

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
PORTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL CORPORATION**

PTSC
BOARD APPROVED
DATE 4-14-16

***The following is a partial transcript of the meeting. A recording of the actual meeting is available at the Administration 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.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Johanna Williams, President – 6:31 p.m.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
B. Welcome Visitors

Board members present: Ms. Johanna Williams, Mrs. Nichole Kovacik, Mr. Tom Keevin, Mrs. Lilann Sgouros and Dr. Natalie Wargo. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Schmidt; Assistant Superintendent, Ben Parrish; Deputy Treasurer, Linda Bult; Bryan Busse, Director of Facilities; Attorney Cheryl Zic and Secretary to the Superintendent, Linda Dusek. There were approximately 32 present in the audience.

2. **AGENDA ADJUSTMENT**: None

3. **PRESENTATION**: Elementary Math Bowl Sponsors, Doug Walker and Jessica Wotherspoon, and Math Bowl Students challenged the board in a Math Bowl competition. There was a brief break in the meeting for refreshments.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA – Dr. Schmidt**

- A. Personnel Report
B. Board Minutes
C. Claim Docket

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the consent agenda consisting of payroll claims and accounts payable vouchers, approval of the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., and approval of the following item listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings:

- Accept the maternity leave request of Jessica Holmquest, Food Service Director, beginning approximately March 18, 2016 for six weeks pending a doctor's release.

Mr. Keevin made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of payroll claims and accounts payable vouchers, approval of the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., and approval of the item listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 5-0.

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT – Dr. Schmidt**

- A. Appropriation Summary
B. Fund Report
C. Investments
D. Financial Moment

Dr. Schmidt referred to the financial report provided in the board packet which provides the appropriation summary, fund report and investment report and asked for questions from the board; none were heard. During the Financial Moment, Dr. Schmidt reported that roof repairs amounting to \$1,300,000 are needed at Porter Lakes Elementary School (PLE) and these funds are not allocated in the current project at PLE. Dr. Schmidt suggested financing a \$2,000,000 bond to cover the roof repairs amounting to \$1,300,000 and a few additional upgrades which were not included in the initial scope of the project which would include carpet and wall coverings in the classrooms and corridors, new cabinetry in the classrooms and technology upgrades. Dr. Schmidt presented three financing options to the board to consider and discussed tax neutrality options. Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the board and shared that this project is time sensitive with a tight turn around if the board chose to pursue this project yet this summer. After discussion, the board shared that they felt it would be most beneficial to pursue the third option of a Capital Appreciation Bond which includes the original principal as well as the appreciation of the interest over time and is payable in a lump sum at the end of the bond. This option achieves the goal of remaining tax neutral with a little bit higher interest rate due to the delayed payments and it allows for the project to begin this summer as it provides the required funding right away. Dr. Schmidt said that preliminary information has already been gathered and she will get the process started.

6. **BUSINESS**

A. Approval of the First Reading of Revisions to the following Board Bylaws/Policies: Bylaw #0100–Definitions; Bylaw #0130–Functions; Bylaw #0140–Membership; Policy #1130–Administration-Private Practice; Policy #1214–Administration-Staff Gifts; Policy #1411–Administration-Required Reports and Protection of Whistleblowers; Policy #1422–Administration-Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity; Policy #1521–Administration-Personal Background Checks and Mandatory Reporting of Convictions and Arrest; Policy #1543–Administration-Non-Renewal of Administrative Contracts; Policy #1662 - Administration-Anti-Harassment; Policy #2221-Program-Mandatory Curriculum; Policy #2260-Program-Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity; Policy #2411-Program-Guidance & Counseling; Policy #2430-Program-Corporation Sponsored Clubs and Activities; Policy #2510-Program-Adoption of Textbooks; Policy #2700-Program-Annual Performance Report; Policy

#3120.06-Selecting Student Teachers/Administrative Interns; Policy #3120.08- Professional Staff-Employment of Personnel For Extra-Curricular Activities; Policy #3121-Professional Staff-Personal Background Check and Mandatory Reporting of Convictions and Arrests; Policy #3122-Professional Staff-Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity; Policy #3124-Professional Staff-Employment Contracts with Professional Employees; Policy #3140-Professional Staff-Resignation; Policy #3142-Professional Staff-Cancellation of a Teaching Contract; Policy #3211-Professional Staff-Required Reports and Protection of Whistleblowers; Policy #3362-Professional Staff-Anti-Harassment; Policy #4121-Support Staff - Personal Background Check; Policy #4122-Support Staff-Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity and two New Policies/Deleted Policies: Policy #3113-Professional Staff-Conflict of Interest replaces deleted Policy #3231-Professional Staff-Staff Conflict of Interest-Private Practice and Policy #4113-Support Staff-Conflict of Interest replaces deleted Policy #4231-Support Staff- Staff Conflict of Interest-Private Practice-Mr. Parrish

Ms. Williams referred to the list of board bylaws/board policy revisions, two new policies and two deleted policies listed on the agenda and asked for a motion from the board. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the first reading of the revisions to the board bylaws/board policies, the addition of two new board policies and the deletion of two board policies as listed on the agenda and to waive the readings; seconded by Mr. Keevin. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Approval of High School Blended Course Offerings – Mr. Corman

Mr. Corman explained that in an effort to provide both motivation and autonomy for both students and teachers and a diversified instructional approach which maximizes goals and learning styles for each student, he is proposing optional blended course offerings for high school students for the next school year.. This opportunity may possibly expand course offerings in the future. Teachers could host classes two or three times a week in the classroom and two or three time per week online with no additional staffing. Mr. Corman answered questions from the board. Mrs. Kovacik made a motion to approve the optional high school blended course offerings option as presented by Mr. Corman for the 2016-17 school year; seconded by Mr. Keevin. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Approval of Summer School Courses – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish discussed several options for summer school including blended courses with a combination of online and classroom instruction offered in Government, Health Earth Space Science, Poetry, Spanish I and Intro to Business. There is a requirement of at least 15 students enrolled in each class to qualify for full state reimbursement and there is a \$50 deposit which will be refunded upon completion of the course. Mr. Corman and Mr. Ivanyo will oversee A+ credit recovery for the high school from June 6 to June 30, Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. There is a \$75 fee per course. The middle school proposed Math and Language Arts courses for struggling students in grades 6-8 which will be offered from June 6 to June 30, Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. There is also a requirement of at least 15 students enrolled to qualify for full reimbursement from the state. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the summer school courses as presented by Mr. Parrish; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Approval of Girls' Basketball Skills Camps – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt referred to the list of girls' basketball skills camps provided in the board packet and recommended approval of these camps as presented. Mrs. Kovacik made a motion to approve the requested girls' basketball skills camps as presented; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt reported that several donations have been presented for the Natural Helpers Fund, Athletic Department and Student Fund at Boone Grove High School and recommended acceptance of these donations. Mr. Keevin made a motion to accept the donations for the high school; seconded by Mrs. Kovacik. Motion carried 5-0.

7. FACILITIES DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Busse referred to his report provided in the board packet. Mr. Busse reported that his crew is busy getting ready for spring. The steel was supposed to be erected at PLE on Monday, but due to the Frost Law put in effect by the county, it has been delayed until next Monday.

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Schmidt reported that two virtual inclement weather days were used on February 24 and 25 and she shared that she has had some positive feedback from parents. Dr. Schmidt sent a survey to parents on using virtual inclement weather days and she reported on the following findings:

- I have internet access at home: 99% answered yes
- My child knew where to go to find his/her work: 90% answered yes, 1.6% did not know the answer
- Teachers were available if my child needed help: 73% answered yes, 24% did not know the answer
- About 50% of PTSC students access help from their teacher (17% answered that they did not know if their child accessed help)
- Learning targets were available by 9:00 a.m.: 99% answered yes
- I would like to see the option to use virtual inclement weather days to continue: 90% answered yes

Dr. Schmidt also reported that the WolfPack Football Club is sponsoring their annual Fish Fry tomorrow night at the high school followed by the Porter Township School Corporation Staff vs. the Porter County Sheriff's Department annual basketball game. Dr. Schmidt wished a Happy Birthday to Johanna Williams on April 9 and Matt Boone on March 27.

9. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Sgouros said she really enjoyed the Empty Bowls Soup Dinner and commended Nora Majors for a job well done.

10. **SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mr. Donnell shared appreciation for his staff for their continued cooperation and team work to ensure the safety of the kids during the construction project. I-READ testing is next week for 3rd graders.
- Mr. Corman thanked his staff for all of their extra hard work during the I-STEP testing and announced that there is a band concert on March 17 at the high school.
- Mr. Parrish reported that 36 students are currently enrolled in the Alternative School with 11 students who have finished coursework with a total of 255 course credits earned. The teachers have done an outstanding job working with the students and it is continuing to do well.

11. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

12. **ADJOURNMENT – 7:48 p.m.**

Mr. Keevin made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Kovacik. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

This meeting is a meeting of the School Board for the purpose of conducting the School Corporation's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There will be a time for public participation, as indicated by the agenda. The meeting site is fully accessible. Any person requiring further accommodation should contact the superintendent.

