

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees
May 8, 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, and Laura Grayam, Executive Assistant

Staff Members Absent: Kathleen Smith, CFO and Jacquelyn Pillar, Corporation Attorney.

There were approximately 53 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. PRESENTATIONS

A. Education Foundation for the Porter Township School Corporation Scholarship Awards – Terry Tafflinger, Education Foundation for the Porter Township School Corporation President

1. Steve Tafflinger Memorial Scholarship

MacKayla LeBlanc

2. Suzi Peterson Honorable Memorial Scholarship

Andrew Batesole

3. Business Scholarship

Mitchell Saco

4. Health Services Scholarship

Madison Kaufman

5. Engineering Scholarship

Madison Grieger

6. Wolf Legacy Scholarship

Ava Gibbs

Terry Tafflinger, Dr. Stacey Schmidt, and the Board of School Trustees presented scholarship awards

B. Red Cross Honor Cord Presentation – Lisa Kiger, Director of Health Services

Jacob Bender

Davian Carrera

Alli Lytle

Brooklyn Montes

Mitchell Saco

Kiley Sims

Trish Cochran, Lisa Kiger, and Miranda Bobrowski presented students with Red Cross Honor Cords to wear during graduation. These students have donated blood 3 or more times during their high school careers.

Trish Cochran recognized the Education Foundation for the Porter Township School Corporation as a Red Cross Premier Sponsor, collecting more than 50 pints during the calendar year, with an average blood drive collection size of more than 30 pints.

C. 2025 Academic Hall of Fame Video

The BGHS Academic Hall of Fame Video was played, highlighting students who earned Hall of Fame Status

D. Retirement Recognition – Dr. Schmidt

Kevin Donnell

Jane Lafollette

Dr. Schmidt recognized retiree Kevin Donnell, Principal of Porter Lakes Elementary

Dr. Schmidt and Mrs. Kristin Mucha recognized Porter Lakes Elementary retiree Jane Lafollette

E. 25 Years of Service Recognition – Dr. Schmidt

Jori Swan-Caratini

Dr. Schmidt and Mr. Clay Corman recognized BGHS teacher Jori Swan-Caratini for 25 dedicated years to Porter Township School Corporation

F. 2024-2025 Inspiring Educator – Dr. Schmidt

Jennifer Finley

Dr. Schmidt congratulated the Porter Township School Corporation 2024-2025 Inspiring Educator, Mrs. Jennifer Finley.

G. Education Foundation of Porter Township School Corporation 24-25 Staff Creativity Grant Recipients – Terry Taflinger, Education Foundation for the Porter Township School Corporation President

Amanda McKee

Troy Janesheski

Brian Sherwin

Katie Suggs

Kelley Wotherspoon

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 Staff Creativity Grant recipients! Troy Janesheski, Katie Suggs, and Kelley Wotherspoon presented project updates and thanked the Education Foundation for their support.

BREAK FOR CELEBRATION

5. CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt

A. Personnel Report

B. Board Minutes, 4.10.25 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
Parks, Brad	Assistant Principal	PLE	7/1/2025
Busse, Trevor	Summer Maintenance	PTSC	5/5/2025
Ivayno, Ty	Summer Maintenance	PTSC	5/12/2025
Sherwin, Brian	Summer Maintenance	PTSC	6/2/2025
Coleman, Simon	Boys JV Soccer Head Coach	BGHS	2025-2026 School Year
Lembke, Christian	Boys JV Basketball Head Coach	BGHS	2025-2026 School Year
Suggs, Catherine	Boys MS Volleyball Head Coach	BGMS	2024-2025 School Year

Leaves

Certified
Classified

Wargo, Jason	Varsity Boys Volleyball Assistant, Volunteer	BGHS	2024-2025 School Year
Bobrowski, Miranda	School Nurse	BGHS	4/11/2025 (.5)
Buczek, Michele	Teacher's Aide	BGMS	3/31/25 (.5), 4/3/25
Funk, Nicole	Custodian	PLE	3/27/25 (.5), 3/28/25
Harker, Denise	Teacher's Aide	BGHS	4/8/2025, 4/24-4/28/25
Jones, Tim	New Horizons Teacher	BGHS	4/14/2025
Kassner, Pamela	School Nurse	PLE	3/31/2025
Kusbel, Elizabeth	Teacher's Aide	PLE	4/15-4/16/2025
Moreno, Tamitha	Secretary	BGHS	4/25 (.5), 4/25/25
Pelc, Jennifer	Teacher's Aide	PLE	4/10-4/11/2025
Raymond, Andrea	Teacher's Aide	PLE	4/8/2025
Schacki, Alexis	Teacher's Aide	PLE	4/24-4/25/25
Resignations			
Clemens, Jade	Resource Teacher	BGE	5/29/2025
Hamill, Samantha	5th Grade Teacher	BGE	5/29/2025
Mikos, Ewa	Cafeteria Staff	BGHS	5/29/2025
Sanchez, Shyanna	Teacher's Aide	PLE	3/21/2025

Mrs. Kristin Mucha highlighted the recommendation of Mr. Brad Parks to Assistant Principal at Porter Lakes Elementary. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Parks to PLE!

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs. Kathleen Smith

A. Financial Report

B. Fund Report

C. Monthly Fund Transfer Report

7. BUSINESS

A. Approve 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 approve transfer students was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

B. Contract Considerations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of contracts with Rave Mobile Safety, NIESC (Shared Dietician), LINQ, LLC, The SpyGlass Group, LLC, and Gallagher. A motion to approve contracts was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

C. Approve Mentor Stipends – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of Mentor Stipends, funded by our Title IIA Grant, for our 2024-2025 new teacher mentors. A motion to approve stipends was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

D. Approve Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of fundraisers for BGHS Cheer and BGHS Girls Volleyball. A motion to approve fundraisers was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

E. Approve Overnight Field Trips – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of an overnight field trip for BGHS Boys Basketball. A motion to approve this overnight field trip was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

F. Approve Mid-Year Tax Anticipation Warrant Resolution #0525-325 – Mrs. Smith

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of a Mid-Year Tax Anticipation Resolution to ensure our operations fund balance do not go negative. Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the board. A motion to approve the Mid-Year Tax Anticipation Warrant Resolution #0525-325 was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Eric McGinty. The motion carried 4-0.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:45 pm by Lilann Sgouros. Jeannette Skibbie seconded and the motion carried 4-0.