

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees  
February 13, 2025 | 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, Mary Harlow, Lilann Sgouros, and Jeannette Skibbie

Board Members Absent: Eric McGinty

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 | 5:30 pm CST**
  - 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. **CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt**
  - A. Personnel Report
  - B. Board Minutes, 1.9.25 Regular Board Meeting and 1.9.25 Board of Finance Meeting
  - C. Payroll and Claim Docket

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

<u><b>Appointments</b></u>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
<i>Classified</i>		Vandy, Tracy	F/T Custodian	BGE/MS	2/10/2025
		Finley, Jennifer	6th Grade Girls Basketball Head Coach	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
<i>Extra-Curricular</i>		Davis, Kelly	8th Grade Girls Basketball Head Coach	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
		Harlow, Mary	MS Girls Basketball Assistant, Volunteer	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
		Jones, Dave	MS Girls Basketball Assistant, Volunteer	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
		Klein, Kenneth	Girls Soccer Assistant, Volunteer	BGHS	2025-2026 School Year
		Schillmiller, Ryen	Girls Varsity Soccer Assistant, Volunteer	BGHS	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Years
		Warren, Nick	MS Wrestling Assistant Coach, Volunteer	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
		Wyrick, Samantha	MS Cheerleading Head Coach	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
<u><b>Leaves</b></u>					
<i>Certified</i>		Fasel, Tinley	Special Ed Teacher	PLE	1/22-1/23/2025
		Jorsch, Megan	Special Ed Teacher	BMGS	Leave beginning 1/16/2025
<i>Classified</i>		Brandy, Diane	Custodian	BGMS	12/26-12/27, 12/30

<b>Resignations</b>  <i>Classified</i>  <b>Retirement Request</b>  <i>Certified</i>	Curtis, Aliya	Special Ed Teacher's Aide	BGMS	12/18/2024, 1/28/2025
	Harker, Denise	Teacher's Aide	BGHS	1/16/2025
	Funk, Nicole	Custodian	PLE	12/26-12/27/2024 (.5 each) 12/30/2024
	Packard, Kristina	Media Aide	PLE	2/4-2/11/2025
	Raymond, Andrea	Teacher's Aide	PLE	1/24/2025
	Sanchez, Shyanna	Teacher's Aide	PLE	1/24/2025
	Brandy, Diane	PLE Custodian	BGMS	1/31/2025
	Rowland, Miranda	Special Ed Teacher's Aide	PLE	2/14/2025
	LaFollette, Jane	Kindergarten Teacher	PLE	5/30/2025

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

**A. Financial Report**

**B. Fund Report**

**C. Monthly Fund Transfer Reports**

**6. BUSINESS**

**A. PLE Project Update – Gibraltar Design**

Kris Kingery and Rawda Hamid from Gibraltar Design presented an update on the PLE project – additional parking, pickup/dropoff lines, new play space, additional classrooms, cafeteria expansion, etc.

**A.1 – Permission to Advertise for Bids – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt requested formal permission to advertise for bids relating to the projects. A motion to grant permission to advertise bids was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

**B. Approve Owner/Architect Agreement with Gibraltar Design – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt requested approval of the owner/architect agreement with Gibraltar Design. A motion to approve this agreement was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

**C. Adopt Resolution #0225-318 – Determine Need for Projects – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended adoption of this resolution, determining that there is a need for the project. A motion to adopt resolution #0225-318 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

**D. Adopt Resolution #0225-319 – Approve Preliminary Plans, Form of Lease, and Authorize Publication of Notice of Lease Hearing – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended adoption of this resolution, which is required when using lease financing to fund projects. A motion to adopt resolution #0225-319 was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

**E. Adopt Resolution #0225-320 – Reapprove Formation of Building Corporation – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended adoption of this resolution, which reapproves our building corporation. A motion to adopt resolution #0225-320 was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

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

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of 1 transfer student for the 2025-2025 school year. A motion to accept this transfer student was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

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

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of overnight field trips, as presented in the board packet. A motion to approve these overnight field trips was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

**H. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of 3 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 4-0.

**I. Approve Early Literacy Grant – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Early Literacy Grant payments, which is provided by the State for staff who have an impact on IREAD scores. A motion to approve these payments was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

**J. Contract Considerations – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of two contracts, as presented in the board packet. A motion to approve these contracts was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

**K. Permission to Apply for Common School Loans – Mrs. Smith**

Mrs. Smith recommended that the board grant permission for Director of Technology, Mike Skoda, to apply for Common School loans as the opportunities arise throughout the year. A motion to grant permission to apply for Common School loans was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

**L. Approve 2025 Summer School – Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish recommended approval of the 2025 summer school plan, pending potential changes in funding. Mr. Parrish answered questions from the board regarding summer school enrollment minimums. A motion to approve 2025 summer school was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

**M. Recommendation for Employment of Candidate (Case #0001-2025) IC: 20-26-5-11-.2– Mr. Parrish**

Mr. Parrish recommended employment of a volunteer coach whose background check showed 2 OWI infractions over 20 years ago. A motion to approve this candidate was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Mary Harlow. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

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

Mr. Parrish provided an update from the buildings:

**BGMS** – Girls' basketball and boys' volleyball are underway. Their first Games Club will be kicking off later this month. Coming in March – a Girls on the Run Heart & Soul Team

**BGHS** – Congrats to Mrs. Loving, who was selected as the Teacher of the Month. Khaled Alzeer has qualified for wrestling semi-state – good luck to him as he competes this weekend! Band & Choir made us proud with their ISSMA performances. Cheer & Dance will perform this weekend at the PCC Spirit Competition – good luck to both teams! Our Academic Teams will have their first competition on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Purdue Northwest. Thanks to Mr. Russell on hosting a very successful IHSA girls sectional. Students Nikole Treece and Gavin Davis have advanced to State at Butler University for their short film titled *Unhinged* – good luck to them! Lucas Barton and Rileigh McGinty have been named the 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian – way to go!

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

Dr. Schmidt shouted out our first 2 staff compliments for Kim Wauro and Amanda McKee. Dr. Schmidt also shared data regarding student absences in relation to our newly adopted attendance policy. Year over year, we are showing a reduction in students considered "Chronically Absent" thus far, which is a positive. So far this year, we are also showing a significant drop in unexcused absences.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:10 pm CST by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. The motion carried 4-0.