

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees  
September 12, 2024 | 5:35 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, Laura Scott, Executive Assistant, and Jacquelyn Pillar, Corporation Attorney

There were no community members in attendance.

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Natalie Wargo, President, 5:35 pm**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Welcome Visitors**

**2. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – Dr. Stacey Schmidt | None**

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

**4. CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt**

**A. Personnel Report**

**B. Board Minutes, 8.8.24 Board Meeting and 8.15.24**

**C. Payroll and Claim Dockets**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Consent Agenda as presented in the board packet, which consisted of board minutes, payroll and claim dockets, and the following items listed on the personnel report:



**Appointments**

*Certified*

*Classified*

*Extra-Curricular*

Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
Goodwin, Laura	2nd Grade Temp. Teacher	PLE	approx. 9/11/2024 through 11/8/2024
Albury, Sara	P/T Paraprofessional	BGMS	8/14/2024
Buczek, Michele	P/T Floating Sub/Classroom Aide	BGMS	8/21/2024 (changed from 8/28/2024)
Naumchevska, Elena	P/T Special Education Aide	PLE	8/27/2024
Atwood, Stacey	Builders Club, Student Council, English Academic Team	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
Baird, Bridget	Best Buddies Club Co-Sponsor	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
Belleville, Paul	Band Performances & Contests	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
Boyer, Jeremy	MS Art Club/Art Show, BGE Art Club	BGE/BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
Broton, Lisa	Yearbook	BGE	2024-2025 School Year
D'Angelo, Jim	MS Football Assistant, Volunteer	BGMS	08/27/2024-10/22/2024
Dombrowski, Cora	8th Grade Department Chair, Science Academic Team, Science Fair	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
Draves, Jennifer	6th Grade Department Chair, Math Academic Team	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
Garcia, Nicole	7th Grade Department Chair, National Jr. Honor Society, Yearbook	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
Garrett, Wendy	4th & 5th Grade Spell Bowl Coach & Math Bowl Coach	BGE	2024-2025 School Year

	Hill, Jon	HS Football Assistant, Volunteer	BGHS	08/29/2024-11/28/2024
	Hinchley, Holly	Choir	BGE	2024-2025 School Year
	Hundt, Megan	Best Buddies Club Co-Sponsor	BGE	2024-2025 School Year
	Jorsch, Megan	Best Buddies Club Co-Sponsor	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
	Katona, Phil	MS Softball Assistant, Volunteer	BGMS	8/5/2024-9/5/2024
	McKee, Amanda	Student Council Sponsor	BGE	2024-2025 School Year
	Rigsby, Christopher	Best Buddies Club Co-Sponsor	BGE	2024-2025 School Year
	Rippe, Carrie	4th & 5th Grade Science Bowl Coach	BGE	2024-2025 School Year
	Ritchie, Jolie	Academic Team Head Coach, Social Studies Academic Team	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
	Saunders, Ron	MS Softball Head Coach	BGMS	8/5/2024-9/5/2024
	Schulte, Brad	MS Softball Assistant, Volunteer	BGMS	8/5/2024-9/5/2024
	Smithson, Ashley	Yearbook	PLE	2024-2025 School Year
	Welbourne-Swetalla, Athena	Choir Performances & Contests	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
	Williams, Karen	Spell Bowl Coach	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
<b>Resignations</b>				
<i>Extra-Curricular</i>	Hamill, Samantha	Student Council Co-Sponsor	BGE	8/14/2024
<b>Leaves</b>				
<i>Certified</i>	Peterson, Shana	5th Grade Teacher	BGE	Leave Approx. 3/31/24-5/30/24
<i>Classified</i>	Houldson, James	Custodian	BGHS	Approx. 6 days' leave beginning 8/21/2024
	Smith, Steven	Custodian	BGE/BGMS	Approx. 12 weeks' leave beginning 9/1/2024
<b>Salary Adjustment</b>				
<i>Certified</i>	Boone, Matt	Dean of Students	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

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

- A. Financial Report
- B. Fund Report
- C. Monthly Fund Transfer Report

**6. BUSINESS**

**A. Public Hearing for 2025 Budget – Mrs. Smith**

**1. Hearing for 2025 Budget**

- a. Hearing of Education Fund
- b. Hearing of Debt Service Fund
- c. Hearing of School Pension Debt Fund
- d. Hearing of Operations Fund

Mrs. Smith opened the public hearing for the 2025 budget. The board will take action to approve the 2025 budget at the board meeting on October 10, 2024. The budget has been developed based upon the rules associated with each fund: Education, Debt Service/School



Pension Debt, and Operations. The overall tax rate being advertised for all funds this year is 1.0398. Our approved tax rate for 2024 in all funds was 0.9674, much lower than advertised. There were no questions from the board. Mrs. Smith opened the hearing for public comment. Hearing none, she closed the public comment section and the hearing on the 2025 budget was closed.

## **2. Hearing of 2025 Proposed Bus Replacement Plan**

Mrs. Smith opened the public hearing on the 2025 proposed bus replacement plan. The budget advertised represents a plan that has been developed to meet the needs of the fleet that we own. The plan is based upon the statutory allowable 12-year bus replacement cycle. In 2025 we anticipate replacing one 60-passenger bus with lift. Mrs. Smith opened the hearing for public comment. Hearing none, she closed the public comment section and the hearing on the 2025 proposed bus replacement plan was closed.

## **3. Hearing of 2025 Proposed Capital Projects**

Mrs. Smith opened the public hearing for the 2025 proposed capital projects plan. Over the next 3 years, plans include: carpet at BGE, carpet and a sports facility at BGMS, carpet, stage renovations, sidewalk repairs, parking lot repairs, locker room updates, bleacher repairs, and sports facility, generator, and building repairs at BGHS, carpet at Central Office, replacing a batwing and lawn mower, replace a Gator, add a storage building for athletic storage. There were no questions from the board. Mrs. Smith opened the hearing for public comment. Hearing none, she closed the public comment section and the hearing on the 2025 proposed capital projects was closed.

### **B. Contract Considerations – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of contracts with Piazza, Vector Solutions, IDOE, and Brightly Software. A motion to approve these contracts was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

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

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of additional transfer students for the 2024-2025 school year. A motion to accept these students was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

### **D. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of donations from Church of the Four Seasons, His & Hers Salon, Craig & Craig, and our friends at Gibraltar. A motion to accept donations was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

### **E. Approve Overnight Field Trips – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of two overnight field trips to Camp Tecumseh – our 4<sup>th</sup> graders from BGE and BGHS' Key Club. A motion to approve these overnight field trips was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

### **F. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt**

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

### **G. Approve the following Adult-Support Organizations – Dr. Schmidt**

**1. PTSC PTO**

**2. BGMS PTO**

**3. Education Foundation of PTSC**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of our PLE/BGE PTO, our BGMS PTO, and our Education Foundation. A motion to approve these adult-support organizations was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**H. Permission to Advertise for iPad Bids – Dr. Schmidt**

We have 1,500+ iPads that are ready for bid. We anticipate that selling these old iPads will generate roughly \$150,000.00, which we'll be able to put towards our lease payments for our new iPads. A motion to approve permission to advertise for iPad bids was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**I. Readopt Board Policy #6250 – Required ADM Counts for the Purpose of State Funding and Verification of Residency for Membership – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish noted that nothing has changed with this policy, but it must be re-adopted annually. A motion to readopt board policy #6250 was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**J. Approve Revisions to Board Policy #3120.04 – Employment of Substitutes – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish recommended this revision to board policy #3120.04, specifically pertaining to our long-term substitutes and their compensation. This revision will allow us to pay our long-term substitutes according to the experience they bring to the role. A motion to approve this revision was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**K. Approve Revisions to the Classified Employee Handbook – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish recommended approval of this revision to the Classified Employee Handbook, re: overtime pay. This revision allows us to pay our classified staff at the overtime rate for logged weekly hours in excess of 40, including benefit days. 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.

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

Mr. Parrish provided updates from each building:

**BGHS** – Will Fortenberry was Teacher of the Month, Lauren Voudrie and Ethan Quintana won Athletes of the Month, the Homecoming dance and football game are coming up and highly anticipated, and P/T Conferences will be held on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**BGMS** – Mrs. Williams has invited Admin to read to her students on Thursdays – Mr. Boone was their 1<sup>st</sup> guest reader. Baseball and softball have wrapped up. Cross Country has just started, with a few students already hitting personal best times. Football is underway with a roster of 32, with a squad of 31 cheerleaders cheering them on. Volleyball has just begun, as well. Big thanks to the Tech Dept. for all of their assistance getting Skyward up and running for the students and families.

**BGE** – Recently honored 8 students who exhibited positivity – thanks to the PTO for sponsoring!

**PLE** – 93% attendance rate for their open house in grades PK-3. They will honor their first students of the month on 9/19

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

**A. Report to the Board on the Public Hearing of the Association of Porter Township Educators and Porter Township School Corporation**

The collective bargaining hearing was held on September 4, 2024, prior to starting formal bargaining. There was no public attendance.

Dr. Schmidt briefed the board on the proposed changes to HS diploma requirement changes.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:04 pm by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. The motion carried 5-0.