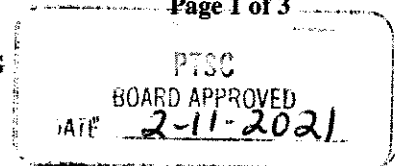


**MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
PORTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL CORPORATION**



***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 – 6:37 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Welcome Visitors

Board members present were: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Mrs. Lilann Sgouros and Mrs. Mary Harlow; Ms. Johanna Williams and Laura Chavez were absent. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Schmidt; Assistant Superintendent, Ben Parrish; 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. **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

A. Oath of Office

Attorney Cheryl Zic gave the Oath of Office to the incumbent At-Large Board Member, Lilann Sgouros and the School Board Member for District 2, Natalie J. Wargo.

B. Election of Officers

1. President

Dr. Wargo asked for a motion from the Board for President of the Board of School Trustees. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to appoint Dr. Natalie Wargo as President of the Board of School Trustees; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Vice-President

Dr. Wargo asked for a motion from the Board for Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees. Dr. Wargo made a motion to appoint Mrs. Lilann Sgouros as Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees; seconded by Mrs. Harlow; Motion carried 3-0.

3. Secretary

Dr. Wargo asked for a motion from the Board for Secretary of the Board of School Trustees. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to appoint Mrs. Laura Chavez as Secretary of the Board of School Trustees; seconded by Mrs. Harlow; Motion carried 3-0.

C. Determination of Member Compensation

Dr. Schmidt said the annual stipend of \$2,000 for board compensation was set in 2010 and asked for recommendations on how the board would like to proceed with compensation. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion for the annual stipend for board compensation for 2021 to remain as status quo; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

D. Determination of Meeting Dates and Times

Dr. Schmidt recommended that the monthly meeting dates for the Board of School Trustees shall continue to be scheduled on the second Thursday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. and Executive Sessions will be advertised as needed. Dr. Schmidt noted one exception will be for the August board meeting, which will be held on Thursday, August 19, 2021. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the monthly board meeting dates to continue to be scheduled on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. with the exception of the August board meeting, which will be held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 and Executive Sessions will be advertised as needed; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

E. Appointment of Corporation Treasurer

Dr. Schmidt said Mrs. Kathleen Smith is reliable and competent and recommended that Kathleen Smith be appointed as the Corporation Treasurer. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to appoint Mrs. Kathleen Smith as the Corporation Treasurer as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

F. Appointment of Corporation Deputy Treasurer

Dr. Schmidt recommended that Linda Bult shall continue as the Corporation Deputy Treasurer. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to appoint Linda Bult as the Corporation Deputy Treasurer; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

G. Appointment of Board Attorney

Dr. Schmidt said Crist, Sears and Zic, LLP has served our as legal representation with compensation for Attorney Cheryl Zic and recommended to continue to retain the services of Crist, Sears and Zic, LLP as status quo with compensation of \$200 per hour for the firm's partners and compensation of \$165 per hour for an associate. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to retain the services of Christ, Sears and Zic as legal representation with compensation as status quo; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

H. Disclosure Statements

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the disclosure statements as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the disclosure statements as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt

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

Dr. Schmidt recommended 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, December 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., approval of the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting held on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., and approval of the following items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings and pending clear background searches:

	Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
APPOINTMENTS:				
CERTIFIED:	RYBECKI, Catherine	7 th Grade Math Teacher	BGMS	1/4/2021
CLASSIFIED:	HERNANDEZ, Michele	Temporary 5 th Grade Teacher	BGE	12/15/2020-2/1/2021
	COSLET, Michael	Floating Substitute Teacher	BGHS	1/4/2021
RESIGNATIONS:				2020-21 School Yr.
CERTIFIED:	BROSHAR, Dylan	6 th Grade Math Teacher	BGMS	1/1/2021
CLASSIFIED:	ELLIS, Aaron	Floating Substitute Teacher	BGMS	1/8/2021
CLASSIFIED:	WILKERSON, Kellie	Cafeteria Manager	BGHS	1/8/2021
LEAVE OF ABSENCE: REQUESTS:				
CERTIFIED:	McKEE, Amanda	4 th Grade Teacher	BGE	7 unpaid Leave of Absence Days
CLASSIFIED	BLANC, Billie	School Nurse	PLE	Approximately 1/29/2021-4/16/2021
CERTIFIED VOLUNTARY TRANSFER:	EVELAND, Bethany	Voluntary Transfer from 7 th Grade Math to 7 th Grade Science Teacher	BGMS	1/04/2021

Mrs. Harlow 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, December 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., approval of the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting held on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., and approval of the items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings and pending clear background searches; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs. Smith

- A. Appropriation summary
- B. Fund Report

Mrs. Smith explained that there is a financial report provided in the board packet which reflects a large decrease in the Education Fund due to paying off an emergency loan in the amount of \$550,000 with the decision not to enter into another one.

6. BUSINESS**A. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$250 to be applied to the school lunch accounts of students who are in need of assistance and a donation of two copies of the Indiana Farm Bureau 2020 Book of the Year, "Popcorn Country, The Story of America's Favorite Snack" provided by Indiana Farm Bureau. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to accept the donations as presented by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

B. Accept Transfer Student – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of an out of district transfer student in the 10th Grade at Boone Grove High School. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to accept the transfer student as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

C. Approve NITCO Lease Agreement – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt reported that NITCO has proposed an idea to provide a tower to provide faster internet services for our community. Dr. Schmidt gave a presentation explaining the proposed location layout to be utilized on the far northeast portion of the PTSC property line, which is currently a grassy space. In this agreement, NITCO will

build a 20-foot tripod tower with an escalator built into it. The agreement is a five-year renewable lease on a rolling basis and NITCO will compensate PTSC \$800.00 per month along with a security deposit. NITCO will be responsible for maintaining and mowing around the tower and will also be responsible to remove the tower and concrete pads if the lease agreement dissolves. There is a 120-day grace period to allow a contract cancellation if NITCO is unable to secure the required permits. The benefits of this agreement are the \$800.00 monthly income for PTSC for allowing use of PTSC property and the possibility of NITCO providing higher internet speeds to our community. Dr. Schmidt thanked Attorney Zic for her extensive work in providing this document. Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the board. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the lease agreement with NITCO as presented by Dr. Schmidt and presented in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

D. Other – Dr. Schmidt - None

7. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

- Mr. Parrish announced the following updates:
- At BGMS: Mr. Lichtenberger said he is pleased his staff and students are adjusting well with COVID issues and quarantines and everyone is being flexible. Special recognition for Mrs. Bara and Mrs. Broton in the front office for doing a fantastic job helping parents and students and also helping cover classes if necessary.
- At BGE: Mr. Ivanyo echoed the same sentiments saying he is very thankful for his wonderful staff as they all come together and step-up to help, especially the awesome SROs! BGE will have Science Bowl on January 27.
- At PLE: K-3 will participate in NWEA this week and next week and Pre-school Parent Teacher Conferences are on January 27 and 28.
- At BGHS: Mr. Parrish said Mike Coslet is the new floating substitute teacher, a substitute school nurse at BGHS and an EMT outside of school. Mr. Coslet has proved to be an outstanding addition to the BGHS staff and he did a fabulous job in the way he handled two situations in which students had seizures; Officer Burnison was communicating with the parent and EMTs as well. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Coslet on staff at BGHS!
- FFCRA days ended December 31 and we have transitioned to use PTSC COVID days for those who qualify.

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt discussed the following:

- Legislation: The governor announced his budget proposal and we were pleasantly surprised that he proposed 2% for the first year and 1% for the next year. He is still looking at the expansion of vouchers and paying off some state debts as he plans to pay off the 396 TRF ahead of schedule to help fund state budgets, unfortunately that doesn't help us with local dollars. A bill to watch is House Bill 1008 it looks at providing funding to deal with learning loss as many districts have been virtual since March and this impacts student learning.
- Kindergarten Round-up is coming up and will be held by appointment only this year due to COVID. There are 38 Preschool four-year olds who have already signed-up for Kindergarten before roundup has even started.
- Dr. Schmidt wished a Happy Birthday to Mike Skoda on January 18.
- Dr. Schmidt said work has begun on the 2022-2023 school calendar attempting to unify the calendar with Porter County schools and copies have also been provided to the teachers for their feedback. Concerns with this calendar are: election dates due to conflicts with teachers having time to vote, K-12 eLearning days, fall break, and ending the first semester before winter break.
- Dr. Schmidt discussed an issue with the flow of traffic at PLE during drop-off and pick-up; especially during Pre-school pickup as the pre-school program has grown. There has been discussion with an architectural firm, Gibraltar, to possibly add a staging lane, to tweak our current playground area and a possible pre-school wing addition. Dr. Schmidt said there are project dollars left at PLE and Gibraltar was asked to provide designs and a preliminary construction cost estimates and the estimates exceeded anticipated cost. The side work, grading and new drive estimated around \$300,000 and a new playground, paving, drainage, soft surface and equipment estimated around \$900,000. Mr. Busse proposes to accept bids for the drive and the playground in search of lower bids. Dr. Schmidt asked for permission to bring more information to the next board meeting and to give Gibraltar an unofficial notice to proceed to provide field observations, site survey, preliminary design and civil engineering for the drive and the playground. Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the board and the board agreed with Dr. Schmidt's request to bring more information to the board's review at the next board meeting.

9. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS - None

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

11. ADJOURNMENT – 7:21 p.m.

Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 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.

