

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees  
September 14, 2023 | 5:00 pm CST

Board Members Present: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Lilann Sgouros, Mary Harlow

Board Members Absent: Laura Chavez, Eric McGinty

Staff Members Present: Dr. Stacey Schmidt, Superintendent, Ben Parrish, Assistant Superintendent, Kathleen Smith, CFO, Laura Scott, Executive Assistant, Angela Vale, Deputy Treasurer, and Cheryl Zic, Attorney

There were no community members in attendance.

1. **Call to Order – Dr. Natalie Wargo, President, 5:00 pm CST**
  - A. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – Dr. Stacey Schmidt | There were no agenda adjustments**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT | There were no public comments**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt**
  - A. **Personnel Report**
  - B. **Board Minutes, 8.10.23 meeting**
  - C. **Payroll and Claim Dockets**



Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the items on the consent agenda as presented in the board packet. A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. The motion carried 3-0.

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs. Kathleen Smith**
  - A. **Financial Report**
  - B. **Fund Report**
  - C. **Investment Report**
  - D. **Monthly Fund Transfer Report**
6. **BUSINESS**
  - A. **Public Hearing for 2024 Budget – Mrs. Smith**
    1. **Hearing for 2024 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 opened the hearing for the 2024 budget. The board will take action to approve the 2024 budget at the board meeting on October 12, 2023. The budget has been developed based upon the rules associated with each fund:

The Education fund includes payment of expenses that are allocated to student instruction and learning under the code. Revenue tuition support and expenses, such as teacher and building administrator salaries and fringe benefits, special programs, classroom supplies and equipment, educational media services, extra-curriculars, and special education.

The Debt Service and School Pension Debt funds are based upon the actual debt within the fund.

The Operations fund includes transportation, bus replacement, capital projects, and operational (business office, HR, utilities, custodial, maintenance, property insurance, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent and SRO's

The overall tax rate being advertised for all funds this year is 1.2215. Our approved tax rate for 2023 in all funds was .9674, much lower than advertised. Our goal has been to consistently try to keep our tax rate level for our local taxpayers. We have managed to do this, all while adding a new sports complex. Mrs. Smith opened the hearing for public comment. Hearing none, she closed the public comment section and the hearing on the 2024 budget was closed.

## **2. Hearing of 2024 Proposed Bus Replacement Plan**

Mrs. Smith opened the public hearing for the 2024 proposed bus replacement plan. The budget advertised represents a plan that has been developed to meet the needs of the fleet we own. The plan is based upon the statutory allowable 12-year bus replacement cycle. In 2024 we anticipate replacing one 60-passenger bus with lift.

## **3. Hearing of 2024 Proposed Capital Projects**

Mrs. Smith opened the public hearing for the 2024 proposed capital projects plan. This plan was developed through observation, review of facilities, and evaluation of facility need. Over the next 3 years we have planned: classroom carpet at BGE, classroom renovations, carpet, stage repairs, and sports facility maintenance at BGMS, library and hallway carpet, stage renovations, locker rooms, parking lot, multipurpose building, and continuing improvements to the athletic field at BGHS, carpet at Central Office, replace a batwing and standard lawn mower, and a storage building for athletic storage. The board had no questions and Mrs. Smith opened the hearing for public comment. Hearing none, she closed the public comment section and the hearing on the 2024 proposed capital projects plan was closed.

## **B. Approve Additional 2023-2024 Transfer Students – Dr. Schmidt**

There is a list of students in the board packet who have applied for transfer student status, having met all of the qualifications, Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of the transfer students for the 2023-2024 school year. A motion to accept the transfer students was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

## **C. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of the generous donations listed in the board packet. A motion to accept was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

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

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the slew of fundraisers listed in the board packet. A motion to accept the fundraisers was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

## **E. Approve Overnight Field Trips – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of two overnight field trips: one for Natural Helpers and the other for Key Club. A motion to accept the overnight field trips was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

**F. Recognition of the Following Clubs and Organizations for the 2023-2024 School Year – Dr. Schmidt**

- 1. BGMS PTO**
- 2. Porter Township PTO**
- 3. Education Foundation of Porter Township School Corporation**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the above clubs and organizations. The two PTO's are repeats, but the Education Foundation of PTSC is new this year. The Foundation, led by Terry Tafflinger, is, excitedly, ready to go. A motion to accept these clubs and organizations was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

**G. Approve Porter County Community Foundation Agreement – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of this agreement with PCCF. We have accounts with PCCF that have scholarship dollars, as well as dollars that were raised for the Education Foundation, even before we had one up and running. Dr. Schmidt provided each board member with an account statement showing these endowed funds. Now that the Education Foundation is up and running with a mission and a vision to support PTSC teachers and student, we would like to combine these accounts and move them to the Education Foundation of PTSC. The purpose of providing student scholarships remains the same, with a future goal of offering teacher grants. A motion to approve this agreement was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. The motion carried 3-0.

**H. Approve the Following Agreements – Dr. Schmidt**

- 1. Administrator Assistance**
- 2. Boyce Systems/Komputrol Renewal**
- 3. University of Kentucky Partnership**
- 4. Gibraltar Design Letter of Intent**

Dr. Schmidt briefly outlined each agreement that is detailed in the board packet., which are required to go through the Board. A motion to approve the agreements was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

**I. Recommendation for Employment of Candidate (Case #0001-2023) IC: 20-26-5-11.2 – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish explained that this is an agenda item the board is seeing for the first time, as this is a new state statute that took effect in July 2023. The statute states that any candidate being considered for employment who has been convicted of a specific offence must be approved by the school board. The offence in this case occurred in 1999 (over 30 years ago) and was OWI, operating while intoxicated, by a member of our Middle School football staff. The individual has had no other offences on their record since. They do not drive a corporation vehicle, nor do they transport students. Due to this, Mr. Parrish recommended the board approve this individual for employment. A motion to approve employment was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

**J. Approve the First Reading of the Following New Board Bylaws, Board Bylaw Revisions, New Board Policies, or Board Policy Revisions – Mr. Parrish**

- 1. Revised Policy #1521 – Personal Background Checks, References, and Mandatory Reporting of Convictions and Substantiated Child Abuse and Arrests**
- 2. Revised Policy #2221 – Mandatory Curriculum**
- 3. Revised Policy #2414 – Reproductive Health and Family Planning and Human Sexuality Instruction**
- 4. Revised Policy #2416 – Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information**
- 5. Revised Policy #2510 – Adoption of Curricular Materials**
- 6. New Policy #2520 – Special Update, July 2023 – Selection of Curricular Materials, Library Materials, and Equipment**
- 7. Revised Policy #3121 – Personal Background Checks, References, and Mandatory Reporting of Convictions and Substantiated Child Abuse and Arrests**
- 8. Revised Policy #4121 - Personal Background Checks, References, and Mandatory Reporting of Convictions and Substantiated Child Abuse and Arrests**
- 9. Revised Policy #6152 – Student Fees and Charges**
- 10. Revised Policy #9130 – Public Complaints and Concerns**
- 11. Revised Policy #9700 – Relations with Special Interest Groups**

Mr. Parrish recommended that the board approve the first reading of the above new board bylaws, board bylaw revisions, new board policies, or board policy revisions. A motion to accept the first reading was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

**7. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish provided a quick update from each building – notable achievements include:

- BGMS girls' softball team making it to the PCC Championship for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row,
- A Mindset Convocation hosted by BGE/BGMS with artist Dwayne Abel, creator of the comic strip ZED. The convocation was centered on 4 key ideas: work, study, learn, try, and was very successful.
- The band has re-established a marching band program and had a great first-appearance at the Popcorn Festival parade...congrats to them, they've been working hard!
- 6 students have been awarded National Recognition by College Board: Aiden Pfeiffer, Juliana Dominguez, Justin Hoover, Leah Nicolo, Mark Johnson, Mohammed Shavon – congrats!

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

- Dr. Schmidt gave a construction update on progress at the new Athletic Complex
- Dr. Schmidt provided an update on iRead testing at Porter Lakes Elementary – our 3rd graders had a 95.1% pass-rate...way to go!
- Dr. Schmidt provided the Board with 3 presentations from the State Board of Education regarding redesigning High School Today (diploma and graduation requirements and after graduation readiness)

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made at 5:30 by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. The motion carried 3-0.