

**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 Mr. Eric McGinty; Mrs. Lilann Sgouros 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 – None**

4. **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

A. Swearing in Board Members

Board Attorney Cheryl Zic swore in the following newly elected board members: Mrs. Laura Chavez in the District 3 seat; Mrs. Mary Harlow in the District 1 seat; and Mr. Eric McGinty in the At-Large Seat.

B. 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. Chavez. 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. Harlow made a motion to appoint Mrs. Lilann Sgouros as Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees; seconded by Mr. McGinty; Motion carried 4-0.

3. Secretary

Dr. Wargo asked for a motion from the Board for Secretary of the Board of School Trustees. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to appoint Mrs. Laura Chavez as Secretary of the Board of School Trustees; seconded by Mr. McGinty; Motion carried 4-0.

C. 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. Harlow made a motion for the annual stipend for board compensation for 2023 to remain as status quo; seconded by Mr. McGinty. Motion carried 4-0.

D. 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. 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. and Executive Sessions will be advertised as needed; seconded by Mr. McGinty. Motion carried 4-0.

E. Appointment of Corporation Treasurer

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

F. 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. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

G. 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. Harlow made a motion to retain the services of Christ, Sears and Zic as legal representation with compensation as status quo; seconded by Mr. McGinty. Motion carried 4-0.

H. Disclosure Statements

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

6. CONSENT AGENDA – Mrs. Smith**A. Personnel Report****B. Board Minutes****C. Payroll and Claim Dockets**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the consent agenda consisting of payroll and claims dockets, approval of the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting held on Thursday, December 8, 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:

CERTIFIED APPOINTMENT:	DEXTER, Laura	Special Education Teacher	PTSC	08/14/2023
	GEORGION, Angela	Special Education Teacher	PTSC	08/14/2023
	HAMPTON, Kathryn	Special Education Teacher	PTSC	08/14/2023
	HUNDT, Megan	Special Education Teacher	PTSC	08/14/2023
	KAMINSKI, Beth	Special Education Teacher	PTSC	08/14/2023
	KENNEDY, Heather	Special Education Teacher	PTSC	08/14/2023
	WITT, Kathy	Special Education Teacher	PTSC	08/14/2023
	WOTHERSPOON, Kelley	Special Education Teacher	PTSC	08/14/2023
CLASSIFIED APPOINTMENT:	SPICKNALL, Michael	IT Specialist	BGHS	01/03/2023
	WARGO, Jason	Study Hall and Lunch Detention Supervisor	BGMS	01/17/2023
	BUEHRER, Melissa	Special Education Paraprofessional	PTSC	08/16/2023
	CANNON, Karin	Special Education Paraprofessional	PTSC	08/16/2023
	KELDENICH, Toni	Special Education Paraprofessional	PTSC	08/16/2023
	KOZLOWSKI, Jean	Special Education Paraprofessional	PTSC	08/16/2023
	RISTEVSKI, Tanja	Special Education Paraprofessional	PTSC	08/16/2023
	SHEPARD, Samantha	Special Education Paraprofessional	PTSC	08/16/2023
CERTIFIED TEMPORARY POSITION:	O'HEARN, Meghan	Temporary Second Grade Teacher	PLE	01/23/2023-04/30/2023 (Approximately)
CERTIFIED ECA APPOINTMENTS:	RYZEWSKI, Hannah	6 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	BGMS	01/05/2023-03/03/2023
	KRAUS, Kelly	8 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	BGMS	01/05/2023-03/08/2023
CLASSIFIED ECA APPOINTMENTS:	SACO, Melissa	7 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	BGMS	01/05/2023-03/09/2023
	STEINHILBER, John	Varsity Baseball Volunteer Assistant Coach	BGHS	03/13/2023-06/17/2023
	TABORSKI, Michael	Middle School Wrestling Coach	BGMS	01/09/2023-02/25/2023
CERTIFIED REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE & UNPAID DAYS:	BAIRD, Bridget	7 th Grade Reading Teacher - Request for Leave of Absence and up to 45 Unpaid Days	BGMS	12/14/2022-01/31/2023
	HECKLER, Wendi	Second Grade Teacher – Request for three (3) unpaid Leave of Absence Days	PLE	04/26/2023-04/28/2023
CLASSIFIED REQUEST FOR ONE UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE	RAINFORD, Shelley	Teacher Aide – Request for one (1) unpaid Leave of Absence Day	PLE	01/23/2023
CERTIFIED RETIREMENT REQUEST	BUFORD, Glen	Culinary Arts Instructor	BGHS	End of 2022-2023 School Year

Mrs. Chavez 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 8, 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 Mr. McGinty. Motion carried 4-0 with Dr. Wargo abstaining from only the hiring of Jason Wargo who is named in the personnel report.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT**A. Financial Summary****B. Fund Report****C. Investment Report**

Mrs. Smith referred to her financial summary, fund report and investment report provided in the board packet. Mrs. Smith pointed out that since December 30 we were able to expend the majority of our appropriations at 98% and the Education to Operations transfer ended up at 10.67, which must be under 15% and the percentage of certified salary related to state funding is targeting at 46.69.

7. BUSINESS**A. Approve Gariup Construction Co., Inc. Contract for the Boone Grove High School Campus Improvements Project – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Gariup Construction Company, Inc. contract for the Boone Grove High School Campus Improvements Project as presented in the board packet. Mrs. Harlow made a motion to approve the Gariup Construction Company, Inc. contract for the Boone Grove High School Campus Improvements Project as presented in the board packet and recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Approve BGHS Waste Water Treatment Plant Project Change Order #03– Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the BGHS Waste Water Treatment Plant Project Change Order #03 to accommodate a required change during the control panel placement. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the BGHS Waste Water Treatment Plant Project Change Order #03 to accommodate a required change during the control panel placement as requested by Dr. Schmidt and as provided in the board packet; seconded by Mr. McGinty. Motion carried 4-0.

C. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of the following donations as listed in the board packet:

- A donation from two anonymous donors for PTSC Food Service - Feed It Forward Program totaling in the amount of \$30.00.
- A donation from Kankakee Valley REMC in the amount of \$775.91 to be used for the support of PTSC students and staff.
- A fifth consecutive anonymous donation of \$500.00 to provide student lunches for those who are in need.
- An anonymous donation in the amount of \$1,000 to be used for the support of PTSC students and staff.

Mrs. Harlow made a motion to accept the donations as presented in the board packet and as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mr. McGinty. Motion carried 4-0.

D. Approve Two Overnight Field Trip Requests for Boone Grove High School – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the following overnight field trip requests for Boone Grove High School:

- Overnight field trip for the Key Club to attend their District Leadership Conference in Indianapolis February 24-26, 2023.
- Overnight field trip for the BGHS Theater Troupe to attend their State Conference at St. Mary's College at Notre Dame from January 20-22, 2023.

Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the overnight field trip requests for Boone Grove High School as requested by Dr. Schmidt and as 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 listed in the board packet. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the fundraisers as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0.

F. ESSER Report – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt gave a presentation on the updated Continue to Learn Plan which we will continue to review every 6 months. This report will also be published on the district's webpage. PTSC will continue to maintain clean and safe facilities as always.

8. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish discussed the following news from each building:

BGHS:

- PCC Boys and Girls Basketball PCC Tournaments next week, which will be the 100th PCC Boys Basketball Tournament. The Girls Basketball team won five of their last six games.
- The Wrestling team had a great senior night last night and has a conference meet this Saturday at Hanover Central.
- The Drama Team started auditions for the upcoming spring play, Rock of Ages.
- Mr. Parrish congratulated Mr. William Fortenberry for being named as Teacher of the Month at BGHS!

PLE:

- PLE is excited to start their Good Character Program. Mr. Parrish thanked Mrs. Hinchley for her leadership with the program

BGE:

- Polar Express Evening was a great experience. Special thanks to the PTO, the high school students and to all others who helped out that evening!
- Hot Wheels Racing Tournament organized by Mrs. Kegebein was also a huge success! Special thanks to Mrs. Kegebein and all involved in helping with this event loved by the kids!
- The Science Bowl Team competes at the end of this month. Special thanks to Mrs. Rippe for her hard work!

BGMS:

- Boys Basketball teams finished with runner-up in the PCC tournaments.
- The Girls Basketball and Coed Wrestling seasons have begun.
- Academic Superbowl practice has begun.
- Kudos to Mr. Belleville and Mrs. Welbourne for an excellent job with the band and choir holiday programs.

9. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

- Dr. Schmidt also congratulated Mr. Fortenberry for being an engaging teacher who the kids love.
- **PCES:** We started hiring Special Education Teachers and Paraprofessionals some who are presented in the Personnel Report tonight and others will follow at the February Meeting.
- **PCES Restructure Work Continues:** We have been waiting for financial analysis from a consultant and we received this information today. Dr. Schmidt promised to provide progress reports as work continues.
- **Parent Advisory Council:** Area Superintends recently held a listening session for the community at Valpo HS with a lot of public input. One of the parents said they are interested in forming a Parent Advisory Council which would consist of parents, school leaders and staff members who look at systemic kinds of issues to improve the classroom atmosphere and experiences for better student outcomes. Dr. Schmidt said she is excited to continue to learn more about this possibility.
- **Porter County Education Foundation:** Retired educators, Terry Tafflinger, Mary Beth Brown and Ivan Pierce have been passionate about working to get a Porter County Education Foundation active again. The team has been meeting with other Education Directors and gathering information to get the Foundation off the ground.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 7:08 p.m.

Mrs. Chavez made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Harlow. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.