be appreciated if this recommendation could be approved at the March 9, 2026 Board meeting. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Board may have on this purchase.

March 4, 2026

Jamie J. Odgen, VP of Sales
Inacomp TSG
17250 W 12 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI 48076

Dear Jamie:

Portage Public Schools intends to move forward with the purchase of Chromebooks in the amount of \$249,902.80, as outlined in your quote dated 3/4/2026.

Please note that the District's purchase of Chromebooks is conditioned upon and subject to the Board of Education's prior approval on March 9, 2026. This letter is provided to confirm our good-faith intent to proceed, pending that approval.

This correspondence does not constitute a binding agreement. A purchase order will be issued following formal Board approval.

We appreciate your partnership and look forward to working together. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Ryan Miller
Director of Technology
Portage Public Schools

CC: Paula Johnson, Director of Finance

REMC SAVE Email 2-27-2026

- Student Chromebook Refresh 26-27

mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=1d8dcb7d7b&view=pt&search... School

Gmail Ryan Miller <rlmiller@portageps.org>

Re:[technology] [MDETechC] SAVE 2026-27 Computer bid
2 messages

Technology <technology@listserv.melg.org> Fri, Feb 27, 2026 at 3:44 PM
Reply-To: technology@listserv.melg.org
To: rlmiller@portageps.org
Cc: "METL@gomaisa.org" <METL@gomaisa.org>, "technology@listserv.melg.org" <technology@listserv.melg.org>

On Fri, Feb 27, 2026 at 2:24 PM Mike Richardson <mikerichardson@remc.org> wrote:
Happy(?) Friday

The new REMC SAVE Computer contract starts April 1.

As expected, the industry shortages are significantly impacting bid pricing. Note that most prices are **40-60%** higher than the current awarded devices in the same specification.

Here is a [planning document](#) listing the preliminary awards for the new contract. This is an unofficial snapshot of the awarded items. It will not be maintained or updated once the catalog is live on the website on April 1, it is simply to provide an easier way to view the items that will be available once the catalog is live. Note there are 3 tabs for Chrome, Windows, and Catalog Discounts in the Google sheet.

The full public crosstab showing all bids from all vendors is available as well at the bottom of [this list](#) as a large PDF (you will have to zoom in and scroll).

The [current SAVE computer contract](#) expires March 31, and vendors should honor all current pricing for orders placed by then (delivery can be after the end of the contract).

Let us know if there is anything that we can help with.

Mike

Michael Richardson
REMC SAVE Director
mikerichardson@remc.org
<http://remcsave.org>
517.299.5711 (voice or text)

The MDEtech-C listserv was created as a collaborative space for school affiliated technology staff. Outside employees contracting with our educational partners will respect the proprietary nature of these discussions or face removal from the listserv.

To subscribe to this group, send a blank email to: MDETechC-L+subscribe@remc.org
To subscribe to this group, send a blank email to: MDETechC-L+subscribe@remc.org

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "MDETechC" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to mdetechc-l+unsubscribe@remc.org.
To view this discussion visit <https://groups.google.com/a/remc.org/d/msgid/mdetechc-l/CA%2B6h0%3DSes%2BHmFwyr%2BENVoqMMY4PrKh4oFsdD93q980v2V%3DPYEA%40mail.gmail.com>.

**PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #1136
MARCH 9, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

Note Page

X. Discussion Items

4. Purchase of Data Center Storage Array (OP 6230)

Should the Board opt to move this discussion item to action, the following recommendations are provided:

RECOMMENDED MOTION – move discussion item to action

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education move the data center storage array purchase discussion item to action.

RECOMMENDED MOTION – action to approve

Motion offered by _____, seconded by _____, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the data center storage array from 45 Drives, Inc. in the amount of \$570,573.17, as presented, the funds for which will come from the 2025 bond fund (third series from the 2021 vote).

dATo: Johnny Edwards, Superintendent
From: Ryan Miller, Director of Information and Technology
CC: Paula Johnson, Director of Finance
Date: March 9, 2026
Re: Data Center Storage Array Refresh

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the data center storage array from 45 Drives, Inc. in the amount of \$570,573.17. The funds for the storage array will come from the 2025 bond fund (the third series from the 2021 vote).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This recommendation is for the scheduled refresh of our primary storage array, located in our data center in the Administration Building. This hard drive array is responsible for all data center operations, staff and student data, digital archival, and local server storage for the entire District.

A storage array is essentially a collection of physical media devices (hard drives and/or flash) that are pooled and combined offering fault tolerant shared storage to multiple devices and services transparently. We have three total arrays in the district, this hard drive array and a flash drive array in the data center in the Administration Building, and another hard drive storage array in our disaster recovery site housed at Portage Northern High School.

The current storage array was installed in August of 2021. The hard disks have a 5 year replacement warranty, and have been running for 5 years straight, so they are due for replacement this summer.

Unfortunately, the boom of the Artificial Intelligence industry has caused a severe, global shortage of the type of memory in storage arrays and computing devices, and has significantly driven up prices. Those prices are expected to continue to climb and our statewide contacts at MI Deal and REMC are encouraging districts to make their purchases as early as they can to prepare for the upcoming school year.

BIDDING PROCESS

45 Drives was established as the sole provider for the original storage array equipment we purchased in 2021 through a formal bid process. They are the only manufacturer and vendor for the storage array equipment we use in our data centers. I have attached the quote and the Letter of Intent we sent to 45 Drives to hold the quoted price. If the Board of Education is comfortable, it would be appreciated if this recommendation could be approved at the March 9, 2026 Board meeting. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Board may have on this purchase.

Cluster - Solution Overview

Quote: 2026227811-2

📅 Date: 2026-03-04

📍 Location: Michigan, US

📅 Expiry: 2026-03-11

Prepared For:

Shane DeRidder
 Portage Public Schools

Prepared By:

Shane Gillis
 sgillis@45drives.com

| Description | Quantity | Unit Price | Total Price |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Servers | | | |
| F8X3 | 5 | \$83,161.54 | \$415,807.72 |
| Seagate Exos 20TB | 180 | | |
| Micron PRO5400 1.9TB | 80 | | |
| Part Number: 2026227811-2A | | | |
| 1U Gateway | 2 | \$7,695.11 | \$15,390.23 |
| Part Number: 2026227811-2B | | | |
| Services | | | |
| Remote Cluster Configuration | 1 | | \$26,100.00 |
| Annual Service Plan - Core - 1 Year | 1 | | \$12,500.00 |
| 5 Year Warranty | 1 | | \$74,903.34 |
| Notes: | Sub Total | | \$544,701.29 |
| | Tax | | \$25,871.88 |
| | Total (USD) | | \$570,573.17 |

* 45Drives reserve the right to amend pricing in line with market increases at anytime during the quote period. Due to current market demand on flash hardware, memory and GPU. Customers will be informed of any new pricing before confirming an order.

* Note: Tax is subject to change based on your specific location. if your company is tax-exempt, please provide a copy of your tax-exempt certificate.

Cluster - Hardware Specification (F8X3)

| System Configuration | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Chassis | F8X3 Color: Graphite Sandtex Logo: 45Drives Dimensions: 36.80"L x 17.125"W x 6.86"H | |
| Boot Drive | Micron PRO 5400 480GB | Quantity: Single + 1 Redundant |
| Operating System | Rocky Linux 9 + Houston | |
| Motherboard | Gigabyte ME03-CE0 | |
| Processor | AMD EPYC 8534P | Quantity: 1 |
| | Base: 2.3GHz | Turbo: 3.1GHz |
| | Cores: 64 | Threads: 128 |
| RAM | 8x 32GB DDR5-RDIMM | Slots: 8/12 |
| Power Supply | Dual Redundant | Wattage: 1400 |
| HBA | LSI 9305-24i | Quantity: 3 |
| Network Interface | 2 Port 100Gb/s - QSFP28 | Quantity: 2 |
| PCI Slots | PCI-X16: 5/6 | PCI-X8: 0/0 |
| Drive Slots | Drive Slots: 52/60 | |



Cluster - Hardware Specification (1U Gateway)

| System Configuration | | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Chassis | 1U Gateway Color: Graphite Sandtex Logo: 45Drives Dimensions: 21.00"L x 17.00"W x 1.75"H | |
| Boot Drive | Micron PRO 5400 480GB | Quantity: Single + 1 Redundant |
| Operating System | Rocky Linux 9 + Houston | |
| Motherboard | Gigabyte MC13-LE1 | |
| Processor | AMD Ryzen 9 7950X | Quantity: 1 |
| | Base: 4.5GHz | Turbo: 5.7GHz |
| | Cores: 16 | Threads: 32 |
| RAM | 4x 16GB DDR5-UDIMM | Slots: 4/4 |
| Power Supply | Zippy 800W (Redundant) | Wattage: 800 |
| Network Interface | 2 Port 100Gb/s - QSFP28 | Quantity: 1 |
| PCI Slots | PCI-X16: 1/1 | |



Cluster - Solution & Storage Overview

| Clustered Storage | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| HDD Storage | Erasure Code 4+2 |
| | Raw: 3600TB |
| | Usable: 2400TB |
| SSD Journal | Quantity: 80 |
| | Drive Size: 2TB |
| Power Consumption | Cycle-up: 4500W |
| | Steady: 3250W |
| Power Connectors | 14 |
| Network Ports | 24 |
| Rack Space | 22U |

Terms And Conditions

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

These Terms and Conditions (these "Terms") are the only terms that govern the sale of the goods ("Goods") by 45 Drives USA, Inc., a North Carolina corporation ("45Drives", "our", "us", or "we") to the customer listed on the order form, purchase order, quote, purchase agreement, or invoice (the "Order") to which these Terms are attached ("Customer" or "you"). The accompanying Order and these Terms (collectively, this "Agreement") comprise the entire agreement between the parties related to the Goods, and supersede all prior or contemporaneous understandings, agreements, negotiations, representations and warranties, and communications, both written and oral. These Terms prevail over any of Customer's general terms and conditions of purchase regardless of whether or when Customer has submitted its purchase order or such terms. Any term or condition contained in any purchase order or other communication or document of Customer that adds to or is in any way inconsistent with these Terms is expressly rejected. Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined in these Terms have the meanings set forth in the Order.

1. PRICE; PAYMENT TERMS

Customer shall purchase the Goods from 45Drives at the prices set forth in the Order. All prices and payments hereunder shall be in US Dollars. All prices are exclusive of all sales, use, and excise taxes, and any other similar taxes, duties, and charges of any kind imposed by any governmental authority on any amounts payable by Customer. Customer shall be responsible for all such charges, costs, and taxes; provided, that, Customer shall not be responsible for any taxes imposed on, or with respect to, 45Drives' income, revenues, gross receipts, personnel, or real or personal property or other assets. Customer shall pay interest on all late payments at the lesser of the rate of 2% per month or the highest rate permissible under applicable law, calculated daily and compounded monthly. Customer shall reimburse 45Drives for all costs incurred in collecting any late payments, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees. If any payment remains unpaid for a period of thirty (30) days following the due date, 45Drives reserves the right to cancel all warranty and support hours applicable. We accept Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, and Wire Transfer. Unless net credit terms are agreed to by us in writing, full payment is due prior to shipping. Net credit terms may be available to qualified customers upon request.

2. VALIDITY OF QUOTES

All quotes provided by 45Drives shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of issuance, unless otherwise specified in writing. After this period, 45Drives reserves the right to revise the quoted prices and terms. Due to market availability and supplier pricing volatility, 45Drives reserves the right, within the 30-day validity period, to amend storage drive pricing and/or substitute drive models with functionally equivalent alternatives. Any such changes will be communicated to the customer, and revised pricing or specifications must be accepted by the customer prior to order confirmation.

3. CANCELLATION POLICY

Orders may be cancelled by Customer if they have not entered production yet. A fee of 20% of the value of the Order will apply. We also will accommodate cancellation of Orders that are in production, and Customer will be charged a cancellation fee determined by the value of the Order multiplied by the percentage of work completed at the time of cancellation.

4. LEAD TIME; SHIPPING; TITLE AND RISK OF LOSS

If used in an Order, lead time refers to time of production, starting from receipt of Order to when the Good is shipped. Unless otherwise set forth in an Order, 45Drives shall ship all Goods FOB (as defined under the Uniform Commercial Code)] at Customer's delivery location set forth in the applicable Order ("Delivery Location"), using 45Drives' standard methods for packaging and shipping such Goods. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, any lead time, delivery date or timeframe provided by 45Drives is for informational purposes only and a good faith estimate of the expected lead time, delivery date or timeline for the Goods. 45Drives will use commercially reasonable efforts to fulfill Orders within the timeframes and deadlines stated but in no event shall 45Drives be liable for any losses or damages associated with 45Drives' inability to meet any such timeframes or deadlines. Title and risk of loss or damage to the Products shall pass to Customer upon delivery of the Products at the Delivery Location.

5. INSPECTION

Customer shall inspect the Goods within 7 days of receipt ("Inspection Period"). Customer will be deemed to have accepted the Goods unless it notifies 45Drives in writing of any Nonconforming Goods during the Inspection Period and furnishes such written evidence or other documentation as reasonably required by 45Drives. "Nonconforming Goods" means only the following: (a) goods shipped is different than identified in the Order; or (b) Good's label or packaging incorrectly identifies its contents. If Customer timely notifies 45Drives of any Nonconforming Goods, 45Drives shall, in its sole discretion, (x) replace such Nonconforming Goods with conforming Goods, or (y) credit or refund the price for such Nonconforming Goods, together with any reasonable shipping and handling expenses incurred by Customer in connection therewith. 45Drives shall provide Customer with a shipping label, and Customer shall ship the Nonconforming Goods to 45Drives as set forth on such shipping label. If 45Drives exercises its option to replace Nonconforming Goods, 45Drives shall, after receiving Customer's shipment of Nonconforming Goods, ship to Customer, at 45Drives expense and risk of loss, the replaced Goods to Customer.

6. LIMITED GOODS WARRANTY

We will provide the limited Goods warranties as expressly set forth in the applicable Order. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, the limited Goods warranty in this Section (and the Limited Warranty on Custom Goods in Section 7 below) shall not apply if: (a) the defect arises due to Customer's improper use, handling, testing, storage, installation or maintenance of the Goods, including without limitation, Customer failing to follow 45Drives' oral or written instructions as to the storage, use, or maintenance of the Goods, (b) Customer modifies, alters, or repairs the Goods, (c) Customer subjects the Goods to abnormal physical stress or environmental conditions; or (d) any causes or conditions beyond 45Drives' control. An extended limited warranty on the Goods may be available for purchase as set forth in the applicable Order. All limited warranties and such extended limited warranties are subject to this Section 6. All warranty replacement parts for the Good provided by 45Drives will be verified to satisfy the original specifications and purpose. If equivalent technology cannot be sourced, a superior verified replacement may be provided for the warranted part of the Good. Unless the Customer approves a certified reconditioned part, 45Drives will obtain warranty replacements from new stock.

7. RMA PROCESS

Once it is determined that a Good (or part of a Good) is defective, we will send you the new Good (or new part) along with the shipping labels to return the defective Good (or part). Place the defective Good (or part) in the box that the new Good (or part) arrives in and place the supplied RMA shipping label and call the shipping company designated by 45Drives for pick up. If you do not ship the defective Good (or part) back to us within 30 days of receiving the shipping label, you shall be charged for the full replacement cost of such Good (or part).

8. EXCLUSIVE REMEDY

45DRIVES' SOLE OBLIGATION, AND CUSTOMER'S EXCLUSIVE REMEDY, FOR ANY BREACH OF THE LIMITED GOODS WARRANTY OR LIMITED WARRANTY ON CUSTOM GOODS STATED IN THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE, AT 45DRIVES' REASONABLE DISCRETION, FOR YOU TO: (a) receive replacements for defective parts in the applicable Good, in which case you will remove defective parts from the Good, ship defective parts to 45Drives at 45Drives' reasonable expense, and install replacement parts; or (b) return the applicable Good to 45Drives, in which case it will be repaired or replaced and shipped back to you at 45Drives' reasonable expense. Should you choose subsection (a) above, you will use the 45Drives RMA Process in Section 8 and, except as otherwise set forth in subsection (a), Customer will be responsible for all expenses related to part replacement efforts. EXCEPT FOR THE LIMITED WARRANTIES EXPRESSLY STATED IN SECTIONS 6 AND 7, ALL GOODS (AND SUPPORT SERVICES) UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE SOLD BY 45DRIVES ON AN "AS IS" BASIS AND 45DRIVES MAKES NO OTHER REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES OR GUARANTEES OF ANY KIND REGARDING THE GOODS (AND SUPPORT SERVICES), ALL OF WHICH ARE EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMED, INCLUDING ANY EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT, WHETHER ARISING BY LAW, COURSE OF DEALING, COURSE OF PERFORMANCE, USAGE OF TRADE OR OTHERWISE. WITHOUT LIMITING THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING, CUSTOMER ASSUMES ALL RISK AND LIABILITY FOR THE RESULTS OBTAINED BY THE USE OF ANY GOODS (AND SUPPORT SERVICES), WHETHER IN TERMS OF OPERATING COSTS, MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS, GENERAL EFFECTIVENESS, SUCCESS OR FAILURE, AND REGARDLESS OF ANY ORAL OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS MADE BY 45DRIVES, BY WAY OF TECHNICAL ADVICE, RECOMMENDATIONS, CONSULTATION, SUGGESTIONS OR OTHERWISE, RELATED TO THE USE OF THE GOODS (AND SUPPORT SERVICES).

9. SUPPORT

We offer telephone or email support Monday through Friday 8:00AM EST – 7:00PM EST. Additional support services are available for purchase during installation and ongoing operation. 45Drives offers a 24/7 Emergency Service program for hours outside of normal support. Additional costs, terms, and conditions will apply. 45Drives provides annual support plans, prepaid hourly support and have a flexible pay-as-you-go support offerings. To help your company get on its way we are here to answer any questions or assistance you may need.

10. GOOD STANDING

If Customer fails to fulfill all their obligations under this Agreement with 45Drives, your access to support and warranty services may be suspended by 45Drives. Customers must maintain a financial good standing with 45Drives to continue uninterrupted Support and Warranty services and retain their established credit terms. If Customer wishes to regain access to support and warranty services, you must take steps to rectify the issues that caused you to fall out of good standing. Once the issues have been resolved, Customer may be able to regain access to support and warranty services.

11. POST-ORDER DESIGN CHANGES

Customer-specified changes to 45Drives hardware or solution architecture made after purchase, may result in change of pricing.

12. CUSTOMER INDEMNIFICATION

Customer shall defend, indemnify and hold 45Drives, and its affiliates and subsidiaries, and its and their respective officers, directors, owners, employees, agents, and representatives harmless from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, liabilities and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and other costs and expenses of litigation) resulting from or otherwise connected with any of the following: (a) bodily injury, death or property damage caused by Customer or its employees' or agents' acts or omissions with respect to the Goods; (b) any design, requirement, specification, material or other component supplied or approved by Customer for the design and manufacture of any Good, including, without limitation, any claim that such design, requirement, specification, material or other component infringes upon or misappropriates any patent, patent application, copyright, trademark, trade dress, trade secret or other intellectual property right; or (c) any breach of the terms and conditions of this Agreement by Customer or its employees and agents.

13. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

IN NO EVENT SHALL 45DRIVES BE LIABLE TO CUSTOMER OR ANY THIRD PARTY FOR ANY LOSS OF USE, REVENUE OR PROFIT OR LOSS OF DATA OR DIMINUTION IN VALUE, OR FOR ANY CONSEQUENTIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES WHETHER ARISING OUT OF BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE) OR OTHERWISE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH DAMAGES WERE FORESEEABLE AND WHETHER OR NOT 45DRIVES HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE FAILURE OF ANY AGREED OR OTHER REMEDY OF ITS ESSENTIAL PURPOSE. IN NO EVENT SHALL 45DRIVES' AGGREGATE LIABILITY ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT, WHETHER ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE) OR OTHERWISE, EXCEED THE LESSER OF: (A) THE TOTAL OF THE AMOUNTS PAID TO 45DRIVES BY CUSTOMER FOR THE GOODS SOLD HEREUNDER, OR (B) \$1,000,000.

14. DISPUTES

The Agreement shall be construed and governed under the laws of the State of North Carolina, without application of conflict of law principles. Any legal suit, action, or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be instituted in the state or federal courts of the city of Wilmington, North Carolina, and each party irrevocably submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of such courts in any such suit, action, or proceeding. EACH PARTY WAIVES TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY.

15. NO ASSIGNMENT

Customer shall not assign any of its rights or delegate any of its obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of 45Drives. Any purported assignment or delegation in violation of this Section is null and void. No assignment or delegation relieves Customer of any of its obligations under this Agreement. Support cannot be transferred without the written consent of 45Drives. If you wish to resell to an end customer, you must identify the end customer and if applicable, the bid package to qualify to transfer support to the end customer.

16. FORCE MAJEURE

45Drives shall not be liable or responsible to Customer, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached the Agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term or condition of the Agreement, when and to the extent such failure or delay is caused by or results from the following force majeure events (each a "Force Majeure Event"): acts of God; flood, fire, explosion, tornado, earthquake, hurricane or other natural disaster; epidemic, pandemic, viral or bacterial outbreak; war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riots or other civil unrest; governmental orders, laws, emergency proclamations, or quarantine restrictions; actions, embargoes or blockades in effect on or after the effective date of the Agreement; action by any governmental authority; national or regional emergency; shortage or unavailability of materials; shortage or unavailability of labor, strikes, labor stoppages or slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; shortage or unavailability of adequate power or transportation facilities; and/or other events (whether or not foreseeable or similar in type or nature to the previously listed Force Majeure Events) beyond the control of 45Drives. 45Drives shall resume the performance of its affected obligations as soon as reasonably practicable after the removal of the cause of the Force Majeure Event.



17. MISCELLANEOUS

This Agreement may only be amended or modified in a writing which specifically states that it amends this Agreement and is signed by an authorized representative of each party. The relationship between the parties is that of independent contractors. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as creating any agency, partnership, joint venture, or other form of joint enterprise, employment, or fiduciary relationship between the parties, and neither party shall have authority to contract for or bind the other party in any manner whatsoever. If any term or provision of this Agreement is invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other term or provision of this Agreement or invalidate or render unenforceable such term or provision in any other jurisdiction. Provisions of these Terms which by their nature should apply beyond their terms will remain in force after any termination or expiration of this Agreement including, but not limited to, the following Sections: Section 6 (Limited Goods Warranty), Section 7 RMA Process), Section 8 (Exclusive Remedy), Section 12 (Customer Indemnification), Section 13 (Limitation of Liability), and Section 14 (Disputes).

March 4, 2026

Shane Gillis
45Drives USA Ltd.
929 N Front Street, Suite 460
Wilmington, NC
28401

Dear Shane:

Portage Public Schools intends to move forward with the purchase of the storage array from 45Drives USA Ltd., in the amount of \$570,573.17, as outlined in your quote dated 3/4/2026.

Please note that this purchase is contingent upon and subject to the Board of Education's prior approval on March 9, 2026. This letter is provided to confirm our good-faith intent to proceed with this purchase, pending that approval.

This correspondence does not constitute a binding agreement. A purchase order will be issued following formal Board approval.

We appreciate your partnership and look forward to working together. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Ryan Miller
Director of Technology
Portage Public Schools
CC: Paula Johnson, Director of Finance

REMC SAVE Email 2-27-2026

- Student Chromebook Refresh 26-27

mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=1d8dcb7d7b&view=pt&search... School

Gmail Ryan Miller <rlmiller@portageps.org>

Re:[technology] [MDETechC] SAVE 2026-27 Computer bid
2 messages

Technology <technology@listserv.melg.org> Fri, Feb 27, 2026 at 3:44 PM
Reply-To: technology@listserv.melg.org
To: rlmiller@portageps.org
Cc: "METL@gomaisa.org" <METL@gomaisa.org>, "technology@listserv.melg.org" <technology@listserv.melg.org>

On Fri, Feb 27, 2026 at 2:24 PM Mike Richardson <mikerichardson@remc.org> wrote:
Happy(?) Friday

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As expected, the industry shortages are significantly impacting bid pricing. Note that most prices are **40-60%** higher than the current awarded devices in the same specification.

Here is a [planning document](#) listing the preliminary awards for the new contract. This is an unofficial snapshot of the awarded items. It will not be maintained or updated once the catalog is live on the website on April 1, it is simply to provide an easier way to view the items that will be available once the catalog is live. Note there are 3 tabs for Chrome, Windows, and Catalog Discounts in the Google sheet.

The full public crosstab showing all bids from all vendors is available as well at the bottom of [this list](#) as a large PDF (you will have to zoom in and scroll).

The [current SAVE computer contract](#) expires March 31, and vendors should honor all current pricing for orders placed by then (delivery can be after the end of the contract).

Let us know if there is anything that we can help with.

Mike

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