

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

Board Members Absent: Mary Harlow

Staff Members Present: Dr. Stacey Schmidt, Superintendent, Ben Parrish, Assistant Superintendent, Laura Grayam, Executive Assistant, and Jacquelyn Pillar, Corporation Attorney.

Staff Members Absent: Kathleen Smith, CFO

There were roughly 22 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, 3.13.25 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

Extra-Curricular

Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
Goodwin, Laura	1st Grade Temporary Teacher	PLE	approx 3/10/25-5/30/25
Mucha, Kristin	Principal	PLE	7/1/2025
Wentz, Charlene	Resource Room, Temporary Teacher	PLE	approx 3/10/25-5/30/25
Chant, John	Varsity Girls Track Head Coach	PLE	2024-2025 School Year
Fortenberry, William	Boys Varsity Soccer Head Coach	BGHS	2025-2026 School Year
Hill, Dean	Boys Varsity Golf Head Coach	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Lavolette, Olivia	Varsity Softball Assistant Coach Volunteer	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
May, Nicole	Varsity Boys Golf Assistant Coach Volunteer	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Otero, Sarah	JV Softball Head Coach	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Pierce, Grady	Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach Volunteer	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Schulte, Brad	Varsity Softball Assistant Coach Volunteer	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Sherwin, Brian	MS Track Head Coach	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year
Simatovich, Michael (Drew)	Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach	BGHS	2025-2026 School Year
Talbert, Jeremy	MS Wrestling Head Coach	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year

Leaves		Tauber, Tony	Girls Varsity Tennis Head Coach	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
		Trajkovski, Stojan	Girls Tennis Assistant, Volunteer	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
	<i>Certified</i>	Belko, Justin	English Teacher	BGMS	3/14/2025
		Bobrowski, Miranda	School Nurse	BGHS	3/3/2025
		Kassner, Pamela	School Counselor	PLE	2/25/2025 (.5), 3/13/2025 (.5), 3/14/2025
	<i>Classified</i>	Harker, Denise	Teacher's Aide	BGHS	3/4/2025 (.5), 3/17/2025
		Raymond, Andrea	Teacher's Aide	PLE	3/21/25 (.5)
Resignations					
	<i>Certified</i>	Cole, Shelby	2nd Grade Teacher	PLE	03/2025
	<i>Classified</i>	Evans, Shawn	F/T Custodian	PLE	3/31/2025
Retirement Requests					
	<i>Certified</i>	Donnell, Kevin	Principal	PLE	7/1/2025

Dr. Schmidt highlighted the recommendation of Mrs. Kristin Mucha to Principal at Porter Lakes Elementary School. Mrs. Mucha has been a part of PTSC for 21 years, working as a 3rd grade teacher, a volleyball coach, kindergarten teacher, and, most recently, the Director of Early Learning and PLE Assistant Principal. Dr. Schmidt was happy to recommend Mrs. Mucha for Porter Lakes Elementary School Principal.

A motion to approve the consent agenda, as presented, was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

A. Financial Report

B. Fund Report

C. Monthly Fund Transfer Reports

6. BUSINESS

A. Permission to Request a Tax Advance from Porter County – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended permission to request a tax advance from Porter County to ensure our Operations Fund does not run negative. A motion to grant permission was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

B. Approve Bid Recommendations for PLE Project – Dr. Schmidt

Chris Muvceski from Skillman walked the board through the bid awards for the PLE project and answered questions from the board. A motion to approve bid recommendations was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Eric McGinty. The motion carried 4-0.

C. Accept Transfer Students for the 2025-2026 School Year – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of transfer students for the 2025-2026 school year. A motion to accept these transfer students was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

D. Contract Considerations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of an updated contract with Vector Solutions. A motion to approve this contract was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

E. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of a donation from the recent BGE Book Fair. A motion to accept this donation was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

F. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of fundraisers, as presented in the board packet. A motion to approve fundraisers was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

G. Approve the Second Reading & Adoption of the Following New Board Bylaws, Board Bylaw Revisions, New Board Policies, or Board Policy Revisions – Mr. Parrish

1. Revised Policy #3120.04 – Employment of Substitutes

2. Revised Policy #5111 – Determination of Legal Settlement and Eligibility for Enrollment of Students without Legal Settlement in the Corporation

3. Revised Policy #5500 – Student Conduct

4. Copy of Policy #5610 – Suspension and Expulsion of Students

5. New Policy #6140 – Depository Agreements and Digital Payment Applications

6. Revised Policy #6250 – Required ADM Counts for the Purpose of State Funding and Verification of Residency for Membership

7. Revised Policy #6550 – Travel Payment and Reimbursement/Relocation Costs

8. Revised Policy #8420 – Emergency Preparedness Plans and Drills

Mr. Parrish recommended approval of the 2nd reading and adoption of the above policies. Eric McGinty made a motion to waive the reading of and adopt the above policies, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

7. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish provided an update from each building:

BGHS – Congratulations to Teacher of the Month, Mrs. Mikulich, Key Club and the Guidance Dept. attended the Amanda Forum at Aberdeen, which focuses on safe dating practices, Mr. Russell recently took several students to an Athletic Leadership Conference – that was a great experience for them! Baseball season kicks off with the home opener tonight, and everyone is excited for prom this coming weekend.

BGMS – Games Club has begun. Kids are loving this unique, non-traditional club! ILearn kicks off next week, Mr. Sherwin has made great use of the new weight room at the MS - our 8th graders have been using it to meet their HS academic standards. Thanks to Mr. Sherwin's hard work on that!

BGE – Math Bowl competes next week at Crown Point – thanks to Mrs. Garrett for her hard work with those kids!

PLE – Third annual family art night is coming up on April 30th. The spring music concert with kindergarten and 2nd grade will be held next week.

Congrats again to Mrs. Mucha!

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt shared an update on the new Indiana diploma – enrollment/enlistment/employment and honors/honors plus. Recently announced were perks offered to any student who earns an Honors Plus Seal, including automatic entry to 7 Indiana universities. Dr. Schmidt shared an update on SB1 and HB101 - enrollment estimates, and proposed funding amounts. She also shared an update on the latest property tax reform amendment and answered questions from the board.

Dr. Schmidt asked for thoughts on using an asynchronous e-learning day versus a synchronous for the upcoming May 6th elearning day, to allow for professional development at BGMS and BGHS. The board had no objections.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Lilann Sgouros at 6:25 pm, seconded by Eric McGinty. The motion carried 4-0.