

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

DATE 10-13-22

***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: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Mrs. Lilann Sgouros, Mrs. Laura Chavez and Mrs. Mary Harlow; Ms. Johanna Williams was absent. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Schmidt; Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Ben Parrish; CFO/Treasurer, Mrs. Kathleen Smith, and Secretary to the Superintendent, Linda Dusek. There was one person present in the audience and one officer.

2. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – Dr. Schmidt - None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

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, August 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.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
CERTIFIED APPOINTMENTS:	RYZEWSKI, Hannah	Intervention Coordinator	BGHS	09/12/2022
CLASSIFIED APPOINTMENTS:	CARNELL, Christy	Teacher/Lunchroom Aide	PLE	08/22/2022
	GARCIA, Lillian	Transition from Part-Time Secretary to Full-Time Secretary	PLE	09/06/2022
CERTIFIED ECA POSITIONS:	TAUBER, Anthony	Girls' C-Team Volleyball Coach	BGHS	08/22/2022–10/07/2022
	WESTERMAN, Ivette	Spanish Club Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	WESTERMAN, Ivette	Key Club Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	SARNOWSKI, Katie	Academic Team Head Coach	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	SARNOWSKI, Katie	Math Team Coach	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	SWAN-CARATINI, Jori	English Team Coach	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	SWAN-CARATINI, Jori	English Department Chair	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	WELBOURNE-SWETALLA, Athena	Fine Arts Academic Team Coach	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	WELBOURNE-SWETALLA, Athena	HS Choir Performance/Contests	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	WELBOURNE-SWETALLA, Athena	Swing Choir Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	WELBOURNE-SWETALLA, Athena	Music Department Chair	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	BEERE, Tara	Science Team Coach	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	BEERE, Tara	Natural Helpers Co-Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	BEERE, Tara	11 th Grade Co-Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	CHANT, John	Academic Team Coach	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	CHANT, John	Social Studies Department Chair	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	BELLEVILLE, Paul	HS Performance/Contest Band Director	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	BELLEVILLE, Paul	HS Pep Band Director	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	TAUBER, Anthony	Natural Helpers Co-Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	THILL, Rollie	National Honor Society Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	THILL, Rollie	Math Department Chair	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	FORTENBERRY, Ember	9 th Grade Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	McGINLEY, Justine	11 th Grade Co-Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	ASHBROOKS, Allison	HS Art Department Chair	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	ASHBROOKS, Allison	HS Art Club Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	ASHBROOKS, Allison	HS Art Show Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	TRAPANA, Thomas	Yearbook Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	TRAPANA, Thomas	Business Department Chair	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	SHRMAN, Kathy	Media Department Chair	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	ELEFThERI, Linda	PE Department Chair	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	ATWOOD, Stacey	6 th Grade Department Chair	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year

	Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
	GARCIA, Nicole	7 th Grade Department Chair	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	DOMBROWSKI, Cora	8 th Grade Department Chair	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	ATWOOD, Stacey	Student Council/Builders Club	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	GARCIA, Nicole	National Junior Honor Society	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	GARCIA, Nicole	Yearbook Sponsor	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	WELBOURNE-SWETALLA, Athena	Choir MS Performances/Contests	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	BELLEVILLE, Paul	Band MS Performances/Contests	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	RITCHIE, Jolie	Academic Head Coach	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	ATWOOD, Stacy	English Team Coach	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	DOMBROWSKI, Cora	Science Team Coach	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	RITCHIE, Jolie	Social Studies Team Coach	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	EVELAND, Bethany	Science Fair Sponsor	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	BOYER, Jeremy	MS Art Club Sponsor	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	BOYER, Jeremy	MS Art Show Sponsor	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
	BAIRD, Bridget	Spell Bowl Coach	BGMS	2022-2023 School Year
CLASSIFIED ECA POSITIONS:	THOMAS, Scott	MS Baseball Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGMS	08/22/2022-07/27/2022
	SMITH, Ethan	HS Volleyball Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGHS	08/31/2022-11/26/2022
	HOOVER, Doug	MS Baseball Head Coach	BGMS	08/01/2022-09/27/2022
	SAUNDERS, Ron	MS Softball Head Coach	BGMS	08/01/2022-09/30/2022
	MURRAY, Andrew	MS Baseball Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGMS	08/22/2022-09/27/2022
	DAVIS, Stacy	Fall Drama Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	DAVIS, Stacy	Spring Drama Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	KRAUSE, Karen	Student Council Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	SACO, Melissa	10 th Grade Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
	MORENO, Tamitha	12 th Grade Sponsor	BGHS	2022-2023 School Year
CERTIFIED – LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST:	MAZUR, Luke	3 rd Grade Teacher - Leave of Absence for 15 days	PLE	Beginning Approx. 10/27/2022
CERTIFIED RESIGNATIONS:	WOTHERSPOON, Jessica	Intervention Coordinator	BGHS	08/22/2022

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, August 18, 2022 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. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Financial Summary

B. Fund Report

Mrs. Smith said the Financial Summary and Fund Report are provided in the board packet and asked for questions from the board. No questions were heard.

6. BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing of 2023 Budget – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith opened the public Hearing of the 2023 Budget.

1. Hearing for 2023 Budget

- a) **Hearing of Education Fund**
- b) **Hearing of Debt Service Fund**
- c) **Hearing of School Pension Debt Fund**
- d) **Hearing of Operations Fund**

Mrs. Smith said the public hearing for the 2023 budget will now be conducted. Mrs. Smith said the board will take action to approve the 2023 Budget at the October board meeting. The 2023 budget has been developed based upon rules associated with each fund. The Education Fund is used for payment of expenses allocated to student instruction and learning, which includes revenue tuition support received from the state placed into the Education Fund. Also included are expenses such as teacher salaries, building administrator salaries and benefits, special programs, classroom supplies and equipment, educational media services and extra-curriculars. The Debt Service Fund and the School Pension Debt Fund are based upon the actual debt within each fund. The Operations Fund includes transportation, bus replacement, capital projects and other operational expenses for the corporation. The overall tax rate being advertised for all funds this year is \$1.2456; the approved tax rate for 2022 in all the funds was .9674, which is much lower than advertised. Our goal has been to try to keep the tax rate level for local taxpayers while capturing all of the amounts of funds allowed. This has been done even while adding four (4) new classrooms at Porter Lakes Elementary School. Mrs. Smith said she is now opening the hearing for public comment. Hearing no requests for public comment, Mrs. Smith closed the public hearing.

B. Adopt Resolution #0922-273 - Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith recommended adoption of Resolution #0922-273 for the annual approval of the optional Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan offered to employees. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to Adopt Resolution #0922-273 – Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan as recommended by Mrs. Smith and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 4-0.

C. Permission to Move Funds from the IAPSS Presidential Election Clearing Account to the Teacher Activity Fund – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said as you may recall, the IAPSS Presidential Election Clearing Account was created for a gala hosted in June by PTSC for the incoming president of the IAPSS in which PTSC raised donations to be used for the expenses of this gala. All expenses of the gala have now been paid and IAPSS allows for these remaining funds to be donated and used for purposes of the school district primarily to benefit teachers and students. Dr. Schmidt said we are ready to transition the remaining funds into the Teacher Activity Fund primarily to be used for some grants for teachers and to use some money to reinvigorate our Education Foundation. Mrs. Terry Tafflinger, a retired PTSC teacher, is heading up a team to work on accomplishing this goal. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to grant permission to move funds from the IAPSS Presidential Election Clearing Account to the Teacher Activity Fund as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

D. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt reported that three extremely generous donations have been received this month:

- An anonymous donor gave \$500.00 to be used to provide students lunches for those who are in need
- Matt Steinhilber from Indiana Furniture donated a desk chair, a desk and file cabinet for the SRO Office at the Boone Grove Complex.
- An iPitch pitching machine valued at over \$13,000 was donated for the Boone Grove Baseball Program by Gabe Villarreal of the Cristian's Dream Foundation, in memory of his son, Cristian Villarreal to help share Cristian's love for baseball and all sports with others.

Dr. Schmidt graciously recommended acceptance of these extremely generous donations. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to accept the donations as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

E. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the fundraisers for pie sales and poinsettia sales at the high school. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the fundraisers as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

F. Accept Transfer Students – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of additional transfer student requests as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to accept the additional transfer students as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

G. Recognition of PTSC PTO – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended the annual reapproval of the PTSC PTO for the 2022-2023 school year as they do awesome things for our staff and students. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to reapprove the PTSC PTO for the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 4-0.

H. Approval of 2023-2024 School Calendar – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the first reading of the 2023-2024 school calendar noting that the beginning of the school year was bumped back one week to collaborate with area Porter County schools. Dr. Schmidt also noted that a change will be coming for the second reading in October with the addition of the BGHS graduation date. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the first reading of the 2023-2024 school calendar as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

I. Approval of Overnight Field Trip for BGHS – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of a request for an overnight field trip for the Natural Helpers Program at BGHS as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the overnight field trip request for the Natural Helpers Program at BGHS; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

J. Approve SRO Pay Rate – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish said in order to provide three SROs in our district every day it takes a larger group of SROs to be scheduled as these officers only work part-time for PTSC. Mr. Parrish recommended an hourly pay rate increase for all SROs to keep in pace with area school districts. Mr. Parrish recommended increasing the SRO hourly pay rate from \$30.00 per hour to \$35.00 per hour and an increase from \$32.00 per hour to \$37.00 per hour for the Lead SRO effective as of September 9, 2022. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve Mr. Parrish's recommendation to raise the SRO hourly pay rate from \$30.00 per hour to \$35.00 per hour and an increase from \$32.00 per hour to \$37.00 per hour for the Lead SRO effective as of September 9, 2022; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0; Mrs. Chavez abstained due to conflict of interest.

7. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish shared the following updates from the buildings:

PLE:

- PTSC PTO will host a Family Bingo Night at PLE on Friday, September 9th at 5:30 p.m.
- Kindergarten will take a field trip to Garwood Orchard on Thursday, September 29
- PLE will participate in the Great American ShakeOut which teaches children how to stay safe in the event of an earthquake

BGMS:

- MS Sports are off to a good start

BGE

- Preparing for Camp Tecumseh at the end of the month
- Mr. Ivanyo extended a big thank you to all for a great start of the school year

BGHS:

- STEM Club is building their first competition level robot.
- Football got their first victory of the year with a 40-0 win over South Central
- Boys' Volleyball is undefeated and Girls' Volleyball is 6-2
- Girls Golf Conference Championship is today
- Both Soccer teams have winning seasons
- Several students have been selected as College Board National Recognition Program awardees for their outstanding academic achievements in school and for their outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10 and/or AP Exams. Receiving NRSTA recognition are: Lauren Jeffries, Madalyn McGinty, Nathan Crepeau and Olivia Rayson

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

- Dr. Schmidt wished a Happy Birthday to Mr. Ivanyo and Mr. Lichtenberger who both have upcoming birthdays.
- Dr. Schmidt reported that student enrollment has increased by one student from last year. The official count date is next week.
- Dr. Schmidt shared from last month's report things to keep in mind: Third Grade IRead results: state average results was 81.6% passed; PTSC had 96% pass. We received from the School Board Association a resolution that we would be at 95% pass rate by 2027; Dr. Schmidt noted that Second grade testing reflected the state average pass rate was 62% and PTSC second grade pass rate was 86%. Additionally, Dr. Schmidt gave a presentation on the Science of Reading which is a push nationally and statewide as a body of research which talks about how students learn to read and best practices on how instruction happens to teach our students to read.

9. ADJOURNMENT 6:51 p.m.

Mrs. Chavez made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.