

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

PTSC
BOARD APPROVED
DATE 1-14-2021

***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, Mrs. Mary Harlow and Mrs. Laura Chavez; Johanna Williams was absent. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Schmidt; Assistant Superintendent, Ben Parrish; Board Attorney, Cheryl Zic; Chief Financial Officer, Kathleen Smith; Deputy Treasurer, Linda Bult and Secretary to the Superintendent, Linda Dusek. There was no audience.

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, November 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and approval of the following items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
APPOINTMENTS:	RIVAS, Jennifer	Cafeteria - Cook	BGHS	11/23/2020
CLASSIFIED:	BOSSARD, Jean	Custodian	BGMS	11/21/2020
ECA CLASSIFIED:	MCKAY, Ian	8 th Grade Boys' Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGMS	2020-21 School Yr.
	MCDOUGAL, Hayden	Freshman Boys' Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGHS	2020-21 School Yr.
	CHESTER, Teresa	Sophomore Class Co-Sponsor	BGHS	2020-21 School Yr.
	MORENO, Tamitha	Sophomore Class Co-Sponsor	BGHS	2020-21 School Yr.
RESIGNATIONS CERTIFIED:	ELDER, Joshua	7 th Grade Science Teacher	BGMS	01/01/2021
ECA RESIGNATIONS CERTIFIED	ELDER, Joshua	Science Fair Sponsor	BGMS	01/01/2021
	MCGINLEY, Justine	Girls' Varsity Volleyball Coach	BGHS	12/03/2020
RESIGNATIONS CLASSIFIED:	GILMARTIN, Michael	Custodian	PTSC	12/18/2020
	MCGEE, Marty	Floating Custodian	PTSC	11/16/2020
	MILLER, Seth	Floating Substitute Teacher	BGHS	12/18/2020

(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 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, November 12, 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. ESSA Report

Mrs. Smith referred to the appropriation summary and the fund report provided in the board packet and asked for questions from the board; no questions were heard. Mrs. Smith also gave a presentation on ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) which reports on per pupil expenditures and asked for questions from the board.

5. BUSINESS**A. Approve TAG Grant – Mrs. Smith**

Mrs. Smith said preparations are being made to distribute the TAG Grant and requested approval of the TAG Grant distribution information provided in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the TAG Grant as requested by Mrs. Smith and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Approve Playground Equipment at BGE – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said BGE was awarded a grant in the amount of \$86,211.98 for playground equipment. Dr. Schmidt gave a presentation with proposed designs of the playground equipment for the current playground location. Dr. Schmidt said the designs are impressively larger than expected and will also include rubber mulch. Dr. Schmidt also explained that the purchase cost is \$117,000 and the funding to support the difference will come out of project dollars. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to accept the grant award in the amount of \$86,211.98 and to approve the purchase of the proposed playground equipment at BGE as presented by Dr. Schmidt and presented in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 4-0.

C. Approve Contract Extensions for Director of Nursing and Director of Food Service – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said COVID has increased the time and workload requirements for the Director of Nursing significantly and there is a need to add additional days to her contract. The Director of Food Service also has increased time requirements due to providing meals for students through the summer and winter breaks this year due to COVID. Dr. Schmidt said she feels the Director of Nursing and the Director of Food Service positions are not being compensated aligned with other director positions and recommended the addition of 10 contract days to their contracts and to increase their annuity from 3% to 9%. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve 10 additional contract days and to increase the annuity from 3% to 9% for the positions of Director of Nursing and Director of Food Service as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

D. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$100 from Joell Drasich from JRD Companies, Inc. for the BGMS Athletic Department. A grant was also awarded in the amount of \$500 from GMB Architecture + Engineering Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area for teacher grants. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$100 from Joell Drasich from JRD Companies, Inc. and the grant in the amount of \$500 from GMB Architecture + Engineering Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

E. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of a fundraiser for the BGMS PTO to sell gift basket raffle tickets as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the BGMS PTO fundraiser as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and presented in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

F. Other – Dr. Schmidt - NONE**6. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish shared the following school announcements:

- BGHS: Mr. Corman commended his entire high school staff who have demonstrated an incredible amount of care and effort as they have taken on Zoom and virtual experiences this year. He considers it an honor and privilege to work with such dedicated individuals.
- PLE held their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and a virtual pie throw this year. Mrs. Hinchley created a YouTube account to allow all PLE students to watch the pie throw virtually from their classrooms.
- BGE: Science Bowl Sponsor Mrs. Rippe is doing a fantastic job preparing 15 students for their upcoming competition. BGE teachers are also doing a fantastic job with both their eLearning and classroom students.
- New Horizons has five students who have now finished and has earned 222 credits which equates to 6,754 lessons. Mr. Parrish said using the hybrid model this year with classroom learning for 3 days per week and eLearning for the other two days has helped split kids for social distancing for COVID and he is looking forward to bringing them all back together in the classroom soon.
- Mr. Parrish reviewed COVID benefit days available to the staff: FFCRA days have been implemented this school year based upon qualifying reasons with ten (10) benefit days available. FFCRA days will expire on December 31, 2020 and it will be disappointing if the expiration date is not extended. Additional qualifying COVID benefit leave days provided in the collective bargaining agreement will expire on June 30, 2021; however, FFCRA days must be used first. Mr. Parrish also shared that employees who have qualified for these additional benefit days have been extremely grateful for this benefit.

7. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

- Dr. Schmidt reported that COVID testing numbers in Porter County are trending in the red category. Porter Township currently has three (3) active positive cases with twelve (12) quarantined as a result of school exposure to those 12 positive cases. Absences not related to COVID positive at this time: 14 students were absent today (5 appointments and 1 missed the bus).
- Dr. Schmidt also reported that the district is doing better with finding available substitute teachers to fill our staff absences.
- The high school sent out surveys to staff, parents and students to receive data regarding our shift to virtual and zoom learning. Dr. Schmidt said this data was useful for driving their discussion on eLearning.
- Dr. Schmidt gave a presentation reporting on the solar fields which are now working and are reducing our energy use. December reflected 1.27 megawatts usage and the electric bill for October was reduced by \$8,000. Overall the solar fields are doing a great job!

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – None

Mrs. Sgouros expressed condolences with a sad heart in the passing of PTSC retired teacher, Steve Tafflinger, who will be dearly missed by many. Dr. Schmidt said the staff was extremely grateful for the ability to attend the services.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**10. ADJOURNMENT – 7:09 p.m.**

Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 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.