

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

PTSC  
BOARD APPROVED  
DATE 1-12-2023

\*\*\*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 – 6:31 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; Board Attorney, Cheryl Zic; CFO/Treasurer, Mrs. Kathleen Smith and Secretary to the Superintendent, Mrs. Linda Dusek. There was three present in the audience.

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**4. PRESENTATION: Recognition of Board Member Johanna Williams**

Dr. Schmidt gave a virtual presentation honoring Miss Johanna Williams for her 20 years of service as a member of the Board of School Trustees for Porter Township Schools. Dr. Schmidt said Miss Williams is a pillar in our community and we are so thankful for all that she has done. Miss Williams was seated on the board in 2002, has served 5 consecutive terms, helped train several superintendents and was pivotal in the development of all the programming and everything happening at PTSC during her leadership. Mr. Parrish presented Miss Williams with a floral arrangement. Additionally, Dr. Schmidt announced that Miss Williams has been pivotal in working to bring a permanent home of our Wolf Pack at BGHS. As spectators enter the new facility, they will enter through the "Pack of Honor Plaza" which will be used to honor those individuals who have given significantly in making PTSC the significant place it is today. The first Honoree Plaque to be placed on the wall of the "Pack of Honor Plaza" will be to honor Johanna Williams for her dedicated 20 years of service on the PTSC Board of School Trustees. Dr. Schmidt said this is one small token of appreciation to express our sincere thanks to Miss Williams for all she has invested in PTSC. The Board Members shared words of appreciation for Miss Williams as well.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt**

A. Personnel Report

B. Board Minutes

C. Payroll and Claim Docket

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the consent agenda consisting of payroll and claim dockets, approval of the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting held on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., approval of the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting held on Friday, November 18, 2022 at 7:30 a.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>Location</u> | <u>Effective Date</u>               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>CLASSIFIED APPOINTMENT:</b>      | AKERMAN, Melissa    | Cafeteria Operations Coordinator                                              | PTSC            | 11/17/2022                          |
| <b>CLASSIFIED POSITION CHANGE:</b>  | KEGEBEIN, Christina | Media Aide/State Reporting Coordinator-transition from part-time to full-time | BGE             | 09/22/2022                          |
| <b>CLASSIFIED ECA APPOINTMENTS:</b> | TALBERT, Jeremy     | High School Wrestling Volunteer Assistant Coach                               | BGHS            | 11/10/2022-02/27/2023               |
|                                     | MCKEE, Amanda       | Co-Elementary Student Council Sponsor                                         | BGE             | 2022-2023 School Year               |
|                                     | HAMILL, Samantha    | Co-Elementary Student Council Sponsor                                         | BGE             | 2022-2023 School Year               |
|                                     | GOETZINGER, Elise   | Drama Club Parent Volunteer                                                   | BGHS            | 2022-2023 School Year               |
| <b>CERTIFIED LEAVE OF ABSENCE:</b>  | TAUBER, Anthony     | Request for Leave of Absence for 10 days                                      | BGHS            | Approximately 12/01/2022-12/11/2022 |
| <b>CLASSIFIED RESIGNATION:</b>      | GLISK, Kimberly     | In-School Detention/Study Hall Aide                                           | BGMS            | 12/20/2022                          |

Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of payroll and claim dockets, approval of the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting held on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., approval of the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting held on Friday, November 18, 2022 at 7:30 a.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.

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs. Smith**

A. Financial Summary

B. Fund Report

Mrs. Smith referred to the Financial Summary and the Fund Report provided in the board packet and added that we have invested in four certificates of deposits through the Rainy Day Fund to capture some of the extra interest rates available. Additionally, Mrs. Smith reflected that we choose not to transfer funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund in November and December to allow these dollars back into salaries for our teachers. Our end of year transfer rate will end at 10.7%. Mrs. Smith asked for questions from the board and heard none.

## **7. BUSINESS**

### **A. Approve Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) – Mrs. Smith**

Mrs. Smith said TAG grants are stipends awarded to teachers annually based on those who receive an evaluation rating of highly effective or effective on their teacher evaluation rating. Mrs. Smith recommended approval of the TAG grant to qualifying teachers as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the TAG grant as recommended by Mrs. Smith and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 4-0.

### **B. Approve Dual Credit Supplemental Payments – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt said a list of dual credit teachers along with their total number of students is provided in the board packet. Dual credit supplemental payments are recommended for dual credit teachers due to their additional work load in working with their partnered university. A significant number of dual credit students have been added this year as some of our CTE courses are providing dual credits and the budget has been increased to provide dual credit supplemental payments for our CTE dual credit teachers as well. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the dual credit supplemental payments as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the dual credit supplemental payments as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

### **C. Approve BGHS Waste Water Treatment Plant Project Change Order #01– Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the change order #01 for the BGHS Waste Water Treatment Plant Project as provided in the board packet. Dr. Schmidt explained that the change order #01 includes lighting requirements and connection changes made as this portion of the project was phased together with the athletic stadium and additional building project. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the BGHS Waste Water Treatment Plant Project Change Order #01 as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

### **D. Approve BGHS Waste Water Treatment Plant Project Change Order #02– Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the change order #02 for the BGHS Waste Water Treatment Plant Project as provided in the board packet which includes additional pipe, concrete floor and a sloped drain. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the BGHS Waste Water Treatment Plant Project Change Order #02 as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 4-0.

### **E. Approve Revisions to 2022-2023 School Calendar – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt reported that a survey about eLearning Days was sent to the parents, students and staff after our first eLearning Day. Based upon the survey results, feedback was received from the students requesting not to provide live instruction on eLearning Days as they prefer the way eLearning Days was held previously, but they also understand that things have changed. Parents were receptive to adding additional eLearning Days. The high school staff has received PSAT results which reflected concerning areas from last year and this year. The addition of two eLearning Days was proposed to help work on this issue and to impact, affect change and provide interventions to help these scores. The first eLearning Day is proposed for Thursday, January 26 to be used to analyze the data from the Junior students and work on targeting students who need specific intervention with the exception of students in Kathy Witt's Life Skills Program. Life Skills students and CTE students will attend on campus on both of the proposed eLearning Days; transportation will be available. The second eLearning Day is proposed for Thursday, April 20 to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan and look at programmatic and systematic changes needed for next year. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of a modified 2022-2023 school calendar to reflect the two additional eLearning Days on Thursday, January 26 and Thursday, April 20 for the high school only. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the revisions to the 2022-2023 school calendar and adding two additional eLearning Days for the high school only on January 26 and April 20 as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

### **F. Approve Donations – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt gratefully requested acceptance of the following donations received:

- PTO donated over 100 books valued at \$2,340.33 to the PLE Library after the Book Fair
- Kiwanis Club of Valparaiso donated \$150 for the Key Club at BGHS
- Lyvonne Hixon donated \$250 to the STEM Club at BGHS
- Gibraltar donated \$300 to be used for PTSC staff and students
- An anonymous gave a very generous monthly donation of \$500 for the fourth consecutive month to provide student lunches for students who are in need.
- Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce donated \$1,000 to support PTSC students and staff

- Horace Mann donated \$1,500 to cover expenses for Dr. Schmidt to attend the AASA conference in February and will later give a \$500 Scholarship for a senior chosen by Dr. Schmidt.

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

#### **G. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of fundraisers as presented in the board packet for the following fundraiser requests:

- BGHS Key Club Jar Wars fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House
- The Wrestling Team fundraiser for mats and uniforms
- BGE Student Council fundraiser to raise money for the Angel Tree
- BGMS Library fundraisers for Christmas Candy Cane Grams and Valentine Sucker Grams
- Class of 2024 raffle fundraiser for the Prom
- BGMS PTO concessions for a movie night

Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve fundraisers as recommended by Dr. Schmidt and provided in the board packet; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

#### **H. Approve the Second Reading and Adoption of the following Bylaw Revisions, Board Policy Revisions and New Board Policy: Revised Bylaw #0131.1-Bylaws and Policies; Revised Bylaw #0142.2-Oath; Revised Board Policy #1521-Personal Background Checks, References, and Mandatory Reporting of Convictions and Substantiated Child Abuse and Arrests; Revised Board Policy #2431-Interscholastic Athletics; Revised Board Policy #2464-Programs for High Ability Students; Revised Board Policy #3120.11-Public Hearing Before Commencement of Collective Bargaining and Public Meeting Before Ratification of Tentative Agreement; Revised Board Policy #3121-Personal Background Checks, References, and Mandatory Reporting of Convictions and Substantiated Child Abuse and Arrests; Revised Board Policy #4121-Personal Background Checks, References, and Mandatory Reporting of Convictions and Substantiated Child Abuse and Arrests; Revised Board Policy #5610-Suspension and Expulsion of Students; Revised Board Policy #6250-Required ADM Counts for the Purpose of State Funding and Verification of Residency for Membership; Revised Board Policy #6550-Travel Payment and Reimbursement; Revised Board Policy #8120-Volunteers; Revised Board Policy #8121-Personal Background Check-Contracted Services; New Board Policy #8220-School Day; Revised Board Policy #8400-School Safety; Revised Board Policy #8510-Wellness; Revised Board Policy #8600-Transportation and Revised Board Policy #9150-School Visitors-Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the second reading and adoption of the bylaw revisions, a new board policy and board policy revisions as listed on the agenda and as provided in the board packet. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of the bylaw revisions, a new board policy and board policy revisions as listed on the agenda and as provided in the board packet and to waive the readings; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

#### **8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt**

- Dr. Schmidt wished a Happy Birthday to Mr. Busse and Mrs. Chavez who both have upcoming birthdays.
- Dr. Schmidt gave a presentation on the Waste Water Plant Project and shared pictures of the progress.
- Porter County Education Services: We voted on a resolution on Tuesday to restructure our special education instructional staff for the 2023-2024. We have the opportunity to hire our own PTSC special education teachers and paraprofessionals as PTSC employees. Prior to this vote we had already met with our PCES staff and our teachers' association. We were prepared to offer letters to PCES teachers on Wednesday morning, several have already responded and are completing employment paperwork. Recommendations can be expected at the January and February board meetings. Paraprofessionals were called in today to discuss the process and to offer letters as well. In addition to securing our staff, we have work to do with placement of students, case conference design, programmatic work, work on inclusion with our general education teachers and how we are offering programming with our students with special needs and work in building a team with our staff and our parents. Dr. Schmidt said she is excited! This is the day that we are going to grow stronger!
- Dr. Schmidt discussed House Enrolled Act 1251, in which Indiana identified eight skills and traits for students to be successful and how they show up in our standards and employability skills. The new GPS system is about to be released publicly. The change that came out recently is that now they are looking at all standards with the goal to streamline all standards by 25% and have a new prioritized Indiana academic standard with a timeline by the fall along with plans to approve the new reduced standards in June.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT – 7:01 P.M.**

Mrs. Chavez made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

