

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees
January 11, 2024 | 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, Kathleen Smith, CFO, Angela Vale, Deputy Treasurer, Laura Scott, Executive Assistant, Jackie Pillar, Corporation Attorney, Clay Corman, BGHS Principal, and Ivette Westerman, BGHS Teacher

There were 4 students in attendance. There were no community members in attendance.

1. **CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Natalie Wargo, President, 5:02 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. **PRESENTATION – BGHS Key Club**



BGHS Students Lea Nikolov, Mallory Stange, and Juliana Dominguez shared about Key Club, which is an international student-led community service organization. Key Club strives to teach leadership through service and collaborative events. In 4 years, their membership has grown 525%. Projects that they've participated in include: Special Olympics bowling tournament, Lakeshore Paws, PTO activities, Gabis Arboretum, and making fleece blankets for local warming centers. In addition to service activities, Key Club members attend conferences and mixers, which help to expand their own personal networks and enhance their leadership skills.

5. **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

A. **Election of Officers – Board President**

President - Mary Harlow made a motion to nominate Natalie Wargo as School Board President, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

Vice-President - Lilann Sgouros nominated Eric McGinty as Vice-President, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

Secretary – Eric McGinty nominated Mary Harlow as Secretary, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

B. **Determination of Member Compensation – Board President**

Mary Harlow made a motion that member compensation remain the same. The motion was seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

C. **Determination of Meeting Dates & Times – Board President**

Eric McGinty made a motion to change the meeting time to 5:30 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The motion was seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

D. **Appointment of Corporation Treasurer – Board President**

Lilann Sgouros made a motion to appoint Kathleen Smith as Corporation Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

E. **Appointment of Corporation Deputy Treasurer – Board President**

Lilann Sgouros made a motion to nominate Angela Vale as Corporation Deputy Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

F. **Appointment of Board Attorney – Board President**

Lilann Sgouros made a motion to appoint Crist, Sears, and Zic as Board Attorney, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. Dr. Schmidt welcomed Jackie Pillar. The motion carried 5-0.

G. Disclosure Statements – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the disclosure statement presented in the board packet. Eric McGinty made a motion to accept the disclosure statement, seconded by Mary Harlow. Natalie Wargo abstained from voting and the motion carried 4-0.

6. CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt

A. Personnel Report

B. Board Minutes, 12.14.23 Regular 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 was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. Mary Harlow abstained from voting and the motion carried 4-0.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs. Kathleen Smith

A. Financial Report

B. Fund Report

C. Investment Report

8. BUSINESS

A. Approve Alarm Monitoring Contracts with Communication Co., Inc. – Dr. Schmidt

We are aligning all of our alarm monitoring with 1 company – we hope to see some cost reduction and address inconsistencies. A motion to approve these contracts was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

B. Approve Revisions to 2024-2025 School Calendar – Dr. Schmidt

We have made a revision to the calendar – the Wednesday before Thanksgiving should have been marked as a day off. A motion to approve this revision was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

C. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

We are thankful for an anonymous donation to our Feed it Forward program. Eric McGinty made a motion to accept this donation, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

D. Approve Overnight Field Trips – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of Key Club’s District Leadership Convention in March in Indianapolis. Mary Harlow made a motion to approve this overnight field trip, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

9. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish gave a brief update from Boone Grove Elementary: Students enjoyed a movie night before the break, a Parent Night will be held on January 18th, and the Science Team is competing on January 23rd...good luck to the team and coach Mrs. Rippe. Their Student of the Month breakfast will take place on January 25th.

Mr. Corman shared an update from Boone Grove High School: Kudos to Mrs. Westerman! She puts in countless hours mentoring the Key Club and is a great model for kids. Mallery Stanage, who presented with the Key Club, is BGHS’ Valedictorian and Kam Dixon is Salutatorian. Laura Dexter is Teacher of the Month, as voted by students. They’ve been very excited about having Khan Academy and Khanmigo –

the impact of AI in schools has been fascinating. The small gym has received new stage lighting, which is very cool (because the old lights were very hot...)

10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt highlighted a blood drive. The Education Foundation is offering scholarship money based on how many pints we collect. She thanked the Board for all that they do, as it is Board Appreciation Month! Our graduation rate at BGHS went up to 97.5% - great job to them! We are watching the weather reports closely for tomorrow...Dr. Schmidt will make a call based on tomorrow morning's next weather update.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mary Harlow made a motion to adjourn at 5:38 pm, seconded by Eric McGinty. The motion carried 5-0.