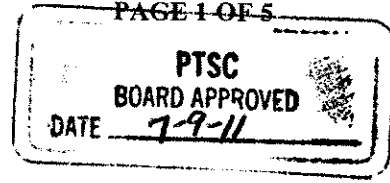


**MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
PORTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL CORPORATION**



***The following is a partial transcript of the meeting. A recording of the actual meeting is available at the Administration Office and is kept on file for approximately 5 months after the date of the meeting. Approval of this transcript as official minutes will be at the next regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Dr. Natalie Wargo, President 6:30 p.m.
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Welcome Visitors

Board members present were: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Mrs. Lilann Sgouros and Mrs. Laura Chavez; Mrs. Mary Harlow joined the meeting at 6:52 p.m.; Ms. Johanna Williams was absent. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Schmidt; Assistant Superintendent, Ben Parrish; Board Attorney, Chery Zic; Business Manager/Treasurer, Kathleen Smith; Deputy Treasurer, Linda Bult and Secretary to the Superintendent, Linda Dusek. There was no audience present.
2. **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS** - None
3. **HEARING ON SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT – Mrs. Smith**
 - A. Open Hearing: Mrs. Smith opened the hearing on School Bus Replacement Plan Amendment.
 - B. Information Session: Mrs. Smith reported that a school bus replacement plan amendment is required due to the need for additional special education routes, providing for extra-curricular bus routes and also additional cleaning of buses. Mrs. Smith said instead of buying a large bus, the amendment proposes the purchase of two small buses.
 - C. Public Comments: Dr. Schmidt asked for public comments regarding the School Bus Replacement Plan Amendment and heard none.
 - D. Close Hearing: Dr. Schmidt closed the public hearing on School Bus Replacement Plan Amendment.
4. **CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt**
 - A. Personnel Report
 - B. Board Minutes
 - C. Claim Docket

Since the board has not met for the months of April and May of 2020 due to COVID-19 and the board granted authority for Dr. Schmidt as the Superintendent to handle district business during the COVID-19 closure, Dr. Schmidt requested the board to retroactively approve the following items: approval of the consent agenda consisting of payroll claims and accounts payable vouchers for the months of March, April, May and June 2020; approval of the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting held on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., approval of the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. and approval of the following items listed on the Personnel Report for June 11, 2020 and waiving the readings:

<u>APPOINTMENTS:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Certified:	Mikulich, Ginger	Summer School Teacher	BGHS	6/1/2020 – 6/26/2020
	Prater, Kristine	Summer School Teacher	BGHS	6/1/2020 – 6/26/2020
	McKay, Matt	Summer School Teacher	BGHS	6/1/2020 – 6/26/2020
	Eleftheri, Linda	Summer School Teacher	BGHS	6/1/2020 – 6/26/2020
	Sherman, Kathy	Summer Odysseyware Remediation Monitor	BGHS	6/1/2020
Classified:	Sherwin, Brian	Summer Maintenance Helper	PTSC	6/1/2020
<u>RESIGNATIONS:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Classified:	Marsee, David	Groundskeeper	PTSC	4/03/2020
	Kraushaar, Diane	Cafeteria Worker	PLE	5/27/2020
	Kreiger, Tiffani	Cafeteria Worker	BGHS	5/27/2020
Extra-Curricular:	Komenda, Kylie	Boys’ JV Volleyball Coach	BGHS	5/4/2020
<u>CHANGES:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Classified: Salary Increase as per Contract	Smith, Kathleen	Business Manager/Treasurer	Administration Building	7/1/2020

The personnel recommendations and/or appointments are made contingent upon the applicant’s satisfactory completion of all application requirements, background checks (i.e., “no results found”) and, when necessary, holding valid state certification/ licensing for the position.

Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to retroactively approve the following items as recommended by Dr. Schmidt since the board granted authority for Dr. Schmidt as the Superintendent to handle district business during the COVID-19 closure: approval of the consent agenda consisting of payroll claims and accounts payable vouchers for the months of March, April, May and June 2020; approval of the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting held on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., approval of the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. and approval of the items listed on the Personnel Report for June 11, 2020 and waiving the readings; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 3-0.

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs. Smith**

- A. Appropriation summary
- B. Fund Report
- C. Investments

Mrs. Smith referred to the appropriation summary for the months of March, April and May of 2020, the fund report for the months of March, April and May of 2020 and the investment summary for the months of March, April and May of 2020 as provided in the board packet and reported that she received the district's payment for taxes for the Operation Fund and 92% was collected. Mrs. Smith answered questions from the board.

6. **BUSINESS**

A. Adopt Resolution #0620-224–Adopt Bus Replacement Plan Amendment–Budget Year 2020–Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith recommended adoption of Resolution #0620-224 to adopt Bus Replacement Plan Amendment for the 2020 budget year. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adopt Resolution #0620-224 as recommended by Mrs. Smith; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 3-0.

B. Adopt Resolution #0620-225 – Donations of Supplies and Materials – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt reported that during the COVID-19 school closure she was contacted by the Porter County Health Department and Boone Grove Fire Department that they were in dire need of high demand supplies such as disinfectant wipes, Lysol, masks and hand sanitizer. Dr. Schmidt said she and Mr. Parrish were able to collect high demand supplies from classrooms and the buildings and donated these items to area emergency responders to assist those who were in dire straits due to pandemic shortages. Dr. Schmidt recommended adoption of Resolution #0620-225 to retroactively approve donation of supplies and materials. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adopt Resolution #0620-225 to retroactively approve the donation of supplies and materials to be donated to area emergency responders to assist those who were in dire straits due to pandemic shortages; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 3-0.

C. Approve Grading System Revisions at PLE – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said as our teachers switched to a very different teaching environment during the school closure, we experienced in the K-3 environment the need to modify our grading practices. Through discussion with our teachers and principal we discovered a need to consider satisfactory and unsatisfactory category retroactively in grades K-3 for the fourth quarter of the 2019-2020 school year instead of the A-F grading system. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the proposed grading system revisions to satisfactory and unsatisfactory category retroactively in grades K-3 at Porter Lakes Elementary School for the fourth quarter of the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

D. Approve Price Increases for 2020-2021 Student Lunches – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt reminded the board that we have been working for a while to slowly increase our student lunch prices to match the pricing the state has set for our district as we have been undercharging. Dr. Schmidt recommended a 10 cent increase in student lunch prices at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, noting that another 10 cent increase will be brought to the January board meeting for the board's consideration. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the recommended price increases for the 2020-2021 student lunches as presented by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 3-0.

E. Approve 2020-2021 School Calendar Revision – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said due to COVID-19, many events have been rescheduled and due to scheduling difficulties for the Prom for 2021, it has been very conflicting with Saturdays and mainly Fridays are available. Dr. Schmidt requested to make a revision to the approved 2020-2021 school calendar to move the Online Day for Boone Grove High School and Boone Grove Middle School from Wednesday, April 14, 2021 to Friday, April 16, 2021 to allow Friday, April 16, 2021 to be used for the Prom of 2021. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the revision to the 2020-2021 school calendar as requested by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 3-0.

F. Approve 2020-2021 Student Textbook Fees – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt referred to the student textbook fees provided in the board packet noting a new additional fee of \$1.35 per student for three (3) cloth masks as masking may be needed and recommended for students. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the student textbook fees provided by the administrators. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 student textbook fees as presented by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

G. Approve the First Reading of 2020-2021 Student Handbook Revisions – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said proposed revisions for the 2020-2021 Student Handbook are provided in the board packet. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the first reading of the 2020-2021 Student Handbook revisions noting that additional revisions will be presented at the July board meeting to modify student attendance policies. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the first reading of the 2020-2021 student handbook revisions as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 3-0.

H. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of three generous donations: a donation of \$100 from the Kobus family for the Academic Team at the high school; a donation of \$350 from Nancy Starkey for lunches for struggling families and a donation of \$300 from Hilda Salazar/NiSource for the high school and middle school Choir. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to accept donations as presented by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

I. Accept Transfer Students 2020-2021 School Year – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said fifteen (15) students submitted new transfer student applications and recommended approval of these new transfer students for the 2020-2021 school year as presented in the board packet. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to accept the fifteen (15) new transfer students as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 3-0.

J. Approve Milk and Dairy Contract for the 2020-2021 School Year– Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt referred to the milk and dairy proposal which is a bit cheaper as it essentially removes the middle man and is now coming directly from the farm. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the Milk and Dairy Contract for the 2020-2021 school year as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

K. Approve Produce Products Contract for the 2020-2021 School Year– Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said the Produce Products Contract proposal is provided in the board packet and recommended approval. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the Produce Products Contract for the 2020-2021 school year as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 3-0.

L. Approve HPS Contract for the 2020-2021 School Year – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the HPS contract with Gordons for the 2020-2021 school year as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the HPS Contract for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

M. Approve Food Service Contracts for the 2020-2021 School Year – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said a list of places where we secure items is provided in the board packet, the change is rather than securing bakery with outside bids, Gordons HPS will be used for these services as well. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Food Service Contracts for the 2020-2021 school year as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the Food Service contracts for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

N. Approve Educator Evaluation Plan – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the educator evaluation plan provided in the board packet noting that it remains consistent with last year's plan. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the Educator Evaluation Plan as presented by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

O. Approve Summer Hours – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish requested to transition to summer hours working 10 hour days Monday through Thursday for the months of June and July for cost savings for being closed on Fridays. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve summer hours as recommended by Mr. Parrish; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

P. Permission to Post for Summer Maintenance Helper – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish requested to post for one summer maintenance helper this year to help with the financial situation for the future. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to grant permission to post for a summer maintenance helper as requested by Mr. Parrish; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 3-0.

Q. Accept Student Transportation Bid – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish said after advertising for bids, First Student was the only bid received. Mr. Parrish said First Student currently provides student transportation services for the district and we are happy with their services. Mr. Parrish said the bid presented by First Student indicates an increase of 1% for next year and a 2% increase for the following year and recommended acceptance of the bid for transportation services from First Student. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to award the student transportation bid to First Student as recommended by Mr. Parrish; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

R. Other (Board member Mary Harlow entered the meeting at 6:52 p.m.)**R.1 Other – Athletic Re-entry Plan**

Dr. Schmidt said the state provided guidance for the Athletic re-entry plan and Mr. Josh Russell, Athletic Director, has provided an Athletic Re-entry Plan in the board packet. Dr. Schmidt explained during the proposed Phase 1 (July 6-20), athletes must social distance, must be COVID-19 symptom free, coaches and students are masked if they are not doing vigorous activities, equipment cannot be shared, no competing and only individual skill drills with no contact and limiting how many times to practice per week. Phase 2 (July 20 - August 15) is very similar to Phase 1 except Phase 2 allows Girls Golf to compete as it is an outdoor individual sport. Dr. Schmidt asked for permission to enact this voluntary Athletic Re-entry Plan as presented in the board packet beginning with Phase 1 on July 6 noting that Mr. Russell is preparing training for coaches in regard to cleaning and expectations. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the Athletic Re-entry Plan as presented by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 4-0.

R.2 Other - Providing School Lunches to Students during COVID-19 Closure

The state has approved our ability to continue to remotely serve school lunches to our students in need as we have been serving during the COVID-19 closure. The Food Service Staff has been working extremely hard to serve these students on Tuesdays from 10:00-Noon and served 461 families last week with 5 lunches and 5 breakfasts! Dr. Schmidt said many families have shared how appreciative they are as many have lost their jobs or have had hours reduced and this service is really helping. Dr. Schmidt said she cannot speak more highly of the Food Service staff for presenting their service plan to the Health Department and doing a fantastic job. Dr. Schmidt recommended continuing to provide the school lunch program until July for these families. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve Dr. Schmidt's recommendation to continue the school lunch program until July; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

R.3 Other – Porter Starke Agreement

Dr. Schmidt said some of our greatest needs in our schools revolve around mental health, social issues and emotional learning. There are significant issues with rising anxiety, anger and trouble with dealing with issues. Our teachers are doing a fantastic job working to support our students and are going the extra mile trying to maintain relationships. Our counselors are fantastic and meet one-on-one with students but the need greatly exceeds the time needed during the day to provide curricular and programming assistance. With parental permission, Porter Starke has the ability to provide services with Title 4 funding and in coordination with teachers and school counselors who will help identify kids who are struggling. Porter Starke would meet with families for permission to design a plan to help meet their needs and work with these students over approximately a three-month period. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Porter Starke Agreement provided in the board packet noting approval of this agreement will also help satisfy the legislative requirement to have a partnership with a mental health agency by July 1st encompassing all of these needs into one agreement. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the Porter Starke Agreement as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

7. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish said as we move forward working on our reentry plan for this fall, we will have some new board policies for the board's review for the July board meeting. New Horizons ended the year doing fairly well and quite a few kids were able to finish up. New Horizon teachers have been trying new strategies and zooming to encourage the kids to keep working to transition into the new online environment.

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt wished a Happy Birthday to Natalie Wargo. Dr. Schmidt discussed the proposed timeline for the school re-entry plan as state guidelines were released last Friday. Dr. Schmidt said she has been working with Mr. Parrish, the Administrative Team, Directors and a teacher team to make revisions and input with a multi-faceted approach. Additionally, she has been collaborating with other Porter County schools and other schools across the state to share plans and ideas. The good news is that Porter Township has had 10 COVID cases and all 10 have recovered. The proposed Re-entry Plan model has a stop light model of green, yellow and red. Green is a traditional start, yellow is a potential hybrid and red is full closure. Our district is looking at offering an

online option for parents who do not want to send their children back to school. The goal is not to increase transmission and to help kids be healthy. The key is that staff and students need to be healthy when they come to school and/or somebody in your home. In order to keep our buildings healthy, only healthy people will be allowed in the buildings. The more we can help that happen the more successful we will be in our goal. Students and staff may have to mask when social distancing is not possible and riding a bus will require wearing a mask. In the classroom, desk can be spread out and when teachers are teaching, mask may come off. During recess: possibly divide playground into sections and common sense decisions while following healthy guidelines. Anytime there is one COVID-19 case reported, that building is required to be closed for cleaning for 2-5 days. Upcoming Timeline: online student registration begins the week of July 13; the Porter County Health Department needs to approve our re-entry plan; there will be a meeting next Wednesday, at Wheeler High School with the Health Department to discuss the complexity issue that several are providing different guidelines; and proposed re-entry plan will be brought to the July board meeting for approval. Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the board.

9. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – None**
10. **SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**
11. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**
12. **ADJOURNMENT – 7:32 p.m.**

Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

This meeting is a meeting of the School Board for the purpose of conducting the School Corporation's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There will be a time for public participation, as indicated by the agenda. The meeting site is fully accessible. Any person requiring further accommodation should contact the superintendent.