

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting, Porter Township School Corporation Board of School Trustees
August 20, 2026 | 5:30 pm CST

**The following is a partial transcript of the meeting. A recording of the actual meeting is available on the PTSC website Board of School Trustees page, <https://www.ptsc.k12.in.us/school-board/agenda-minutes/>
Approval of this transcript as official minutes will be at the next regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees.*

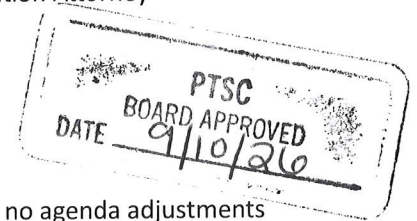
Board Members Present: Dr. Natalie Wargo, Eric McGinty, Mary Harlow, Lilann Sgouros, and Jeannette Skibbie

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Ben Parrish, Assistant Superintendent, Kathleen Smith, CFO, and Laura Grayam, Deputy Treasurer

Staff Members Absent: Dr. Stacey Schmidt, Superintendent and Jacqueline Pillar, Corporation Attorney

There were no community members present.



1. CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Natalie Wargo, President | 5:30 pm CST

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Welcome Visitors

2. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – Mr. Ben Parrish, Assistant Superintendent | There were no agenda adjustments

3. CONSENT AGENDA – Mr. Parrish

A. Personnel Report

B. Board Minutes, 7.16.26 Board Meeting

C. Payroll and Claim Dockets

Mr. Parrish 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

Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
Bender, Annmarie	6th Grade Reading Teacher	BGMS	8/10/2026
Carpenter, Maggie	Temporary 1st Grade Teacher	PLE	8/10/2026-11/3/2026
Opolski, Breanna	6th Grade Math Teacher	BGMS	8/10/2026
Barton, Elizabeth	Special Ed Paraprofessional	PLE	8/12/2026
Newton, Ashley	Special Ed Paraprofessional	PLE	8/12/2026
Shurr, Kait	Special Ed Paraprofessional	PLE	8/12/2026
<i>Extra-Curricular</i>			
Belleville, Paul	Games Club, Band Performances/Contests, Pep Band	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Bircher, Jacob	Varsity Girls Soccer, Head Coach	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Cannon, Maddie	Varsity Cheerleading, Head Coach	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Chant, John	Social Studies Academic Team, Social Studies Department Chair	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Cleland, Paige	JV Cheerleading, Co-Head Coach	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Davis, Stacy	Fall Drama, Spring Drama	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Dexter, Laura	Varsity Girls Golf, Head Coach	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Drinski, Karsen	JV Cheerleading, Co-Head Coach	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Gibbs, Jennifer	1/2 Natural Helpers	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Hill, Dean	P.E. Department Chair	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Kennedy, Justine	STEM Club, 1/3 Science Fair, 1/2 11th Grade Sponsor, Science Academic Team	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Krause, Karen	Student Council	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year

Loving, Sheryl	10th Grade Sponsor, 1/2 12th Grade Sponsor, 1/2 Key Club	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Lucas, Joseph	1/3 Science Fair	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Mikulich, Ginger	1/3 Science Fair, Science Department Chair	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Ooms, Andrew	JV Boys Soccer, Head Coach	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Perry, Kaitlyn	9th Grade Sponsor, 1/2 National Honor Society	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Rhoades, Jordan	Yearbook Coordinator	PLE	2026-2027 School Year
Saco, Melissa	1/2 11th Grade Sponsor, 1/2 12th Grade Sponsor	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Sarnowski, Katie	Academic Team Head Coach, Math Academic Team	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Swan-Caratini, Jori	English Academic Team, English Department Chair	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Tauber, Anthony	1/2 Natural Helpers	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Thill, Rollie	1/2 National Honor Society, Math Department Chair	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Trapana, Thomas	Business Department Chair	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Welbourne-Swetalla, Athena	Fine Arts Academic Team, Choir Performance and Contests, Choir Swing, Music Department Chair	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Westerman, Ivette	1/2 Key Club, Foreign Language Dept. Chair	BGHS	2026-2027 School Year
Contract Change			
<i>Certified</i>			
Voluntary Transfers			
<i>Certified</i>			
Simatovich, Michael	From 6th Grade Math Teacher to 7th Grade Math Teacher	BGMS	8/10/2026
Resignations			
<i>Classified</i>			
Buczek, Michele	Teacher's Aide	BGMS	5/29/2026
Kenevan, Jennifer	Paraprofessional	BGMS	5/29/2026
Schacki, Alexis	Preschool Aide	PLE	5/29/2026
<i>Certified</i>			
Jones, Timothy	HS Teacher	BGHS	5/29/2026
Klimczak, Ellyssa	6th Grade Reading Teacher	BGMS	5/29/2026
Shimkus, Lesley	School Nurse	PLE	8/25/2026
Suggs, Catherine	7th Grade Math Teacher	BGMS	5/29/2026
Leaves			
<i>Classified</i>			
Parks, Sharon	Teacher's Aide	PLE	8/13-8/14/2026

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented in the board packet, was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT – BUSINESS ITEMS ONLY** | There were no public comments
5. **BUSINESS**
 - A. **Financial Report – Mrs. Smith**
 1. **Financial Report**
 2. **Fund Report**

3. Monthly Fund Transfer Reports

4. Investment Report

5. Policy Analytics Cash Flow

6. Budget Workshop Presentation

There were no questions on items 1-5. Mrs. Smith presented the 2027 budget calendar, informed the board of the types of funds we have, where their dollars come from, and what types of purchases can be made from each fund. Mrs. Smith shared details regarding a potential Operating Referendum and stressed to the board the importance of being in attendance for the September and October meetings.

B. Approve Stipends for Athletics Volunteers – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith recommended approval of stipends for athletics volunteers, as presented in the board packet. A motion to approve stipends was made by Eric McGinty, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

C. Approve Transfer Students for the 2026-2027 School Year – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish recommended approval of transfer students for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented in the board packet. A motion to approve these transfer students was made by Lilann Sgouros, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

D. Approve Student & Adult Meal Price Increases – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith recommended approval of meal price increases for students and adults to go into effect for the second semester. A motion to approve these increases was made by Mary Harlow, seconded by Eric McGinty. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

E. Accept Donations – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish recommended acceptance of donations made to our “Opening Day” celebrations. Generous donations were received from Gibraltar Design, Strack & Van Til, and Target. A motion to accept donations was made by Jeannette Skibbie, seconded by Lilann Sgouros. There was no discussion and the motion carried 5-0.

6. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish provided updates from the buildings:

BGE – Thanks to all staff for doing a great job welcoming our new and returning students.

PLE – Everyone is enjoying the building renovations!

BGHS – Football kicks off tomorrow at home versus John Glenn, girls’ volleyball is 6-1 so far, girls’ soccer defeated Griffith in their season opener, and boys’ soccer is 1-0 to start the season. Good luck to all fall sports!

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:07 pm by Mary Harlow, seconded by Jeannette Skibbie. The motion carried 5-0.