

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

PTSC
BOARD APPROVED
DATE 4-13-2017

***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 – 6:35 p.m.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Welcome Visitors

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

2. AGENDA ADJUSTMENT: None

3. PRESENTATION: Math Bowl Presentation - Boone Grove Elementary School - Mr. Robert Lukas
Mr. Lukas and two Math Bowl Teams challenged the Board in a Math Bowl competition.

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 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. and approval of the following items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings and pending clear background searches:

- **Approve** the retirement request of **Elaine Castelli**, Head Custodian at the Boone Grove Complex, effective February 17, 2017.
- **Approve** a position change for **Tonia Batesole** from Kitchen Manager to Operations Manager at the Boone Grove High School Cafeteria with a pay rate increase to \$15.30 per hour effective as of March 13, 2017. Tonia will work 8 hours per day or as needed for 200 days per school year.
- **Approve** a position change for **Michell Deavers** from night shift Custodian to Head Custodian at the Boone Grove Complex working the 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. shift with a pay rate increase of an additional \$.80 per hour.
- **Approve** **Jamie Coffin** as the Student Council Sponsor for the 2016-17 school year. Her pay rate will be based upon the 2016-17 ECA Salary Schedule.
- **Approve** **Tom Marcheschi** as a **Volunteer** Assistant High School Softball Coach for the 2016-17 school year.
- **Approve** **Kelly Kraus** as a Varsity Softball **Volunteer** Assistant Coach for the 2016-17 school year.
- **Approve** **Kelly Wilkening** as a Varsity Softball **Volunteer** Assistant Coach for the 2016-17 school year.
- **Approve** **Dean Ricci** as a Varsity Football **Volunteer** Assistant Coach for the 2017-18 school year.

Mrs. Sgouros 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 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. and approval of the items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings and pending clear background searches; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 4-0.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

- A. Appropriation summary
- B. Fund Report
- C. Investments

Dr. Schmidt referred to the appropriation summary, the fund report and investment summary provided in the board packet and asked for questions from the board; no questions were heard.

6. BUSINESS

A. Approval of Summer School Courses – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish said the state will provide reimbursement for summer school with a minimum enrollment requirement of 15 students enrolled in each course. The high school would like to offer three blended summer school courses and two traditional summer school courses. Dr. Wargo made a motion to approve summer school courses as recommended by Mr. Parrish; seconded by Mrs. Kovacik. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Porter County Community Foundation – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said Promise Indiana is an exciting grant program and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Porter County Community Foundation is needed at this time as part of the grant application process. This program is in conjunction with the Valparaiso YMCA and Porter County Community Foundation. The Valparaiso YMCA is actually the writer of the grant and they are working to setup 529 Education Savings Accounts for all first grade students in Porter County. Beyond setting up the initial accounts, Porter County Community Foundation is working to recruit donors who will provide an initial contribution towards the 529 through investors in Porter County. Research shows when students have these 529 Education Savings Accounts it encourages the investment idea to continue their education and learning with a substantial impact. Dr. Schmidt said we are excited for this potential opportunity for our first grade students which could possibly start as early as next school year. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with Porter County Community Foundation. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Porter County Community Foundation as presented by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 4-0.

C. Approval of Instructional Technology Restructuring Proposal– Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt explained that a strong and efficient technology team is needed to meet our district's needs. Five Star Technologies has currently provided technology services, support, a help ticketing system, and has helped to build our current strong technology team. Dr. Schmidt said strengths and weaknesses of the technology team are frequently reviewed and usage of Five Star Technology has declined over the past year. She now feels confident that our technology team is ready to provide in house support. The technology team has coded a ticketing system all by themselves which mirrors our current ticketing system and has also found a free monitoring system. All of these changes will reflect savings for the district. Dr. Schmidt said with the transition from Five Star Technology there is a need for a leader of the Technology Department and named Mr. Mike Skoda as a person who has moved forward with great drive, who is a great asset to our district and a Boone Grove graduate as well. Dr. Schmidt suggested moving Mr. Skoda to the role of Technology Director with a compensation increase. Dr. Schmidt said there is also a need for a leader in the Human Resources area. Mr. Ben Parrish currently does not have a 12-month contract and Dr. Schmidt suggested adding additional days to Mr. Parrish's contract to allow him to oversee Human Resources with a compensation increase. Dr. Schmidt said combining savings and costs with the restructuring suggestions would cost the district approximately \$10,000 to \$13,000. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the restructuring proposal including naming Mr. Skoda as Director of Technology with additional compensation and adding days to Mr. Parrish's contract with additional compensation for overseeing Human Resources. Mrs. Kovacik made a motion to approve the instructional technology restructuring proposal as presented by Dr. Schmidt including naming Mr. Skoda as the Director of Technology and adding days to Mr. Parrish's contract to oversee Human Resources with additional compensation; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 4-0.

D. Legislative Update – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt discussed House Bills 1003-Assessment; House Bill 10004/SB 276-Preschool; HB 1009-School Budgets; HB 1382-Charters; HB 1591 and SB 534; HB 1024-School Prayer; HB 1383-Elementary Teachers; HB 1382-Charters; HB 1591 and SB 534; HB 1001-Biennial Budget; and tips for advocating for all students in Indiana.

7. DIRECTOR OF FACILITY SERVICES REPORT

Mr. Busse referred to his report provided in the board packet and reported that his crew is getting ready for the change in seasons. Mr. Busse asked for questions from the board and heard none.

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Dr. Schmidt said occasionally board members are unavailable. In order to take care of business in a timely fashion, Dr. Schmidt suggested consideration of appointing a board member to act in the role of Deputy Board Secretary in the event of the absence of the Board Secretary, if needed. Mrs. Kovacik and Mrs. Sgouros said they agree that appointing someone to serve in this capacity is a good idea. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to name Dr. Natalie Wargo as the Deputy Board Secretary to serve in the Board Secretary's absence if needed; Mrs. Kovacik seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- Dr. Schmidt wished Johanna Williams a Happy Birthday on April 9.
- Dr. Schmidt announced the location change of the next school board meeting to be held on Thursday, April 13 at Porter Lakes Elementary School in the Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Schmidt said the meeting location change is for the month of April only and the purpose is to allow time for the board to tour the building after the completion of the recent building project.

9. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – None

Ms. Williams shared the number of families the Porter County Food Pantry served during the past year was an average of 122 families, 399 people and 5,260 pounds of food distributed! Our students do a fantastic job of gathering items and donations for the food pantry. The Empty Bowls event was our most recent fundraiser for the food pantry in helping our students to learn that community service is really important.

10. SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Corman reported on ISTEP testing at the high school and upcoming professional development opportunities. Tomorrow night is the Porter County Sheriff's vs. PTSC Staff Basketball fundraiser game for the School Safety Program. A Fish/Chicken Fry and Silent Auction sponsored by the Wolfpack Football Club will also take place.
- Mr. Donnell said PLE will have a Skate Night on Saturday night at 5:00 at Ben Franklin School. PLE will have IREAD testing next week.
- Mr. Lichtenberger said ISTEP testing Round 1 is wrapping up and March 21 is the BGMS Choir Concert.
- Mr. Parrish shared a success story about a girl who came to the Alternative School Program and had some very difficult times and struggled, but she finally finished this week! She now wants to go to school and continue her education! It is always great to share success stories like this!

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**12. ADJOURNMENT – 7:34 p.m.**

Mrs. Kovacik made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 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.