

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

PTSC
BOARD APPROVED
DATE 5-10-2018

***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 – 6:29 p.m.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Welcome Visitors

Board members present: Ms. Johanna Williams, Mrs. Nichole Kovacic, Dr. Natalie Wargo, Mrs. Lilann Sgouros and Mrs. Laura Chavez. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Schmidt; Assistant Superintendent, Ben Parrish; Board Attorney, Cheryl Zic; Business Manager/Treasurer, Aline Busse; Deputy Treasurer, Linda Bult and Secretary to the Superintendent, Linda Dusek. There were approximately nine (9) patrons present in the audience.

2. AGENDA ADJUSTMENT - None

3. PRESENTATION – Porter Lakes Elementary School – Mr. Donnell

Mr. Donnell shared about Promise Porter County which is an incentive that encourages families to invest in a college savings plan beginning with first grade. Mr. Donnell shared a video about their field trip to Valparaiso University which was an excellent opportunity to encourage students to attend college, to experience touring a college campus and to participate in fun activities.

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, March 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., and approval of the following items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings and pending clear background searches:

- Accept the request of Tonia Batesole, Food Services Operations Manager, for three days of unpaid leave of absence on April 12, 13 and 16, 2018.
- Approve Kathryn Maki as a temporary 5th Grade Teacher at Boone Grove Elementary School beginning on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 through Friday, May 25, 2018.
- Approve Abbey Stahr as the Art Club Sponsor at Boone Grove Elementary School for the Spring 2018 session beginning April 4 through May 10, 2018.
- Permission to compensate Charles Burford and Thomas Magiera as Middle School Wrestling Co-Coaches for the 2016-17 school year as per the 2016-17 ECA Salary Schedule. Mr. Burford and Mr. Magiera were approved as Volunteer Wrestling Coaches on November 10, 2016 and transitioned to Middle School Wrestling Co-Coaches for 2016-17 and were not compensated due to an oversight.
- Approve Walter Bradford as the Boys' Middle School Track & Field Coach for the 2017-18 school year with compensation as per the 2017-18 ECA Salary Schedule.
- Approve Jennifer Luebke as the Girls' Middle School Track & Field Coach for the 2017-18 school year with compensation as per the 2017-18 ECA Salary Schedule.
- Approve Ralph De La Fuente as a Boys' Golf Volunteer Assistant Coach for the 2017-18 school year.
- Approve Carla Marcheschi as a Volunteer Assistant High School Softball Coach for the 2017-18 school year.
- Approve Michael Hamady as a Junior Varsity Softball Volunteer Assistant Coach for the 2017-18 school year.
- Approve Bryan Hill as a JV Baseball Volunteer Coach for the 2017-18 school year.

Dr. Wargo 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, March 8, 2018 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 Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 5-0.

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 EMCOR Contract – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt referred to the EMCOR contract included in the board packet which includes HVAC, heating and cooling, a new roof, lighting, ceilings and building repairs and recommended approval of the EMCOR contract, subject to closing on the bond issue in the next few weeks. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the EMCOR contract, subject to closing on the bond issue in the next few weeks, and as presented in the board packet; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Accept Bid for BGE/BGMS iPad Airls – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said after receiving permission last month to advertise for bids for the recycled iPad Airls for Grades 4-8, she was pleased to receive nine bids. Dr. Schmidt recommended accepting the best bid from Secure Recycling for \$110.00 per iPad. Dr. Wargo made a motion to accept the bid from Secure Recycling for \$110.00 per iPad as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Accept Donations – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said the high school received three donations: Matthew Kobus and Jane Richardson Kobus donated \$100.00 for the Gaming Club; R.H. and Sandra Gaby donated \$175.00 for The Boys' Track & Field team and Bonnie Thanos donated \$25.00 for the Baseball Team. Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of these donations and thanked the community for their generous support. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to accept the donations as presented by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Kovacik. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Approval of Fundraisers – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt asked for approval of the fundraisers provided in the board packet. Mrs. Kovacik made a motion to approve the fundraisers as requested by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Approval of the First Reading of the 2018-2019 Student Handbook – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said many have worked hard in reviewing the student handbook and the revisions are presented in the board packet for the first reading. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the first reading of the 2018-2019 Student Handbook as presented; waiving the reading; Mrs. Kovacik seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

F. Adoption of Textbooks – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt recommended adoption of First Steps in Music from GIA Publications for Porter Lakes Elementary School and Conversational Solfege from GIA Publications for Boone Grove Elementary School. Mrs. Kovacik made a motion to adopt First Steps in Music and Conversational Solfege as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 5-0.

G. Accept Farm Lease Bid – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said bids were recently received for the advertised farm lease bid and recommended accepting the bid for \$220 per acre from Gary and Mary Dunlap. Dr. Wargo made a motion to accept the farm lease bid for \$220 per acre from Gary and Mary Dunlap; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 5-0.

H. Approval of the First Reading of Revisions to the Coaches' Handbook – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish said the Athletic Director, Mr. Banning, has presented revisions to the Coaches' Handbook to reflect recent changes in policies and procedures and recommended approval of the first reading. Mrs. Chavez made a motion to approve the first reading of revisions to the Coaches' Handbook and to waive the reading; seconded by Mrs. Kovacik. Motion carried 5-0.

I. Approval and Adoption of the Second Reading of the following Board Policy Revisions: Revised Board Policy 3113 – Professional Staff – Conflict of Interest; Revised Board Policy 3213 – Professional Staff – Student Supervision and Welfare; Revised Board Policy 4213 – Classified Staff – Student Supervision and Welfare – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish asked for questions from the Board regarding the proposed policy revisions as presented in the board packet. No questions were heard and Mr. Parrish recommended approval and adoption of the board policy revisions for Board Policy 3113, Board Policy 3213 and Board Policy 4213. Mrs. Kovacik made a motion for approval and adoption of the second reading of board policy revisions for Board Policy 3113, Board Policy 3213 and Board Policy 4213; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 5-0.

J. Approval of Summer Hours – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish proposed summer hours to be held Monday through Thursday, beginning on Monday, June 4 through Friday, July 27, with operational hours from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and all buildings will be closed on Fridays to

allow for energy cost savings. Mrs. Kovacik made a motion to approve the proposed summer hours as presented by Mr. Parrish; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 5-0.

K. Permission to Post for Summer Maintenance Helpers – Mr. Parrish

Mr. Parrish asked for permission to post for three (3) additional summer maintenance helpers to assist as needed. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to approve posting for the three (3) additional summer maintenance helpers as requested by Mr. Parrish; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 5-0.

L. Discussion on Kindergarten Early Entrance – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt reported that a recent legislative session ended with bills left on the floor. Surprisingly, legislators passed language requiring a student entering Kindergarten to be age 5 by August 1 in order for schools to receive state funding for them. This new language would eliminate the option to allow parents to appeal for early entrance if their child's age did not meet the August 1 requirement. This new language leaves two choices: Option 1) Students are required to be 5 years of age by August 1 to enter Kindergarten and receive state support with no early entrance option or Option 2) Allow parents to appeal for early entrance if their child's age does not meet the August 1 requirement and lose state funding for those students. The latest news is that Governor Holcomb is planning to call a legislative session possibly on May 14 and speculation is that it will be limited to items left on the floor. Dr. Schmidt encouraged everyone to contact their legislators to voice their opinions on the kindergarten early entrance issue. Dr. Schmidt warned the Board of a potential difficult decision ahead of them. Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the Board and an unidentified patron in the audience was allowed to ask a few questions about the kindergarten early entrance issue.

M. Presentation on Porter Lakes Elementary School (PLE) Preschool – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt invited Mrs. Wotherspoon and Mrs. Long to share about their teams' research in developing a Preschool Program. Mrs. Long said research shows that students who participate in a formal preschool tend to out perform their peers academically. Many benefits of a preschool program include: opportunities to give lower income families an early childhood education at an affordable rate; keeping kids in district rather than seeking other programs; encouraging families to come into the district; better preparing our students to transition into Kindergarten; and the opportunity to build relationships with families for an entire year before Kindergarten. Dr. Schmidt congratulated the team on a fantastic job over the past year researching and tackling this project. The proposed program would provide a self-sustaining Kindergarten readiness program with a curriculum to bridge the gap to preschool with a licensed teacher. Two program proposals are: Option 1: five half days per week (15 students in the morning and 15 in the afternoon) \$15 per day/per student with a cost of \$2,700 and would generate revenue of \$81,000 with 30 students or Option 2: three days per week (20 kids) \$15 per day/per student; and a student supply fee of \$60 per student. Mr. Donnell shared that information has been posted on Facebook, Twitter, the district's webpage and published in few local newspapers. Mr. Donnell said he is hopeful that interest will increase as the program is promoted. Discussion continued and Mr. Donnell and Dr. Schmidt answered questions from the Board.

N. Approval of McKinney-Vento District Plan – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt said the McKinney-Vento District Plan is a state and federal program which provides some procedures and rights for students who are experiencing homelessness. State and Federal Regulations requires training for staff every year. Each district is required to post a plan on their website to provide materials to parents of students who may be experiencing homelessness, to provide educational guidance and students rights documents, and also to provide additional information in the buildings. Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the McKinney-Vento District Plan as provided in the board packet which will be posted on the district's website. Mrs. Kovacik made a motion to approve the McKinney-Vento District Plan as presented by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Chavez. Motion carried 5-0.

7. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Parrish said New Horizons now has 360 credits to date. Mr. Parrish said he is considering the possibility of running a summer session again this year based upon interest and class size. Mr. Parrish announced that this Month's Employee of the Month is Kim Wauro. Mrs. Wauro is a Kindergarten teacher at PLE and has been with PTSC for 20 years and previously taught at Merrillville. Mrs. Wauro is a 1990 graduate from BGHS and a 1995 graduate from Purdue University Calumet. Mrs. Wauro is a kind, caring, patient and energetic teacher and another awesome example of our awesome staff who we are so proud of.

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Schmidt congratulated PTSC Nursing Director, Jamie Coffin, who has been selected by the Indiana Association of School Nurses to be a member of the 2018 School Nursing Academy because of her leadership, ability and potential. Dr. Schmidt shared some of the things she loves most about Porter Township Schools are that she sees a common thread in the principals, who are always working to make connections with the kids, calling the kids by their names in the hallway and interacting with them to encourage them to do their best. All of these things are what makes PTSC so special.

9. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – None**10. SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mr. Corman reported that the Prom is Saturday; the Musical is May 4, 5 and 6; ISTEP testing for the next 3 weeks, and the Drunk Driving Task Force is coming for prom week. Mr. Corman also discussed keeping safety at the forefront, they have been working to eliminate hallways as a tornado safety spot during the drills.
- Mr. Ivanyo reported that Friday Night Live was a great experience with the Harry Potter cast and ISTEP testing is beginning next week.
- Mr. Donnell reported that Kindergarten Roundup is April 25 and pop tab collection begins on April 30 with proceeds being donated to the Ronald McDonald House.
- Mr. Lichtenberger reported that ISTEP testing begins next week, Teacher Appreciation Week begins May 7th and BGMS academic team competition is April 28 at Boston Middle School in Laporte.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**12. ADJOURNMENT - 7:44 p.m.**

Mrs. Kovacik made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Wargo. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 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.