

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees  
August 8, 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.*

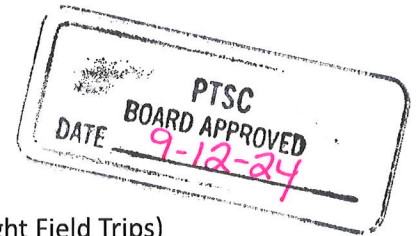
Board Members Present: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Eric McGinty, Mary Harlow, Lilann Sgouros, and Jeannette Skibbie

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Dr. Stacey Schmidt, Superintendent, Ben Parrish, Assistant Superintendent, Kathleen Smith, CFO, and Jacquelyn Pillar, Corporation Attorney

Staff Members Absent: Laura Scott, Executive Assistant

There were no 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 | Remove Business item F (Overnight Field Trips)**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT | There were no public comments**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt**

**A. Personnel Report**

**B. Board Minutes, 7.11.24 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 was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**5. FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs. Kathleen Smith**

**A. Financial Report**

**B. Fund Report**

**C. Investment Report**

**D. Monthly Fund Transfer Report**

**E. Budget Workshop Presentation**

There were no questions on items A-D. Mrs. Smith presented the 2024 budget calendar, briefed the board on the types of funds we have and receive and what types of purchases are made from each fund. She noted that our pension debt's last year is 2024. Our student count is currently unknown. In an effort to save money, our benefits plans are moving from Anthe BCBS to United Healthcare. Mrs. Smith shared our budget summary, projected through 2025. As always, our goal is to remain tax-neutral. Mrs. Smith answered questions from the board.

**6. BUSINESS**

**A. 2024 Lease Bonds – Discuss Potential Project, Financial Information, and Authorize Publication of Notice of Hearings – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recapped the journey of the facility assessments we've been conducting with Gibraltar Design, looking at our facility needs and our district as a whole to determine future needs. Gibraltar has been able to pinpoint some pressing district needs.

Jim Thompson and Kris Kingery from Gibraltar walked the board through needs at Porter Lakes Elementary School – student capacity versus functional capacity, parking lot capacity and traffic flow, and possible

improvements to the food serving areas and cafeteria. They shared the proposed timeline. Dr. Schmidt, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Kingery answered questions from the board.

Jim Elizondo from Stifel presented a budget summary and discussed what it would take to fund the projects that Gibraltar outlined. Mr. Elizondo, Mrs. Smith, and Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the board.

**B. Approve 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Calendar Revisions – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of calendar revisions for the 24-25 and 25-26 school year. We added the BGHS Parent/Teacher conferences and corrected an error on the election date in May. A motion to approve these calendar revisions was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**C. Contract Considerations – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of contracts with PowerSchool, NIESC, and Xerox. A motion to accept these contracts was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**D. Accept Transfer Students for the 2024-2025 School Year – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of 9 transfer students for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the board. A motion to accept these transfer students was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Mary Harlow. The motion carried 5-0.

**E. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of fundraisers for Key Club and BGMS Cheerleading. A motion to approve fundraisers was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**F. Approve Overnight Field Trips – Dr. Schmidt**

**G. Adopt Board Policy 3220.01 – Teacher Appreciation Grants – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish explained that there were no revisions to this policy, but it must be re-adopted annually. A motion to adopt Board Policy 3220.01 was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**H. Approve 2024-2025 Teacher Evaluation – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt explained that there were no updates made to this process, but it must be re-approved annually. A motion to approve the 24-25 teacher evaluation was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

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

Mr. Parrish provided building updates:

Complex/BGE/BGMS – extends their thanks and gratitude to the custodial and maintenance teams for all of their work over the summer, as well as the technology team and front office staff.

BGHS held their first WolfQuest Parent Information Night – they had a great turnout and good discussions.

Athletic practices are underway and scrimmages start next week.

PLE – Preparing to welcome 35 new students into kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 136 preschoolers are enrolled!

Mr. Parrish expressed his gratitude to his summer maintenance staff – it's a hard summer and a lot of work, but they do a great job making sure our buildings are top-notch for students to return.

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

Dr. Schmidt shared our new teachers, provided a tentative enrollment update, a bus route was added in order to reduce student time spent on the bus.

At BGMS, a room is being repurposed into a weight room to expand their athletic and physical education programming using old equipment from BGHS.

At BGHS, new fencing went up around the HVAC equipment and softball field. Softball dugouts were also painted and look much-improved. Gough is working currently on expanding a drive and correcting a drainage issue. Our tennis courts were re-surfaced and they look amazing – they’re currently being used by a neighboring district whose own courts aren’t ready.

At PLE, the new crosswalk is completed. Due to shifts in enrollment numbers, we reduced our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms by 1 in order to add another 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion for adjournment was made by Mary Harlow at 7:04 pm, seconded by Eric McGinty. The motion carried 5-0.