

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees
October 10, 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, Lilann Sgouros, and Jeannette Skibbie

Board Members Absent: Eric McGinty and Mary Harlow

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, 5:30 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

1. 9.12.24 Special Meeting, Public Hearing

2. 9.12.24 Regular Meeting

C. Payroll and Claim Dockets

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



Appointments

Certified

Classified

Extra-Curricular

Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
Filbert, Abigail	Applied Skills Teacher	PLE	10/14/2024
Pelc, Jennifer	Special Ed Aide	PLE	9/17/2024
Rowland, Miranda	Special Ed Aide	PLE	10/7/2024
Windsor, Holly	Special Ed Aide	PLE	9/17/2024
Allen, Carlie	7th Grade Girls Volleyball Coach	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
Belleville, Paul	Games Club, Band Performance & Contests, Pep Band	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Chant, John	Social Studies Academic Team, Social Studies Department Chair	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Davis, Kelly	8th Grade Girls Volleyball Coach	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
Davis, Stacy	Fall Drama, Spring Drama	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Eleftheri, Linda	P.E. Department Chair, 6th Grade Girls Volleyball Head Coach	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Eleftheri, Loucas	6th Grade Girls Volleyball Asst. Coach Volunteer	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Fortenberry, Ember	9th Grade Class Sponsor	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Gibbs, Jennifer	Natural Helpers Co-Sponsor	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year

Extra-Curricular
Resignations

Certified
Classified

Janesheski, Troy	Science Fair Co-Sponsor, National Honor Society Co-Sponsor, Spell Bowl Sponsor	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Krause, Karen	Student Council Sponsor	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Loving, Sheryl	10th Grade Class Sponsor	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
McGinley, Justine	STEM Club, Science Fair Co-Sponsor, 11th Grade Class Co-Sponsor, Science Academic Team	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Mikulich, Ginger	Science Fair Co-Sponsor, Science Department Chair	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Moreno, Tamitha	12th Grade Class Sponsor	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Saco, Melissa	11th Grade Class Co-Sponsor	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Sarnowski, Katie	Academic Team Head Coach, Math Academic Team	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Sherman, Kathy	Media Department Chair	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Swan-Caratini, Jori	English Academic Team, English Department Chair	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Tauber, Anthony	Natural Helpers Co-Sponsor	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Taylor, Robert	Varsity Cross Country Asst, Volunteer	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Thill, Rollie	National Honor Society Co-Sponsor, Math Department Chair	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Trapana, Thomas	Yearbook, Business Department Chair	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Welbourne-Swetalla, Athena	Fine Arts Academic Chair, Choir Performance & Contests, Swing Choir, Music Department Chair	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Westerman, Ivette	Spanish Club, Key Club, Foreign Language Department Chair	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Watkin, Jayne	Special Ed Teacher	PLE	10/4/2024
Felde, Tonya	Special Ed Teacher's Aide	PLE	9/6/2024
Shepard, Samantha	Special Ed Teacher's Aide	PLE	9/27/2024

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs. Kathleen Smith

A. Financial Report

B. Fund Report

C. Monthly Fund Transfer Reports

6. BUSINESS

A. Tentative Agreement – Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement – Dr. Schmidt

Through bargaining, the following terms have been agreed to:

Starting base salary moves to \$49,475.00

Qualifying teachers (evaluation rating and experience) will see a compensation increase of \$780.00

Adding a Girls Varsity Wrestling coach to the list of available extra-curriculars

B. Approve Administrative Compensation Increases and Contract Extensions – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended contract extensions and compensation increases for Administrators that align with Collective Bargaining, as presented in the board packet. A motion to approve these compensation increases and contract extensions was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

C. Approve Classified Compensation Increases and Wage Schedule – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of compensation increases for our classified staff, as presented in the board packet. A motion to approve these compensation increases and wage schedule was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

D. Contract Considerations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of one contract with our food service merchant system, EMS Linq, LLC. A motion to approve this contract was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

E. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval for an Angel Tree fundraiser at BGE. A motion to approve this fundraiser was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

F. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of generous donations from Indiana Farm Bureau, Arctic Engineering, Porter-Starke Services, and Boone Grove Christian Church. A motion to accept these donations was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

G. Approve Overnight Field Trips – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of Natural Helpers' upcoming overnight field trip. A motion to approve this field trip was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

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

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of one 8th grade student who meets the qualifications for enrollment. A motion to approve this transfer student was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

I. Adopt Resolution #1024-300 – Determine Need for Projects – Dr. Schmidt

Adoption of this resolution is required by statute – the board must determine the need for the projects. A motion to adopt resolution 1024-300 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

J. Adopt Resolution #1024-301 – Approving Form of Second Amendment to Lease – Dr. Schmidt

When funding projects through lease financing, this resolution is required to amend the lease to increase the lease rental due from the Corporation. A motion to adopt resolution 1024-301 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

K. Adopt Resolution #1024-302 – Reapproving Building Corporation – Dr. Schmidt

In order for the Building Corporation, which is a not-for-profit Indiana Corporation, to issue tax-exempt bonds, they must be approved by the School Board in order to issue the tax-exempt bonds on behalf of the School Corporation. A motion to adopt resolution 1024-302 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

L. Adopt Resolution #1024-303 – Ordinance or Resolution for Appropriations & Tax Rates – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith recommended adoption of this resolution for the tax rate for our 2025 budget. A motion to adopt resolution 1024-303 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

M. Adopt Resolution #1024-304 – Adjust or Reduce Budget 2025 – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith recommended adoption of this resolution, which will allow her to adjust anything pertaining to our 1782 notice after our budget has been approved. A motion to adopt resolution 1024-304 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

N. Adopt Resolution #1024-305 – 2025 Bus Replacement Plan – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith recommended approval of this bus replacement plan resolution. A motion to adopt resolution 1024-305 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

O. Adopt Resolution #1024-306 – 2025 Capital Projects – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith recommended approval of this resolution, which allows us to adopt our capital projects for the next 3 years. A motion to adopt resolution 1024-306 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

P. Adopt Resolution #1024-307 – Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith recommended adoption of this resolution, which will allow us to transfer up to 15% from our education fund to operations fund. A motion to adopt resolution 1024-307 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

Q. Adopt Resolution #1024-308 – Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith recommended adoption of this resolution, which relates to our ability to do section 125 flexible spending. A motion to adopt resolution 1024-308 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

R. Accept Bid from Total Technology for PTSC Student iPads – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of a bid from Total Technology to purchase our old student iPads for a flat rate. We will use the money towards the lease payments on our new iPads. A motion to accept the bid was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3-0.

7. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish provided updates from each building:

BGHS – Mrs. Kennedy won September teacher of the month – congratulations! Fall athletics are wrapping up; girls soccer has their sectional game this week on the new field.

Volleyball sectionals will be next Tuesday at Andrean and football has a game on Friday versus Lake Station. Band and Choir concerts were wonderful – the new stage lighting looked great! PSAT is going on next week for grades 9-11.

BGMS – Expressed their gratitude for having Officer Chavez and Mrs. Kenning in their building – they make such impactful relationships and it is very appreciated.

BGE – Congrats to the student-of-the-month recipients! 4th graders are currently on their trip to Camp Tecumseh – big thanks to the 4th grade team for putting that trip together for our students!

PLE – Preparing for parent/teacher conferences next week and their annual trunk-or-treat on Oct. 18th.

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

Some celebrations:

Our Director of Food Services, Tonia Batesole, earned a grant to start a new Fresh Fruits & Veggies program, which allows our kids to try various local fruits and vegetables they might not otherwise have access to.

Congratulations to Porter Lakes Elementary, which was recently named a National Blue-Ribbon School!
Regarding Indiana diploma changes, a new comment period has opened up.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Lilann Sgouros at 5:45 pm, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie; the motion carried 3-0.

