

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees
May 9, 2024 | 5:30 pm CST

**The following is a partial transcript of the meeting. A recording of the actual meeting is available at Central 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.*

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Dr. Stacey Schmidt, Superintendent, Ben Parrish, Assistant Superintendent, Linda Bult, HR & Benefits Coordinator, Laura Scott, Executive Assistant, and Jackie Pillar, Corporation Attorney

There were approximately 57 community members in attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Natalie Wargo, President, 5:30 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. PRESENTATIONS

A. Education Foundation of Porter Township School Corporation Scholarship Awards – Terry Tafflinger, Education Foundation of Porter Township School Corporation President

1. Steve Tafflinger Memorial Scholarship

Kaden Costa

2. Suzi Peterson Honorable Memorial Scholarship

Kaden Costa

3. Business Scholarships

Kamryn Corman

Jack Lukas

Ian Wilson

4. Health Services Scholarships

Mariah Atteberry

Caden Harretos

Tyler Torbeson

5. STEM Scholarships

Austin Guerrero

Drew Jeffries

Muhammad Shaaban

Mallory Stanage

Dr. Schmidt and the Board of School Trustees presented scholarship awards

B. Red Cross Honor Cord Presentation – Terry Tafflinger, Education Foundation of Porter Township School Corporation President

1. Joshua Oglesby

Trish Cochran, Lisa Kiger, and Miranda Bobrowski presented Joshua Oglesby with his Red Cross Honor Cord

C. 2024 Academic Hall of Fame Video



The Boone Grove High School Academic Hall of Fame video was played, highlighting students who earned Hall of Fame Status

D. Retirement Recognition – Dr. Schmidt

1. Charlene Wentz

2. Sybil Evans

Dr. Schmidt and PLE Principal Kevin Donnell congratulated retirees Charlene Wentz and Sybil Evans.

E. 25 Years of Service Recognition – Dr. Schmidt

1. Nicole Garcia

2. Wendi Heckler

3. Carrie Holmes-Rippe

4. Steven Smith

5. Rolland Thill

Dr. Schmidt and building principals presented staff members with awards for achieving 25 years with the corporation

F. Education Foundation of Porter Township School Corporation 23-24 Staff Grant Recipients – Terry Tafflinger, Education Foundation of Porter Township School Corporation President

1. Katelyn Sarnowski

2. Megan Bush

3. Justine McGinley

4. Troy Janesheski

5. Bridget Baird

6. Megan Jorsch

7. Ember Fortenberry

8. Karen Williams

Teachers who wrote and received grants from the Education Foundation of Porter Township School Corporation presented on what they did with their grant dollars.

G. 2023-2024 Inspiring Educator Nominees – Dr. Schmidt

1. Karen Williams

2. Wendy Garrett

3. Tom Trapani

4. Brittney Birky

Dr. Schmidt congratulated our 23-24 Inspiring Educator nominees, with special congratulations to Karen Williams, who won the honor for Porter Township School Corporation

5. CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt

A. Personnel Report

B. Board Minutes, 4.11.24 Board Meeting

C. Payroll and Claim Dockets

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

6. FINANCIAL REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

A. Financial Report

B. Fund Report

C. Investment Report

D. Monthly Fund Transfer Report

7. BUSINESS

A. Approve Transfer Students for the 2024-2025 School Year – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of transfer students for the 24-25 school year. A motion to accept these transfer students was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

B. Contract Considerations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of contracts with Apple, Monroe Pest Control, and NIESC. A motion to approve contracts was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

C. Approve Mentor Stipends – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of stipends for this year's new teacher mentors. A motion to approve mentor stipends was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

D. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt

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

E. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of donations made to the girls' soccer team. A motion to accept donations was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

F. Approve Potential Overnight Field Trips – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of potential overnight field trips for our boys' volleyball team. A motion to approve these field trips was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

G. Approve New BGHS Course – College-Entrance Preparation– Dr. Schmidt

BGHS Principal Clay Corman outlined the benefits of this new SAT prep course. A motion to approve this new course was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was a brief discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

H. Approve Proposal to Redesign Parent/Teacher Conferences at BGHS– Dr. Schmidt

BGHS Principal Clay Corman discussed obstacles with the current parent/teacher conference method and shared their plans for a new process with the goals of improving the parent experience and participation. A motion to approve this redesign was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

I. Approve the Second Reading and Adoption of the Following New Board Bylaws, Board Bylaw Revisions, New Board Policies, or Board Policy Revisions – Mr. Parrish

- 1. New Bylaw #0164 – Notice of Meetings**
- 2. Rescind Policy #0164.1 – Regular Meetings**
- 3. Rescind Bylaw #0164.2 – Special Meetings**
- 4. Rescind Bylaw #0164.3 – Emergency Meetings**
- 5. Rescind Bylaw #0164.4 – Meeting of the Board Defined**
- 6. Replacement Bylaw #0165 – Board Meetings**
- 7. Rescind Bylaw #0165.1 – Notice of Regular Meetings**

8. Rescind Bylaw #0165.2 – Notice of Special Board Meetings
9. Rescind Bylaw #0165.3 – Notice of Emergency Meetings
10. Rescind Bylaw #0165.4 – Notice Requirements Established by Other Statutes
11. Rescind Bylaw #0165.5 – Series of Meetings (Gatherings)
12. Revised Policy #0167.1 – Voting
13. New Policy #1422.01 – Drug-Free Workplace
14. New Policy #1662.01 – Threatening and/or Intimidating Behavior Toward Staff Members
15. Revised Policy #3120.08 – Employment of Personnel for Extracurricular Activities
16. Revised Policy #4120.08 – Employment of Personnel for Extracurricular Activities
17. Revised Policy #5340.01 – Student Concussions and Sudden Cardiac Arrest
18. Revised Policy #5350 – Student Suicide Awareness and Prevention
19. Revised Policy #5517.01 – Bullying
20. Rescind Policy #6320.01 – Purchasing Using Online Reverse Auctions
21. Reapprove Policy #6325 – Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds
22. Revised Policy #7540.02 – Web Content, Apps, and Services
23. Revised Policy #8400 – School Safety
24. Revised Policy #8452 – Automated External Defibrillators (AED)
25. Revised Policy #8455 – Coach Training, References, and IHSAA Reporting
26. Revised Policy #9130 – Public Complaints and Concerns
27. Copy of Policy #1520.08 - Employment of Personnel for Extracurricular Activities
28. Revised Policy #6320 – Purchasing

Mr. Parrish recommended approval and adoption of the above bylaws, revisions, policies, and policy revisions after the 2nd reading. A motion to approve these changes was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

8. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish had each building principal provide an update from their building:

Boone Grove Elementary, Mr. Ivanyo:

Congrats to our Math Bowl, led by Wendy Garrett. Our teams competed against Crown Point elementary schools – we placed 3rd and greatly improved from last year.

Mrs. Kenning hosted a parent meeting to answer questions from parents of kids transitioning into middle school – she provided great information and had a good parent turnout.

Special thank-you to head of the PTO, Jill Yuran. She spends so much extra time working for the PTO – her hard work is greatly appreciated.

Porter Lakes Elementary, Mr. Donnell and Mrs. Mucha

iLearn has finally wrapped up this week

Teachers are feeling spoiled after an awesome teacher appreciation week – thank you to Mrs. Yuran and the PTO

Spring program with kindergarten and 2nd grade is next week, Mrs. Hinchley always does a wonderful job.

The art show was held recently, Mrs. Smithson did a great job running this with her 3rd grade volunteers.

Preschool registration went well – our preschool is growing, and current preschoolers are preparing for kindergarten.

Boone Grove Middle School, Mrs. Wotherspoon

Mrs. Kenning has arranged for the 5th graders to come over so the 6th graders can help them in figuring out their locker combinations and locks.

PTO did an amazing job spoiling the staff for teacher appreciation week

iLearn has finally wrapped – thanks for all of the snack donations received

Good luck to 4 bowlers who are competing at semi-state on Saturday!

Boone Grove High School, Mr. Rosinia and Mr. Corman

Several things going on daily. Our academic teams made it to state at Purdue University – our science team missed 1st place by 1 question.

Teacher of the Month for April is Mrs. Eleftheri

The Key Club volunteered at Lakeshore Paws and next they're headed to Gabis Arboretum.

Mrs. Krause and the Student Council did an amazing job celebrating teacher appreciation week.

Band and Choir have their final concerts next week.

All athletic teams are coming up on sectionals and we wish them well!

9. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt touched on the culture and climate of PTSC – she thanked our administrators, teachers, athletic director, and custodians for being the heartbeat of our buildings who demonstrate and model amazing care and compassion for our students that can be felt from the moment you enter the door.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:25 pm by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. The motion carried 5-0.

