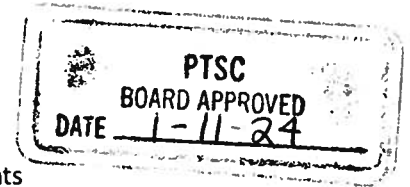


Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees
December 14, 2023 | 5:00 pm CST

Board Members Present: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Lilann Sgouros, Mary Harlow, Eric McGinty, and Jeannette Skibbie
Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Dr. Stacey Schmidt, Superintendent, Ben Parrish, Assistant Superintendent, Laura Scott, Executive Assistant, Cheryl Zic, Corporation Attorney, and SRO Steven Leonard

There were no community members in attendance.



1. **CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Natalie Wargo, President, 5:01 pm**

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Welcome Visitors

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

1. 11.9.23 Regular Board Meeting

2. 11.9.23 Work Session

3. 11.9.23 Special School Board Meeting

C. Payroll and Claim Dockets

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the consent agenda as presented in the board packet. A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Lilann Sgouros.

There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT – Dr. Schmidt**

A. Financial Report

B. Fund Report

C. Investment Report

D. Monthly Fund Transfer Report

6. **BUSINESS**

A. **Gibraltar Design – District-Wide Facility Assessment & Feasibility Study**

Jim Thompson from Gibraltar Design presented updated summary findings on District assets and answered questions from the Board. Their next steps include building walk-throughs with building admin and district-wide anonymous surveys. Gibraltar will return with another update in February 2024.

B. **ESSER Update – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt presented an update on our ESSER funds: ESSER I money has been expended for a while and this grant is complete. We have now also spent out ESSER II – having spent roughly \$67,000 in STEM materials for all of our buildings at the end of the summer. All teachers were invited to submit grants for desired materials to support STEM education in their classrooms. We are continuing to spend out ESSER III dollars - recently, we spent \$20,000.00 in special education curriculum. At the High School level, the Lifeskills classes were in need of refreshed materials in math and language arts. Our floating substitutes and certain cleaning supplies are also supported by these dollars. We have dollars left to spend and it is a goal to continue supporting professional development in iLearn at BGE and BGMS, the SAT at BGHS, and curriculum and instruction work this summer. We are also working with the Facilities Department

for ways we can spend dollars that fit into ESSER. When ESSER runs out, Dr. Schmidt would like to look in our Education Fund to see how we can continue to support our buildings by keeping our Floating Substitutes, as they've been essential to success.

C. Approve Revision to 2023-2024 School Calendar (May 2024 e-Learning Day) – Dr. Schmidt

After the November e-Learning day, the elementary administrators questioned whether or not e-Learning (at home) is the best instruction for their students. It was also discovered that there was an inconsistency with Lifeskills classes – some were at home, some were in person. This revision will have middle and high school students doing e-Learning on May 7, 2024, while K-5 and Lifeskills students will have in-person learning. A motion to approve this revision was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

D. Approve the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Calendars – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the 2nd readings of the 24-25 and 25-26 School Calendars. A motion to approve these calendars was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

E. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of 2 fundraisers as presented in the board packet. A motion to approve fundraisers was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

F. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of a donation of books to the Porter Lakes Elementary Library from the PTO as a result of their book fair. A motion to accept this donation was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

G. Accept Transfer Students for the remainder of the 2023-2024 School Year – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended 3 transfer students for approval, as detailed in the board packet. A motion to accept transfer students was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

H. Approve Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) – Dr. Schmidt

Every year, the State has awarded a Teacher Appreciation Grant, and the board has approved a policy for how to distribute that. The spreadsheet presented in the board packet shows awards based on that policy and Dr. Schmidt recommends this for approval. A motion to approve the TAG was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

7. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Building updates:

BGE:

- PTO sponsored a Secret Santa Workshop that was a huge success – thanks to the National Honor Society students and the staff for the help with that event
- This week is their highly anticipated Hot-Wheels race

BGHS:

- Ian Wargo attended a swim meet at Wheeler HS and set the pool record for the 100M breaststroke – congrats!
- The winter band concert took place on Monday. They were accompanied by vocalist Jack Lucas. Great job by all!
- Staff is working with Khanmigo AI for tutoring for the SAT, developing lessons and brainstorming for other possible uses
- Girls' basketball had their first win of the year on Tuesday against North Newton
- Madrigal will be this week Saturday and Sunday

PLE:

- Had another successful Thanksgiving food drive
- Their winter program was held on December 6th – thanks to Mrs. Hinchley for all of her hard work

BGMS:

- 6th grade boys' basketball finished 2nd in the PCC tournament – a great season!
- 7th grade boys' basketball lost in a close match to finish their season
- 8th grade boys' basketball will take on Kouts this week to close their season
- Girls' basketball and wrestling will begin after we return from winter break
- NWEA testing is finishing up – teachers will use that data to help guide remediation and prep for iLearn.
- Mrs. Draves and Mrs. Roelfs have started an after-school homework help program. Kids are getting 1:1 time and small group instruction
- Band winter concert was this week – kids were awesome, thanks Mr. Belleville!
- Choir concert will be held next week
- Wolf Pride event will be held on the last day before break – let's finish the year with some serious school spirit!

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

- Dr. Schmidt honored corporation attorney Cheryl Zic for her 24 years of service to Porter Township School Corporation and wished her all the best on her upcoming retirement.
- Dr. Schmidt provided a construction update – our athletic building finally has heat. Locker installation is happening, ceiling tiles are being dropped in, the concession stand roll-up door is being installed, and the drywall is being mudded. The retaining wall is close to being completed.
- Dr. Schmidt shared some lessons and thoughts from her recent Superintendent's conference and asked the Board to ponder "what is learning?"

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:08 pm by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. The motion carried 5-0.