

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

8-20-2020

\*\*\*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 5:00 p.m.**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Welcome Visitors

Board members present were: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Mrs. Lilann Sgouros, Mrs. Mary Harlow and Mrs. Laura Chavez; 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. CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt**

- A. Personnel Report
- B. Board Minutes
- C. Claim Docket

Dr. Schmidt requested approval of the consent agenda consisting of payroll claims and accounts payable vouchers; approval of the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and approval of the following items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
<b>APPOINTMENTS CERTIFIED:</b>	KERR, Shelby	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher	PLE	8/10/2020
	MAZUR, Luke	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher	PLE	8/10/2020
<b>CLASSIFIED:</b>				
	CHAVEZ, Jeremy	Head SRO	PTSC	7/1/2020
	BOONE, Matthew	SRO	PTSC	7/1/2020
	MUES, Matt	SRO	PTSC	7/1/2020
<b>EXTRA-CURRICULAR CERTIFIED:</b>	BEERE, Tara	Girls' JV Volleyball Coach	BGHS	8/3/2020-11/7/2020
	MAY, Nicole	Boys' JV Volleyball Coach	BGHS	8/3/2020-0/23/2020
	McGINLEY, Justine	Girls' Varsity Volleyball Coach	BGHS	8/3/2020-11/7/2020
	SHERWIN, Brian	Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach	BGHS	8/3/2020-10/31/2020
<b>EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLASSIFIED:</b>	BURBRIDGE, Ken	Girls' Varsity Soccer Head Coach	BGHS	8/3/2020-10/31/2020
	DEXTER, Laura	Girls' Varsity Golf Coach	BGHS	7/31/2020-10/3/2020
	DIXON, Christine	Boys' Varsity Volleyball Coach	BGHS	8/3/2020-10/23/2020
	PEREZ, Marco	Boys' JV Soccer Coach	BGHS	8/3/2020-10/31/2020
	FLESVIG, Lori	Girls' Varsity Cross Country Coach	BGHS	8/3/2020-10/31/2020
	SAUNDERS, Ron	Softball Coach	BGMS	7/20/2020-9/30/2020
	TAYLOR, Melissa	Varsity Dance Coach	BGHS	8/3/2020-3/27/2021
	KARSON, John	Girls' Varsity Vol. Soccer Asst. Coach	BGHS	8/3/2020-10/31/2020
<b>RESIGNATIONS:</b>				
<b>Certified:</b>	STECHLY, Ashley	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher	PLE	6/23/2020
<b>Certified (Retirement):</b>	KNOOP, Johanna	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher	PLE	6/9/2020
<b>Extra-Curricular:</b>	ROESKE, Donald	ECA Bus Driver	PTSC	10/28/2020
<b>Classified:</b>				
<b>LEAVES - Certified:</b>	McGINLEY, Jessica	Math Teacher	BGHS	9/24/2020 – 1/4/2021

(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. Chavez made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of payroll claims and accounts payable vouchers; approval of the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and approval of the items listed on the Personnel Report pending clear background searches and waiving the readings as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

4. **FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs. Smith**

A. **Appropriation summary**

B. **Fund Report**

C. **Investments**

Mrs. Smith referred to the appropriation summary and the fund report provided in the board packet and asked for questions from the board; none were heard.

5. **BUSINESS**

A. **Approve STAA Loan – Mrs. Smith**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the STAA Loan as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the STAA Loan as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

B. **Adopt Resolution #0720-226 – Suspension of School Board Policies Conflicting with Waivers or Extensions During COVID-19 Pandemic – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt referred to Resolution #0720-226 regarding suspension of school board policies conflicting with waivers or extensions during COVID-19 pandemic which is provided in the board packet. Dr. Schmidt explained that this resolution gives her authority to make any necessary changes required in light of COVID-19 and actions made by the Governor requiring changes. Dr. Schmidt confirmed that the board will be updated immediately if any changes are required. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adopt the Resolution #0720-226 regarding suspension of school board policies conflicting with waivers or extensions during the COVID-19 Pandemic as requested by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

C. **Accept Transfer Students for 2020-2021 – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of two additional out of district transfer students at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to accept two additional transfer students at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 4-0.

D. **Approve Donation – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of a donation of PPE Supplies including forehead thermometers, cloth masks and 2 gallons of hand sanitizer donated by Porter County Emergency Management Agency. Dr. Schmidt said we are extremely grateful for these donations and for all of the other ways our community continues to support our district. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to graciously accept the donation of PPE supplies donated by Porter County Emergency Management Agency; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

E. **Approve Fundraiser – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of a fundraiser for the Boone Grove Wolfpack Football Club to sell mums in the fall. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the fundraiser for the Boone Grove Wolfpack Football Club as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

F. **Approve the First Reading and Adoption of the following New/Revised Board Policies: New Board Policy #8420.01–Pandemics and Epidemics; Revised Board Policy #8450–Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases and New Board Policy #8450.05–Pandemic/Epidemic Events–Use of Face Masks–**

**Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish referred to the three new and revised board policies provided in the board packet. Mr. Parrish explained that a new board policy #8420.01 regarding pandemics and epidemics refers to the pandemic plan designed for the district. A revised board policy #8450 adds COVID and associated language into the existing policy with communicable diseases. Lastly, a new board policy #8450.05 states that according to our plan provisions, staff and students may be required to wear face masks. Mr. Parrish recommended approval of the first reading and adoption of these three policies as presented in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the first reading and final adoption of new Board Policy #8420.01 Pandemics and Epidemics; revised Board Policy #8450–Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases and new Board Policy #8450.05-Pandemic/Epidemic Events Use of Face Masks as recommended by Mr. Parrish and waiving the readings; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

G. **Approve Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless for Communicable Diseases including COVID-19 Form – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish discussed requiring a waiver for all students who would like to participate in extra-curricular activities and athletics this year since these activities would allow possible exposure to COVID-19 and other diseases which could be hazardous to the student's health. This waiver of liability and hold harmless for

communicable diseases form would release the district from all liability while the student is voluntarily participating in extra-curricular events and activities. Mr. Parrish answered questions from the board. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the waiver of liability and hold harmless for communicable diseases including COVID-19 form as requested by Mr. Parrish and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

**H. Approve First Student Contract – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish said last month the board accepted the bid provided by First Student and recommended approval of the First Student contract for transportation services for two years as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the First Student Contract as recommended by Mr. Parrish and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

**I. Approve the Second Reading and Adoption of 2020-2021 Student Handbook Revisions – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish referred to the student handbook revisions provided in the board packet which include additional changes regarding attendance policies. Mr. Parrish recommended approval of the second reading and adoption of the 2020-2021 student handbook revisions. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve and adopt the second reading of the 2020-2021 Student Handbook Revisions as presented by Mr. Parrish and as provided in the board packet and waiving the reading; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

**J. Adopt Resolution #0720-227 - Resolution of Porter Township School Corporation Adopting Reopening of Schools Plan – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt gave a presentation on a proposed Return to Learn Plan which is being tweaked daily at this point. Dr. Schmidt said a great deal of time has been spent working with the Porter County Health Department and considering the results of a survey that was sent to staff, students and parents in May to help in creating a draft version of the Return to Learn Plan. The draft version of the plan was sent out with a second survey to the staff, students, and parents for their review. The goal is to make a decision on the best plan that will ensure that the students and staff are safe and to provide the best education possible. Information is posted online with FAQs as well. Dr. Schmidt recommended adoption of Resolution #0720-227 – Resolution of Porter Township School Corporation Adopting Reopening of Schools Plan as provided in the board packet and to waive the reading. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to adopt Resolution #0720-227 Resolution of Porter Township School Corporation Adopting Reopening of Schools Plan as provided in the board packet and to waive the reading; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the board. Motion carried 4-0.

**K. Other - None**

**6. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish said he is finishing up the School Safety Grant application for this year and is submitting for final reimbursement for the School Safety Grant for last year. This grant allows funding for SROs in our district and he feels that increased safety presence is great for our district. Mr. Parrish said school safety training for new school safety specialists will be completed through online training this year instead of traveling for training and requiring time out of the building. Mr. Parrish said he is also working on storm drills and fire drills modifications with social distancing and retraining which will be required for this year.

**7. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt said the Cares Act Grant will cover one aide at the high school, one aide at the complex and one aide at PLE and one floating aide that will float to all buildings for next school year. Online student registration will open next week.

**8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – None**

**9. SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**

**10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

**11. ADJOURNMENT – 5:40 p.m.**

Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 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.*

