

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 – 6:30 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Welcome Visitors

Board members present: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Mrs. Lilann Sgouros and Mrs. Mary Harlow; Mrs. Laura Chavez and Ms. Johanna Williams was absent. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Schmidt; Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Ben Parrish; CFO/Treasurer, Mrs. Kathleen Smith; Deputy Treasurer, Linda Bult and Secretary to the Superintendent, Linda Dusek. There was four (4) present in the audience.

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, September 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., approval of the minutes of a Special School Board Meeting held on Thursday, September 29, 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
CLASSIFIED APPOINTMENT:	STEEGE, Michael	SRO	PTSC	10/04/2022
	GRIMBERG, David	SRO	PTSC	10/05/2022
	HARRISON, Abigail	Custodian	BGHS	10/17/2022
CERTIFIED ECA APPOINTMENTS:	ELEFTHERI, Linda	6 th Grade Girls' Volleyball Head Coach	BGMS	09/26/2022-10/21/2022
	PETERSON, Shana	Middle School Cheerleading Coach	BGMS	10/17/2022-03/31/2023
CLASSIFIED ECA APPOINTMENTS:	ELEFTHERI, Loucas	6 th Grade Girls' Volleyball Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGMS	09/26/2022-10/21/2022
	KNIGHT, William	Bowling Head Coach	BGHS	09/19/2022-03/28/2022
	RICHARDSON-KOBUS, Jane	Bowling Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGHS	09/19/2022-03/28/2022
	CLINTON, Don	Bowling Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGHS	09/19/2022-03/28/2022
	CLINTON, Kelly	Bowling Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGHS	09/19/2022-03/28/2022
	KRAUS, Kevin	Bowling Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGHS	09/19/2022-03/28/2022
CLASSIFIED RESIGNATIONS:	SAVAGE, Jeremy	IT Specialist	PTSC	10/14/2022
	CARPENTER, Kim	Teacher Aide/ Lunchroom Aide	PLE	10/18/2022
CERTIFIED LEAVE OF ABSENCES:	LICHTENBERGER, Robert	Principal – Intermittent Leave of Absence - as needed	BGMS	09/28/2022-06/30/2022
	BAIRD, Bridget	7 th Grade Reading Teacher – Intermittent Leave of Absence - as needed	BGMS	09/12/2022-Unknown
	COLE, Shelby	2 nd Grade Teacher – Leave of Absence for approximately 12 weeks	PLE	Approximately 01/24/2023-05/01/2023

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, September 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., approval of the minutes of a Special School Board Meeting held on Thursday, September 29, 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. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

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. Accept Bid for Boone Grove High School Campus Improvements and Related Work – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt said related documents are provided in the board packet regarding accepting a bid for the Boone Grove High School Campus Improvements and related work. Mr. Joseph Briggs from Gibraltar is also available to answer any questions from the board. Dr. Schmidt said after advertising for bids, six very competitive bids were received at the advertised bid meeting and evaluated. Dr. Schmidt said the responsive recommendation is for the base bid for the complete construction of the field and everything included as well as Alternate 1 and Alternate 2, which finishes the inside of the athletic building, finishes the locker room facilities inside with restrooms and finishes all of the interiors. Dr. Schmidt recommended awarding the bid to the lowest bidder, Gariup Construction Company, Gary, Indiana. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to award the bid for the Boone Grove High School Campus Improvements and related work to Gariup Construction Company, Gary, Indiana as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

B. Approve Addendum to Collective Bargaining Agreement – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said as discussed last month, we have completed collective bargaining with the Teacher Association and terms of the agreement include reviewed the following proposed changes provided in the Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement: move The starting annual base salary increased to \$46,000, a compensation plan eligible teachers will receive \$4,400 salary increase for being evaluated with a highly effective or effective evaluation rating and \$75 salary increase for experience, looking at an exchange rate for teachers with a workplace specialist certification exchanging 2 years of service to equal one year of service with this certification and increases in extra-curricular salary wages.

a. Public Comment – Dr. Wargo

Dr. Wargo opened the public meeting to hear public comment regarding the proposed addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Dr. Wargo asked for anyone wishing to make a public comment regarding the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement to come forward to speak. No requests for public comment were heard. Dr. Wargo closed the public meeting.

Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the board. Dr. Wargo asked for a motion from the board regarding the Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement as requested by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

C. Approve Administrative Compensation Increases and Contract Extensions – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt requested the board's approval of the recommendation for administrative compensation increases and administrative contract extensions for the listed administrators as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the administrative compensation increases and administrative contract extensions as listed in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

D. Approve Renewal of MOU for High School Based Dual Credit 2022-2023 with Ivy Tech – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said each year we bring a MOU to certify our teachers with a great range of dual credit course offerings for our students. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the MOU for high school based dual credit with Ivy Tech for the 2022-2023 school year as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the renewal of the MOU for high school based dual credits with Ivy Tech for the 2022-2023 school year as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

E. Adoption of Resolution #1022-277 – Resolution to Transfer Amounts from Education Fund to the Operations Fund Recurring Basis: Monthly – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith said an annual resolution has been adopted in the past to transfer funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund on a monthly recurring basis for things such as utilities and recurring expenses in the education field that cannot be paid out of the Education Fund and must be paid out the Operation Fund. Mrs. Smith said according to state statute, these transferred funds must remain under 15% and currently are under 11.9%. Additionally, Mrs. Smith requested to raise the allowed amount from \$100,000 per month to \$105,000 per month to help cover increases in utility costs. Mrs. Smith recommended adoption of Resolution #1022-277 to allow the transfer of amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund on a recurring basis as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adopt Resolution #1022-277 to allow the transfer of amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund on a monthly recurring basis as recommended by Mrs. Harlow and as provided in the board packet. Motion carried 3-0.

F. Adoption of Resolution #1022-278 – Resolution to Adjust or Reduce Budgets – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith said a resolution has been adopted in the past to allow the superintendent to grant approval to transfer funds to help reconcile appropriations and to change the appropriations for the new budget. Mrs. Smith recommended adoption of Resolution #1022-278 to adjust or reduce budgets as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to adopt Resolution #1022-278 to allow the superintendent to grant approval to adjust or reduce budgets to meet our budget as recommended by Mrs. Smith and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

G. Adoption of the 2023 Budget #1022-279–Gateway Budget Resolution, Appropriation and Tax Rates – Mrs. Smith

- a. Adoption of Education Fund
- b. Adoption of Debt Service Fund
- c. Adoption of School Pension Debt Fund
- d. Adoption of Operations Fund

Mrs. Smith recommended adoption of the 2023 Budget #1022-279 Gateway Budget Resolution, Appropriation and Tax rates as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Smith reviewed that our 2023 Budget advertised tax rate is \$1.2456, which is advertised high to gain all dollars allowed. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adopt the 2023 Budget #1022-279-Gateway Budget Resolution, appropriation and tax rates as recommended by Mrs. Smith and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

H. Adoption of Resolution #1022-280 Resolution to Adopt the 2023 Bus Replacement Fund – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith said adoption of Resolution #1022-280 allows the adoption of the 2023 Bus Replacement Fund follows the public meeting held during the last board meeting and allows a plan for our buses. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to adopt Resolution #1022-280 to adopt the 2023 Bus Replacement Fund; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

I. Adoption of Resolution #1022-281 - Resolution to Adopt the 2023 Capital Projects Fund Plan – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith said the 2023 Capital Projects Fund Plan was discussed during the last board meeting and recommended adoption of Resolution #1022-281 to adopt the 2023 Capital Projects Fund Plan as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to adopt Resolution #1022-281 to adopt the 2023 as recommended by Mrs. Smith and presented in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

J. Approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said the first reading of the 2023-2024 school calendar was approved at the last board meeting and reflects the start of the school year pushed back by one week. This month's reading includes the addition of the high school graduation date. Dr. Schmidt recommended final approval of the 2023-2024 school calendar as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the final 2023-2024 school calendar as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

K. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of the following generous donations for the district: R.H. Gabey, Jr donated \$5,000 in memory of his wife for designated high school funds as provided in the board packet; a reoccurring anonymous donor provided an additional \$500 to be used to provide school lunches to students who are in need, and Porter County Farm Bureau donated two copies of the Indiana Farm Bureau Book of the Year, "My Family's Soybean Farm," by Katie Olthoff, which is geared toward kindergarten through second grade students. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to accept the generous donations as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and as presented in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

L. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the fundraisers as provided in the board packet which include pumpkin painting for the Drama Club, popcorn sales at the high school, shirt sales and pancakes for the Sophomore Class, Culver's night for STEM Club, cookie sales for Boys' Soccer and Daddy Daughter Dance for the Key Club. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the fundraisers as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0.

M. Accept Transfer Students – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of a list of additional transfer student requests for the 2022-2023 school year and as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to accept additional transfer students as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

N. Approve Consent Agreement with LaPorte County Sheriff's Office – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish requested permission to enter into an agreement to provide an SRO from LaPorte County Sheriff's Department who lives locally. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve a consent agreement with LaPorte County Sheriff's Office as recommended by Mr. Parrish and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 3-0.

7. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish said lots of great things are happening at our schools. Mr. Parrish said Mrs. Kegebein does an outstanding job with the Book Fair at BGE which is being held this week. Mr. Parrish shared a video created by Mr. Ivanyo to show why the kids love their Book Fair so much. Additionally, Mr. Parrish presented a book to each board member which was chosen by Mrs. Kegebein in appreciation for all the Board does for the us. Mr. Parrish said, "Thank you Mrs. Kegebein for a fabulous job! We are so fortunate to have you!"

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

- Dr. Schmidt wished a Happy Birthday to the following who have upcoming birthdays: Lilann Sgouros, Cheryl Zic, Jessica Wotherspoon and Kathleen Smith
- Dr. Schmidt reported on Indiana Graduates Prepare to Succeed (GPS). The five characteristics that are core to this GPS system portrait of a graduate are: academic mastery, career and post-secondary readiness, communication and collaboration, work ethic and civic, financial, and digital literacy.
- Mrs. Sgouros announced that the community is sharing in the sadness of the passing of our longtime PTSC teacher, Mrs. Jo Roeske. Additionally, Mrs. Sgouros recently learned of the passing of another longtime Special Ed Teacher, William Strasser, who passed away in March. On a happy note, Mrs. Sgouros shared the joy of a new member in our community with the birth of Athena Welbourne's son today.

9. ADJOURNMENT 7:01 p.m.

Mrs. Harlow made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.