

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PORTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL CORPORATION BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
HELD AT PORTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL CORPORATION ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

***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 – 6:34 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Welcome Visitors

Board members present were: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Mrs. Laura Chavez, Mrs. Mary Harlow and Mrs. Lilann Sgouros; Ms. Johanna Williams was absent. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Schmidt; Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Ben Parrish; Board Attorney, Cheryl Zic; CFO/Treasurer, Kathleen Smith; Deputy Treasurer, Linda Bult and Secretary to the Superintendent, Linda Dusek. There was two (2) present in the audience plus one officer.

2. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – Dr. Schmidt - None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY - None

4. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A. 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 4-0.

2. Vice-President

Dr. Wargo asked for a motion from the Board for Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to appoint Mrs. Lilann Sgouros as Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees; seconded by Mrs. Harlow; Motion carried 4-0.

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 4-0.

B. Determination of Member Compensation

Dr. Wargo said the annual stipend of \$2,000 for board compensation was set in 2010 and recommended that board compensation remain as status quo. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion for the annual stipend for board compensation for 2022 to remain as status quo; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

C. Determination of Meeting Dates and Times

Dr. Wargo 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. Wargo noted one exception will be for the August board meeting to be scheduled on Thursday, August 18, 2022, the third Thursday of the month. 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 18, 2022 and Executive Sessions will be advertised as needed; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

D. Appointment of Corporation Treasurer

Dr. Wargo recommended that Kathleen Smith should continue as the Corporation Treasurer. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to appoint Kathleen Smith as the Corporation Treasurer as recommended by Dr. Wargo; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 4-0.

E. Appointment of Corporation Deputy Treasurer

Dr. Wargo recommended that Linda Bult should 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 4-0.

F. Appointment of Board Attorney

Dr. Wargo said Crist, Sears and Zic, LLP has served as our legal representation with compensation for Attorney Cheryl Zic and recommended to retain the services of Crist, Sears and Zic, LLP as status quo. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to retain the services of Christ, Sears and Zic as legal representation with compensation as status quo; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

G. Disclosure Statements

Dr. Wargo recommended acceptance of the disclosure statements as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the disclosure statements as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

5. 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 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., and approval of the following items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings and pending clear background searches:

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>BUILDING</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
CLASSIFIED APPOINTMENTS:	<u>ELLIS, Aaron</u>	New Horizons Learning Center Instructional Aide	BGHS	01/11/2022
CLASSIFIED ECA APPOINTMENTS:	ELLIS, Aaron	Freshman Boys' Basketball Co-Coach	BGHS	12/08/2021-01/17/2022
	SACO, Melissa	6 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	BGMS	01/06/2022-02/25/2022
	CASANOVA, Angela	7 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	BGMS	01/05/2022-03/01/2022
	KRAUS, Kelly	8 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	BGMS	01/05/2022-02/27/2022
CLASSIFIED RESIGNATION:	BROGDON, Kori	New Horizons Learning Center Instructional Aide	BGHS	12/20/2021

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 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. and approval of the items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings and pending clear background searches; seconded by Mrs. Chavez Motion carried 4-0.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. Financial Summary**
- B. Fund Report**

Mrs. Smith referred to her financial report and the fund report provided in the board packet. Mrs. Smith reported we received 102% of our December settlement for our property taxes.

7. BUSINESS

A. BGHS Master Campus Planning and Project Hearing Authorization with Gibraltar – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said we are continuing our discussion from last month about our master planning and facility needs. We are identified needs athletically for a facility for track and soccer, indoor space for a weight room, wrestling and multipurpose indoor and outdoor facilities. Discussion continued about the best location for a multipurpose facilities and how does the wetlands play in this. Dr. Schmidt asked Mr. Thompson from Gibraltar to provide alternative ideas to meet the needs of Porter Township. The orientation of the field needs to be considered, everything is essentially the same functionally, discussed the location of where the discus throw and high jump discussed the diagrams where locations lines up baseball and softball, concessions stand building location, driveways, public access, and walkways. Discussed the proposed schedule if the board chooses to proceed, the project meeting with hopes to get started in March. The goal is to get the project underway and to have enough work done that there will be inside work for the winter. The wastewater treatment plant is contingent upon the BGHS project. Dr. Schmidt said we have heard comments from Mr. Thompson and talked about what our next step would be to move forward with a project hearing and asked the board for guidance. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to move forward with the project hearing; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Mr. Thompson answered questions from the board about some of the design options and the wetlands. Motion carried 4-0.

B. January 5th Mask Optional and IDOH COVID Control Update to Continue to Learn Plan – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said we have made some changes to our Continue to Learn Plan. To satisfy our federal funds obligation for the Esser Plan, we are required to update our Continue to Learn Plane every 6 months with public comment. Dr. Schmidt noted that the last update was presented in September of 2021. Dr. Schmidt presented COVID numbers and quarantined numbers from last year compared to this year's numbers. Dr. Schmidt said after returning from winter break, masks are now optional. Approximately 75-80% of the students at PLE are wearing masks and less than that are wearing masks at the other schools. The Department of Health updated their guidance regarding districts returning to school unmasked. If a testing result is positive, the individual should stay home for 5 days and can return to school after 6-10 days masked. There is also updated guidance for extra-curricular activities and quarantined guidance, stating if fully vaccinated, the individual can stay in school. If not

vaccinated and tested positive, the individual will be eligible to return to school after Day 6-10 and must be masked. Dr. Schmidt said an updated COVID dashboard is posted on the district's web page and is currently being updated every day. The parent screen tool was updated as well. Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the board.

C. Accept Transfer Students – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of the list of transfer students provided in the board packet for the beginning of the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to accept the transfer students as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

D. Approve NITCO Contract for Internet Access (IA) and Wide Area Access (WAN) – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the NITCO contract for Internet Access (IA) and Wide Area Access (WAN) going from 1GB to 10GB, which will be a great network improvement for our students and staff. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the contract with NITCO for Internet Access (IA) and Wide Area Access (WAN) as presented in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Chavez.

E. Adopt Resolution #0122-262 – 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan - Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith referred to Resolution #0122-262 - 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan which is provided in the board packet. Mrs. Smith said in considering what our staff wants in terms of their retirement plan and we have expanded our 403(b) to a 403(b) Roth to provide another option for our staff to consider. An adoption of a resolution is required since this is a new plan document. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to adopt Resolution #0122-262-457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan as requested by Mrs. Smith; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

8. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish reported that the Supreme Court released an opinion indicating that the Covid-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) for vaccination, testing and face covering which was supposed to take effect on January 10, 2022 was withdrawn and we are no longer required to comply with this ETS at this time. This ETS required employers with over 100 employees to implement a standard for employees to be fully vaccinated or to be tested weekly and to wear masks while at work. Employers were to be required to make good faith efforts to have a policy in place indicating how they will track vaccination cards and testing for unvaccinated employee to be compliant. If not compliant, a fine of \$13,653 per violation and a fine of up to a \$136,532 for repeated willful violations was to be enforced. For this reason, preparations were made and we were prepared to be compliant. Since this ETS was withdrawn, if something changes, everything is prepared to comply with this standard, if necessary. Mr. Parrish reported on the following recent events from each school:

BGHS:

- Matt McKay was named BGHS Teacher of the Month.
- PCC Girls' and Boys' Basketball Tournament is next week.
- Three high school girls advanced to the Girls' State Wrestling finals on January 14th. Congratulations to Madison Sims, Jerzie Crisman and Olivia Rayson!
- Congratulations to Mrs. Janell Stone, BGHS Guidance Secretary, on her retirement after 27 years of dedicated service to PTSC! Mrs. Stone has done many great things, she is a great person and our kids and our staff were better for having her here. A huge thank you to Mrs. Stone and best wishes to her in her retirement!

PLE:

- KG-3 started NWEA testing this week.
- Preschool conferences are on February 2-3
- Preschool registration for 2022-23 is off to a good start.

BGE:

- Science Bowl is on the 26th
- Mrs. Kegebein has been working hard on a book donation project and had a "Get a Book/Give a Book" box in the foyer. Mrs. Kegebein is also kicking off the "BGE Career Program" this week.

BGMS:

- The 7th Grade Boys' Basketball team was runner up in the PCC Tournament.
- NWEA testing is finished and showed big improvements in Math.
- Girls' Basketball practices just recently began.
- Mr. Lichtenberger gave a shout out to a few employees commending their flexibility and willingness to step up to help in the classroom: Lisa Broton, Tiffany Campagna, Shannon Bara, and Autumn Dexter!

9. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt reported that the steel for the PLE project is on the way, running on time and we are excited to get everything up and enclosed. Dr. Schmidt wished a Happy Birthday to Mike Skoda, Director of Technology, on January 18. Dr. Schmidt reviewed graduation pathways including learn and demonstrate employability skills: project based learning, work based learning and service based learning.

10. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – None

11. ADJOURNMENT – 7:18 p.m.

Mrs. Chavez made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.