

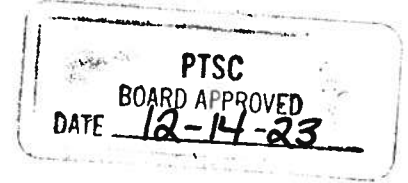
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees
November 9, 2023 | 5:00 pm CST

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Dr. Stacey Schmidt, Superintendent, Ben Parrish, Assistant Superintendent, Kathleen Smith, CFO, Laura Scott, Executive Assistant, and SRO Nicholas Roth

There were four (4) community members in attendance.



1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Dr. Natalie Wargo, 5:02 pm
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Welcome Visitors
2. **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS** – Dr. Stacey Schmidt | there was 1 agenda adjustment, adding business item 6I – NITCO Lease Agreement
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** | There were no public comments
4. **CONSENT AGENDA** – Dr. Schmidt
 - A. Personnel Report

Dr. Schmidt mentioned that there is one new aspect to our Personnel Report – School Safety Specialists are now included and will be approved annually. A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

- B. Board Minutes, 10.12.23 Board Meeting
 - C. Payroll and Claim Dockets
5. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – Mrs. Kathleen Smith
 - A. Financial Report
 - B. Fund Report
 - C. Investment Report

6. **BUSINESS**

A. **Update on Board Vacancy & Outline Process to Fill Position** – Dr. Schmidt

Since our last meeting, board member Laura Chavez has moved out of Porter Township and, sadly, had to resign her position. This opened a position within District 3, which was posted on our website and we have received two interested applicants. We will have a public work session after this meeting to interview both candidates. An executive session will follow, to discuss strengths and weaknesses of each candidate. We will then have a special board meeting to swear in our new board member.

B. **Appointment of Board Secretary & Alternate Board Secretary** – Dr. Schmidt

With the resignation of our Secretary, Laura Chavez, we have an opening for that position. We've decided to appoint an acting Secretary, as well. Lilann Sgouros made a motion for Mary Harlow to be board Secretary and Eric McGinty to be alternate Secretary. Eric McGinty seconded this motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

C. **Approve the Following Clubs and Organizations for the 2023-2024 School Year** – Dr. Schmidt

1. Boone Grove Wrestling Booster Club

Dr. Schmidt is thrilled to have this support organization for our students and wrestlers, and recommended this Booster Club for approval. A motion to approve this club was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

D. **Approve the First Reading of the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Calendars** – Dr. Schmidt

In the spirit of transparency, Dr. Schmidt shared that there will be a revision to these next month – the High School is proposing a change to their conference dates...minor revisions to come. There was some discussion regarding school breaks across Porter County. A motion to approve the first readings of the 24-25 and 25-26 school calendars was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. The motion carried 4-0.

E. Approve Supplemental Pay – Dr. Schmidt

In conversations with teachers, a few areas have come to light regarding teacher pay. In order to differentiate pay, we can do a supplemental payment to those who have chosen to further their education by obtaining a Master's degree. There is a list of 10 teachers in the board packet who had a differentiation less than \$3,500.00. We are asking to make a supplemental payment to bring their salaries up to a \$3,500 differentiation. This amount will be added to their base salary, so starting with next school year it will be built in. The supplemental payments vary per teacher. A motion to approve this supplemental pay was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

F. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Boys Soccer Team's fundraiser to sell chocolate chip cookies at basketball games. A motion to accept the fundraiser was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

G. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

We're grateful for donations to our Feed it Forward program from Boone Grove Christian Church and our BGE PTO, who made a donation to BGE in the form of Scholastic Dollars, which benefited our classrooms greatly. A motion to accept these donations was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

H. Recommendation for Employment of Candidate (Case #0003-2023) IC: 20-26-5-11.2 – Mr. Parrish

As a reminder, in July of 2023, State law began requiring board approval for individuals with any offence on their background search from a list of 9 offences. This candidate has applied for a MS coaching position and has an OWI from 2010. They will not be driving students. We believe this candidate would be a good hire and recommend board approval. A motion to approve the employee was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

I. NITCO Agreement – Dr. Schmidt

Years ago, NITCO approached us about utilizing some of our property at the Complex. Their goal was to build a tower to increase access in this area, which is great for our families. The land, for us, is unused, and we determined that this was a good idea, so we executed a lease agreement with NITCO. The lease specified payment for that land, their access, and they would be able to construct a tower. The process with the County took a few years and, in the end, did not work out for NITCO, so the agreement was closed out. NITCO came back a few months ago and said things were ready to go. They asked if we were still willing to enter into a lease agreement. Ms. Zic has been working very hard with the NITCO attorney to update the terms of the lease. The only change to the agreement was to what we will receive in payment. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval for this agreement. A motion to approve was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

7. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Quick building updates:

- BGHS – Athletic Awards are this evening | Drama Club debuts Jekyll & Hyde this weekend | They're applying their new program called KhanMigo | Staff did a great job analyzing PSAT data

with a specific eye on SAT, happening in March | Dean Hill is teacher of the month, as voted by BGHS students | Art teacher Sheryl Loving has entered 3 students at the IUN bi-annual high school exhibition.

- BGE/BGMS – October 16-20 was Red Ribbon Week | Spell Bowl is Nov 13th at Knox, good luck! | BGMS Football Team closed out their season at the new field | good turnout for P/T Conferences | eLearning was a success | teachers participated in a PD focused on integrating their 2023 standards into their curriculum with an emphasis on vertical alignment | Tomorrow is their Veteran’s Day program and Walk-A-Thon
- PLE – 98.5% attendance rate at P/T Conferences | Red Ribbon week was 10/30 through 11/3 – thanks to Mrs. Kassner and the PTO for making that week a success | Their annual Thanksgiving food drive will be next week Nov 13-17 and their pie throw will be Tuesday, Nov 21

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

- We brought in a consultant, Dr. Michele Grewe, who worked with both BGE and BGMS in what they’re doing for their scope and sequence curriculum documents for their standards. Feedback from teachers is excellent. We’ve also heard great things about Khan Academy and KhanMigo, which the students will see soon.
- NIPSCO will be here (hopefully tomorrow) to see where they’re going to drill the line out to our new building. We don’t have heat yet, which is holding up some things.
- Today, Dr. Schmidt had the opportunity to go out to the MAC Center for a non-traditional employment workshop for girls. There were roughly 300 8th grade girls in attendance. There were female presenters from various professions that are non-traditional for females. It was great to connect with the kids – speakers and presenters were great and kids were excited.
- Dr. Schmidt challenged her teachers to share stories of students that might not normally be celebrated. The response was tremendous and Dr. Schmidt is excited to celebrate those students and encourage them on their journey.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 5:25 pm by Mary Harlow, seconded by Eric McGinty. The motion carried 4-0.