

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF THE 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 – 7:31A.M.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Welcome Visitors

Board members present were: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Mrs. Laura Chavez and Mrs. Lilann Sgouros; Ms. Johanna Williams and Mrs. Mary Harlow were absent. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Schmidt; Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Ben Parrish; Board Attorney, Cheryl Zic and Secretary to the Superintendent, Linda Dusek. There were seven (7) present in the audience.

Mr. Parrish made the following announcement: 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. During this meeting, residents of Porter Township will be afforded the opportunity to comment on the Boone Grove High School Waste Water Treatment Plant, the 2022 Budget, the proposed Capital Projects Plan and the proposed Bus Replacement Plan. Comments not pertaining to these topics will not be allowed and individuals who interfere with the school board's ability to conduct this business will be subject to removal from the meeting.

2. **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – Dr. Schmidt - None**

3. **PUBLIC HEARING ON BGHS WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS–Dr. Wargo**

Dr. Wargo announced the opportunity for anyone wishing to sign up for public comment(s) on any advertised hearing can make comments by coming forward. Dr. Wargo announced that after each presentation there will be an opportunity for public comment with a limit of three (3) minutes for each individual. Dr. Wargo announced that legal Notice of this meeting was published as legally required in The Northwest Indiana Times and The Post Tribune on September 20, 2021.

A. **Open Hearing**

Dr. Wargo opened the hearing.

B. **Presentation**

Dr. Schmidt said according to Indiana Code before a school corporation spends more than \$1,000,000 to build or repair a school building by leasing or bonds, a public hearing is required to explain the potential value of the project to the school corporation and to the community. This public hearing and adoption of the resolutions is the beginning of the legal process which establishes the maximum financial terms for the project. Dr. Schmidt continued with a presentation reporting on the condition of the waste water plant. Mr. James Elizondo, Managing Director of Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc., discussed financing options for the proposed project estimated at \$2,660,000, cost of issuance, underwriting fees, attorney fees, impact to taxpayers and existing debt.

C. **Public Comment**

Dr. Wargo asked for public comments; no comments were heard

D. **Close Hearing**

Dr. Wargo closed the hearing.

E. **Approval of Project Resolution #1021-254**

Dr. Schmidt said a project resolution is needed when a school plans to spend more than \$1,000,000 for a building. The resolution contains the estimated hard and soft cost, the cost of issuance, establishes the total project cost and contains the estimated tax impact as Mr. Elizondo just discussed. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to adopt Project Resolution #1021-254 as presented and recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

F. **Approval of Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures**

Dr. Schmidt said a reimbursement resolution allows us to reimburse ourselves for any bond proceeds or any cash which we might spend on the project prior to closing on the bonds which is required by federal tax law to preserve our ability to reimburse ourselves. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adopt the Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures as presented and recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 3-0.

4. **BUSINESS – Dr. Wargo**

A. **Public Hearing of 2022 Budget – Dr. Wargo**

1. **Hearing for 2022 Budget**

- a) Hearing of Education Fund payment of expenses for student instruction and learning
- b) Hearing of Debt Service Fund – debt the school corporation actually carries
- c) Hearing of School Pension Debt Fund
- d) Hearing of Operations Fund – how we fund transportation,

Dr. Schmidt said this budget was presented by Mrs. Smith at last month's board meeting. The Board will take action on the October 14th board meeting. The Education Fund is used for payment of expenses for student instruction and learning. Debt Service Fund and School Pension Debt Fund are reflective of debt that the school corporation actually carries. The Operations Fund is how we fund transportation, bus replacement, capital projects, operating our district including: the Business Office, custodial, SROs, maintenance, utilities, property insurance. The overall advertised tax rate this year is at 1.1151 our goal remains consistent at keeping a neutral tax rate for our residents. This year our student membership count date was 1,332 for in-person students, 37 virtual which is two students more than last fall. Dr. Wargo opened the Hearing for public comment. Mr. Eric McGinty requested to speak. Mr. McGinty asked, "Is it possible to have a more detailed publication of the budget?" Dr. Schmidt said she will provide the information to him at the end of the meeting. No other requests to speak were heard. Dr. Wargo closed the hearing.

B. Public Hearing of Proposed 2022 Capital Projects Plan – Dr. Wargo

1. Open Hearing

Dr. Wargo opened the Hearing and asked Dr. Schmidt for a summary on the proposed 2022 Capital Projects Plan.

2. Presentation

Dr. Schmidt said the proposed 2022 Capital Projects Plan was developed through discussions with the buildings, Mr. Busse and Mr. Cain and reviewing and evaluation of facility needs. Following is a partial list of proposed facility needs: At BGE: installation of hand dryers, replacement of carpet and seal coated parking lot; at PLE: seal coated parking lot; at BGMS: classroom renovations, carpet replacement, seal coated parking lot; at BGHS: address library and hallway carpet replaced, stage renovations, locker room renovation, seal coat parking lot, sport facility needs. Additional district needs are: Batwing mower replacement and overall corporation equipment repairs and software repairs.

3. Public Comment

4. Close Hearing

C. Public Hearing of Proposed 2022 Bus Replacement Plan – Dr. Wargo

1. Open Hearing

2. Presentation

Dr. Schmidt said the budget advertised represents a plan that has been developed to meet the needs of the fleet we actually own based on the statutory allowable 12-year bus replacement cycle and in 2022 we anticipate the replacement of one bus.

3. Public Comment

4. Close Hearing

D. Tentative Agreement – Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement – Dr. Schmidt

Through negotiations with our teachers we were able to reach a tentative agreement. Today's purpose is to review the tentative agreement and present the agreement on October 14 as well. Dr. Schmidt gave a presentation on the terms of the tentative agreement which are also posted on the district's webpage.

5. ADJOURNMENT – Dr. Wargo

Mrs. Chavez made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 a.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.