

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees  
December 12, 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

There were no community members in attendance.

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Natalie Wargo**

**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, 11.14.24 Regular Board 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        |
|-----------------|---|----------|-----------------------|
| Allen, Carlie   | Temporary Homebound Instructor          | BGMS     | Beginning 12/2/2024   |
| Fasel, Tinley   | Spec Ed Resource Room Teacher           | PLE      | 11/25/2024            |
| Smith, Nicole   | Cafeteria Floater                       | PTSC     | 12/2/2024             |
| Borys, Joe      | Girls Wrestling Assistant, Volunteer    | BGHS     | 2024-2025 School Year |
| Kraus, Kevin    | Bowling Assistant Coach, Volunteer      | BGHS     | 2024-2025 School Year |
| Saunders, Ron   | Varsity Softball Head Coach             | BGHS     | 2024-2025 School Year |
| Williams, Karen | Social Studies Academic Team Head Coach | BGMS     | 2024-2025 School Year |

**Position Change**

*Certified*

**Leaves**

*Classified*

**Resignations**

*Certified*

*Classified*

| Name                 | Position                                | Location | Effective Date           |
|----------------------|---|----------|--------------------------|
| Wotherspoon, Kelley  | Move to 1/2 time Applied Skills Teacher | PLE      | 12/4/2024                |
| Name                 | Position                                | Location | Effective Date           |
| Brandy, Diane        | Custodian                               | PLE      | 11/18/24 (.5 unpaid day) |
| Name                 | Position                                | Location | Effective Date           |
| Peterson, Shana      | 5th Grade Teacher                       | BGMS     | Last Day 12/20/2024      |
| Neely Windsor, Holly | Teacher's Aide                          | PLE      | 12/13/2024               |

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

**A. Financial Report**

**B. Fund Report**

**C. Monthly Fund Transfer Reports**

## **6. PROJECT HEARING & 2<sup>ND</sup> PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING, “HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT”**

Dr. Wargo explained that we will hold a project and preliminary determination hearing on proposed projects. Notice of this hearing was published as legally required.

### **A. Welcome**

### **B. Statement of Purpose of Hearing**

### **C. Educational Need for the Project**

### **D. Overview of Project to Meet the Education Needs, Cost & Timing**

### **E. Financial Impact of Project**

### **F. Public Comment**

No one signed up for Public Comment

### **G. Board Consideration and Adoption of Project Resolution #1224-313**

Dr. Schmidt explained that a project resolution must be passed when spending more than \$1M in any one building. The resolution contains both hard and soft costs, as well as the cost of issuance and estimated tax impact. A motion to adopt Project Resolution #1224-313 was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

### **H. Board Consideration and Adoption of Preliminary Determination Resolution #1224-314**

Dr. Schmidt explained that this resolution is required when spending more than a certain amount in any one building. This resolution contains the project cost, the maximum annual payment, the lease/financial terms, and the estimated principal amount and tax impact. A motion to adopt Preliminary Determination Resolution #1224-314 was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

### **I. Board Consideration and Adoption of Reimbursement Resolution #1224-315**

Dr. Schmidt explained that this resolution relates to project financing and allows PTSC to self-reimburse from the bonds for any expenses made prior to bond closing. A motion to adopt Reimbursement Resolution #1224-315 was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

## **7. BUSINESS**

### **A. Approve Construction Management Services with The Skillman Corporation – Dr. Schmidt / Scott Cherry**

Scott Cherry presented about The Skillman Corporation and their plans for managing our project and answered questions from the board. A motion to approve services with The Skillman Corporation was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

### **B. PLE Project Update – Gibraltar Design, Kris Kingery**

Kris Kingery from Gibraltar Design shared a design update on the PLE Project – they’re at 35%, and it’s time to hand the plans over to Skillman to ensure the design has been reviewed from all angles and all efficiencies are being planned for. Plans include all items from the April 2024 wish list – parking capacity, pickup/dropoff efficiencies, small or group instructional space, common area, cafeteria expansion, etc. Current construction timeline from Gibraltar is beginning Spring 2025 with substantial completion Summer of 2027, though this may change after input from Skillman

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

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of an overnight field trip for BGHS’ Key Club. A motion to approve this field trip was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

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

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



**E. Contract Considerations – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of contracts with Edmentum, Honeywell, the Association of Indiana Counties, and Zinkan Enterprises, Inc. A motion to approve contracts was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**F. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of donations of Scholastic Dollars to the BGE Library from the PTO, the book *Lafayette: America's Young Hero and Guest* by Bruce E. Mowday, from the Daughters of the American Revolution, William Henry Harrison Chapter, and \$105 towards our Feed it Forward program from the Wilson Bates, American Legion Post 190. A motion to accept these donations was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**G. Approve BGHS Campus Improvements Project Change Order #003 - Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of Project Change Order #003. A motion to approve this change order was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**H. Approve Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of this year's Teacher Appreciation Grant, as the money has been received from the State. The funding this year equaled a payout of \$481 for those rated "Highly Effective", and \$385 for those rated "Effective". A motion to approve TAG was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**I. Approve Revisions to Internal Controls Manual – Mrs. Smith**

Mrs. Smith recommended approval of revisions made to our Internal Controls Manual, which will not be presented to the board annually. A motion to approve these revisions was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**J. Board Consideration and Adoption of Fund Balance Transfer Resolution #1224-316 – Mrs. Smith**

Mrs. Smith recommended approval of Fund Balance Transfer Resolution #1224-316, which will give us the ability to transfer from our curricular materials fund into the education fund, per state statute. A motion to adopt Fund Balance Transfer Resolution #1224-316 was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

**K. Approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Adoption of the Following Board Policy Revisions – Mr. Parrish**

1. Revised Policy 1130 – Conflict of Interest
2. Revised Policy 1220 – Employment of the Superintendent
3. Revised Policy 1230 – Responsibilities of the Superintendent
4. Revised Policy 1617 – Weapons
5. Rescinded Policy 2312 – Class Size
6. Revised Policy 2623 – Student Assessment
7. Revised Policy 3113 – Conflict of Interest
8. Revised Policy 3217 – Weapons
9. Revised Policy 4113 – Conflict of Interest
10. Revised Policy 4217 – Weapons
11. Revised Policy 5410 – Promotion, Placement, and Retention
12. Revised Policy 5772 – Weapons
13. Revised Policy 6110 – Grant Funds
14. Revised Policy 6111 – Internal Control Standards & Procedures
15. Revised Policy 6112 – Cash Management of Grants
16. Revised Policy 6114 – Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds
17. Revised Policy 6325 – Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds

- 18. Revised Policy 6550 – Travel Payment and Reimbursement/Relocation Costs**
- 19. Revised Policy 7217 – Possession of Firearms and Weapons by Visitors**
- 20. Revised Policy 7310 – Disposition of Surplus Property**
- 21. Revised Policy 7450 – Property Inventory**
- 22. Revised Policy 7540.03 – Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety**
- 23. Revised Policy 8400 – School Safety Information**

Mr. Parrish recommended approval of the above board policy revisions. A motion to approve these board policy revisions was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

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

Mr. Parrish provided an update from each building:

**BGE:** Congrats to our BGE Students of the Month who were recognized for showing Leadership. BGE's Angel Tree fundraiser brought in \$2,190 – shoutout to Mrs. McKee for putting that together. Good luck to our kids at BGE as they take on Mr. Ivanyo in the upcoming annual Hot Wheels races!

**BGHS:** Congratulations to teacher of the month, Mrs. Fortenberry. The band students are preparing for their concert taking place next week on Thursday. Madrigal will be this weekend. Congratulations to our girls bowling team for bringing home 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Region Rumble tournament. Boys wrestling went 5-0 at the Viking Invitational last weekend and the girls wrestling team is wrapping up their regular season – good luck to them in the post season! Congrats to the Drama Club for advancing to State with their performance of a Midsummer Night's Dream

**BGMS:** The PCC Tournament for boys basketball will be next week. They're gearing up for wrestling and girls basketball, which will be starting in January. Choir and band concerts will be next week. Thanks to the cheerleading team, coaches, and parents for working hard in the concession stand this basketball season!

**PLE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> graders completed the iLearn pilot, Preschool registration is underway, and they had a very successful food drive – big thanks to the community for their donations! The Angel Tree was a huge success – every name on the tree was claimed and we were able to help 56 families this holiday season.

**9. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt**

The State Board of Education passed the diploma rule today, so that is now official.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:58 pm by Eric McGinty, seconded by Mary Harlow. The motion carried 5-0.