

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

PTSC  
BOARD APPROVED  
DATE 5-14-15

\*\*\*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 Kovacic, Mr. John Spangenberg, Mr. Tom Keevin and Mrs. Lilann Sgouros. Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Schmidt; Attorney Cheryl Zic; Director of Facilities, Bryan Busse and Secretary to the Superintendent, Linda Dusek. There were approximately 16 present in the audience.

**2. AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**

Dr. Schmidt requested the following Agenda Adjustments:

- A. Move Business Item 6K. 1:1 in Grades 4-8 Presentation to take place after Business Item 6G. Approval of the First Reading of the 2015-16 Student Handbook Revisions.
- B. Addition of Business Item 6L. Permission to Post for three Summer Grounds Custodial Helpers

**3. PRESENTATION: Conversational Solfege: Developing Music Language – Holly Granzow**

Three 3<sup>rd</sup> graders helped Ms. Granzow demonstrate conversational solfege to the board. 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, March 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., and approval of the following items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings and pending a clear background search:

- Accept the resignation of Catherine Cruse as Art Teacher at Boone Grove High School effective at the end of the 2014-15 school year.
- Accept the resignation of Erik Conrath as Physics Teacher at Boone Grove High School effective at the end of the 2014-15 school year.
- Accept the resignation of Linda Eleftheri as Girls' Varsity Volleyball Coach effective as of March 19, 2015.
- Approve Jori Swan as the English Department Chair at Boone Grove High School effective as of March 12, 2015. Her rate of pay will be based upon the ECA Salary Schedule at the zero (0) years of experience level.
- Approve Jori Swan, Holly Perez, Danyelle Vivian, Katelyn Sarnowski, Erik Conrath as ECA Remediation Teachers at Boone Grove High School for the 2014-15 school year. Their rate of pay will be \$13.79 per hour.
- Approve Jennifer Fieleke as a temporary Kindergarten Teacher for a maternity leave at Porter Lakes Elementary School beginning approximately Wednesday, April 1, 2015 through the remainder of the 2014-15 school year.
- Approve Olivia Laviolette as a Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach for the 2014-15 school year.
- Approve Melissa Bowman and Pamela Richwine as Title One Aides at Porter Lakes Elementary School beginning on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 for 50 days/2 hours per day. Their rate of pay will be \$9.82 per hour.
- Approve Bryan Hill and Jerry Paul as Volunteer Assistant High School Baseball Coaches for the 2014-15 school year.
- Accept the resignation of Leah Thon as Part-Time Art Teacher at Porter Lakes Elementary School effective at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Mr. Spangenberg 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 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., and approval of the items listed on the Personnel Report waiving the readings and pending a clear background search; seconded by Mr. Keevin. Motion carried 5-0.

**5. FINANCIAL REPORT – Dr. Schmidt**

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

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

**6. BUSINESS****A. Accept Qualified Provider – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt reported that a notice of bids for qualification of energy services provider was published and bids were accepted. Dr. Schmidt recommended that Emcor be accepted as the qualified provider. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to accept Emcor as the qualified provider as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Kovacik. Motion carried 5-0.

**B. Presentation of Estimated Tax Impacts – Jim Elizondo, City Securities Corporation**

Mr. Jim Elizondo of City Securities Corporation gave a presentation discussing estimated tax impacts, modeling potential tax impacts and discussed options for financing the proposed project. Mr. Elizondo answered questions from the board. Dr. Schmidt thanked Mr. Elizondo for his presentation.

**C. Approve Resolution #0415-130-Approval to Advertise 1028 and Preliminary Determination Hearing and Approval of Financing Team – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of Resolution #0415-130 which will give permission to advertise for a 1028 and Preliminary Determination Hearing and allows for a financial team to be appointed. Dr. Schmidt also recommended waiving the reading of the resolution. Mr. Spangenberg made a motion to approve Resolution #0415-130 – Approval to Advertise 1028 and Preliminary Determination Hearing and approval of a financing team and to also waive the reading; seconded by Mr. Keevin. Motion carried 5-0.

**D. Approval of the Second Reading of Board Policy Revisions/New Policies: Revised Policy #1240-Administration-Evaluation of the Superintendent; Revised Policy #1543-Administration-Non-Renewal of Administrative Contracts; Revised Policy #1615-Administration-Use of Tobacco by Administrators; New Policy #1617-Administration-Weapons; Revised Policy #2700-Program-Annual Performance Report; Revised Policy #3124-Professional Staff-Employment Contracts with Professional Employees; Revised Policy #3215-Professional Staff-Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff; Revised Policy #3217-Professional Staff-Weapons; Revised Policy #4215-Support Staff-Use of Tobacco by Support Staff; Revised Policy 4217-Support Staff-Weapons; Revised Policy #5320- Students-Immunization; Revised Policy #5512-Students-Use of Tobacco; Revised Policy #5772-Students-Weapons; Revised Policy #5830-Students-Student Fund-Raising; Revised Policy #7217-Property-Possession of Firearms and Weapons by Visitors; Revised Policy #7434-Property-Use of Tobacco by Visitors; Revised Policy #8432-Operations-Pest Control and Use of Pesticides; Revised Policy #8500-Operations-Food Services; Revised Policy #8510-Operations-Wellness; Revised Policy #8540-Operations-Vending Machines; Revised Policy #9210-Relations-Adult Support Organizations and Revised Policy #9270-Relations-Equivalent Instruction for Compulsory Attendance Compliance Purposes (Home Schooling and Non-Accredited Schools) – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt reflected that the board policies listed on the agenda have been reviewed over the past few months and she is now recommending that the board approve the second reading of these policies and adopt the policy revisions and new policies as provided in the board packet and to waive the reading. Mr. Keevin made a motion to approve the second reading of the board policies listed on the agenda and to adopt the policies as provided in the board packet and to waive the reading; seconded by Mr. Spangenberg.

**E. Accept Donation – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended acceptance of a generous donation received from Bulfa Dental Corporation in the amount of \$200.00 to be used for the Boone Grove High School National Honor Society Mr. BGHS event and deposited into the National Honor Society Fund. Mrs. Kovacik made a motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$200.00 for the National Honor Society Fund at Boone Grove High School to be used for the Mr. BGHS event; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Motion carried 5-0.

**F. Approval of the Drop-Off Recycling Site Lease Agreement – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the annual renewal of the Drop-Off Recycling Site Lease Agreement with the Recycling & Waste Reduction District of Porter County explaining that the recycling site is located at the Boone Grove School Complex. Mr. Spangenberg made a motion to approve the renewal of the Drop-Off Recycling Site Lease Agreement as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mrs. Sgouros. Ms. Williams said she feels this is a good service for the whole community to have readily available. Motion carried 5-0.

**G. Approval of the First Reading of the 2015-16 Student Handbook Revisions – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the first reading of the as suggested revision have been presented. Mr. Spangenberg asked for clarification of the proposed change to Penalties- second offense for a student athlete found on page 65 of the revised student handbook. After discussion it was decided to add the word "first" in front of 75% to provide clarification. Mr. Spangenberg made a motion to approve the first reading of the 2015-16 District Student Handbook Revisions with the addition of the word "first" in front of 75% on page 65 and to waive the reading; seconded by Mr. Keevin. Motion carried 5-0.

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENT: Move Agenda Item Business Item 6K to take place after Business Item 6G.**

Mr. Lichtenberger provided an overview of the proposal to move the Boone Grove Complex to 1-1 computing. Mr. Lichtenberger reported that his staff has been working hard throughout the year to provide a successful transition. Mr. Lichtenberger discussed the need to change the way we learn by transitioning from textbooks to a device. Dr. Schmidt discussed the scope of the project which would include: providing an iPad Air, adding an Apple TV to allow wireless projection, professional development from Apple to train our staff, a budget of \$10 per device for apps, considering a cheaper insurance policy, considering a better protective case at a one-time cost to parents, and our tech team has suggested Meraki as the mobile device management as they feel it is a viable option and it is free. Financial impact on families would include a cost of a consumable science book, \$90 device fee and \$30 for case. Dr. Schmidt also discussed the financial impact to our district. A four year lease for 580 iPad at a total cost of \$216,920 with the majority of the cost paid out of textbook rental, Apple TV is just under \$2,000, professional development is already paid for, finance charges are currently at a promotional rate of 1.49%. Dr. Schmidt said it is incredibly important to make this move to 1:1 because 65% of elementary students will be working in jobs that have not even been created yet today. Dr. Schmidt said the possibilities ahead are exciting and recommended to move forward with 1:1 computing at BGE and BGMS with a four year lease for the devices. Dr. Schmidt and Mr. Lichtenberger answered questions from the board. Mr. Spangenberg made a motion to approve the move to 1:1 in Grades 4-8 with a four year lease for devices; seconded by Mrs. Kovacik. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Spangenberg feels it is great that we are getting to this level in preparing our kids for the future. Ms. Williams commented on great communication between the middle school and the high school.

**H. Approval of the 2015-16 Textbook Adoptions – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the requested 2015-16 textbook adoptions as provided in the board packet. Ms. Williams made a motion to approve the 2015-16 textbook adoptions as recommended; seconded by Mrs. Kovacik. Motion carried 5-0.

**I. Approval of the 2015-16 Course Fees – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt recommended approval of the 2015-16 course fees as presented from each school. Mr. Keevin made a motion to approve the 2015-16 course fees as recommended by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mr. Spangenberg. Motion carried 5-0.

**J. Permission to Apply for a Common School Fund Advancement – Mr. Busse**

Dr. Schmidt requested permission to apply for a Common School Fund Advancement in order to assist with the 1:1 advancement. Mrs. Sgouros made a motion to give permission to apply for a Common School Fund Advancement as requested by Dr. Schmidt; seconded by Mr. Keevin. Motion carried 5-0.

**(AGENDA ADJUSTMENT – MOVED to take place after Business Item 6G.)**

**K. 1:1 in Grades 4-8 Presentation – Mr. Lichtenberger and Dr. Schmidt**

**L. Agenda Adjustment: Addition of Business Item 6L. Permission to post for three (3) summer grounds helpers – Dr. Schmidt**

As in the past, Mr. Busse requested to once again post for three summer grounds helpers. Mr. Spangenberg made a motion to grant permission to post for three summer grounds helpers; Mrs. Kovacik seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**7. DIRECTOR OF FACILITY SERVICES REPORT**

Mr. Busse referred to his report provided in the board packet. Mr. Busse said preparations are underway for taking care of the grounds, mowing and working on the new classroom for the Alternative School at the high school.

**8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt welcomed Mr. Parrish who has now transitioned into his new role as Assistant Superintendent and reported that Mr. Parrish has been busy working on the Alternative School and school safety. Dr. Schmidt shared the following announcements and upcoming events:

- Kerri Schludecker was named as a member of the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee and is doing great things for our region.
- A discussion about marijuana, "The Blunt Truth" will be held on April 29 at the IMAX in Portage
- Birthdays: Johanna William's birthday is today. Upcoming birthdays are: Linda Bult, Nick Cain, Aline Busse and Adam Metzger.
- Mr. BGHS is tomorrow night

**9. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Williams reported that Sunday is the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast at the Boone Grove Fire Department from 7:00 to 1:00.

**10. SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mr. Lichtenberger reported that Friday Night Live is tomorrow night and welcomed all to come and have fun. Next Tuesday is the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Concert at 7:00 p.m.
- Mr. Corman reported that Mr. BGHS will be tomorrow night at the high school; the Dance team will have a fundraiser on Saturday.
- Mr. Donnell reported that PLE will have a Spring Concert on Wednesday, April 15 and thanked Ms. Granzow for her presentation tonight. Mr. Donnell also reported that PLE will have a Blood Drive on May 4 after school from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- None****12. ADJOURNMENT – 7:58 p.m.**

Mr. Keevin made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Spangenberg. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 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.*