

PORTAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Committed to the growth of ALL: Students, Families, Community

October 9, 2023

Gerstenkorn Administration Building

School Board Meeting - Minutes

1. 1.1 Call to Order - Open Meeting Declaration - Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and declared an open meeting by President Kelly Behnke. Roll Call – Johnson – yes, Cross- yes, Garrigan – yes, Shlimovitz – yes, Stevenson, Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes.
Board Members Present: Johnson, Cross, Behnke, Garrigan, Shlimovitz, Stevenson, and Fahey. Student Representative: Addie Gavinski.
- 1.2 Board Members Absent: None.
- 1.3 Administrators Present: Sween, Hibner, Gulrud, Muth, Podoll, Stolpa, Paulsen, Stout, Carlson, J. Garrigan, Kane, and VanderSchaaf.
Guests Present: Michelle Doherty, Stefanie Sunderman, Michael Brayley, and PHS and Gutersloh exchange students Hannah Brockschmidt, Addison Zuther, Celine Bischof, Alexa Markov, Lea Wullenkord, Mekah Erdmann, Lillianna Jones, Molly McComb Benjamin Rhys Thornley, Chase Jones, Pierce Pahlitzsch, Xavier Albrecht, Amalie Hoener, Ylvi Stenzel, and Jared Benson.
- 1.4 Media Present: None.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Motion by Shlimovitz, second by Stevenson to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call – Shlimovitz – yes, Cross – yes, Johnson -yes, Garrigan- yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.
4. Board Updates
 - A. German Exchange Program Report – Students and teachers from Portage High School and Stadtisches Gymnasium Gutersloh talked about their experiences so far with this year’s exchange visit, the 48th year of the program.
 - B. Middle School and High School Goals Presentations – Kasey Podoll, Jennifer Muth, Jennifer Garrigan and Sean Stout shared their goals summaries for the school year.
 - C. Student Representative Report – Addie Gavinski provided an update regarding fall events at the high school.
5. Public Comments – None.
6. Action Items
 - A. Motion by Shlimovitz, second by Stevenson to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Johnson – yes, Cross – yes, Shlimovitz – yes, Behnke – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.
 - B. Motion by Garrigan, second by Fahey to approve the proposed 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Calendar Versions and Early Start Date Resolution as presented. Roll Call – Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes, Cross – no, Stevenson – yes, Behnke – yes. Motion carried: 6-1.
 - C. Motion by Garrigan, second by Johnson to set the special October board meeting for October 23 at 6 p.m. Roll Call – Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Cross – yes, Behnke – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.
7. Committee Reports

A. Motion by Shlimovitz, second by Garrigan to approve the Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee Report (Monthly Bills, Budget Transfers, Field Trip Requests, Third Friday Count Day Report, and Approval of Advisor and/or Underwriter for Potential Upcoming Referendum) as presented. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Cross – yes, Johnson – yes, Shlimovitz – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey -yes, Behnke - yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

September 2023	
Fund 10	\$1,882,552.62
Fund 27	\$386,972.64
Fund 50	<u>\$71,847.42</u>
Total Expenditures	\$2,341,372.68

B. Motion by Cross, second by Stevenson to approve the Curriculum/Instructional Technology Report as presented. Roll Call – Shlimovitz – yes, Cross – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

C. Motion by Cross, second by Johnson to the i-Ready, Heggerty and Foundations as the district’s reading readiness assessment as presented. Roll Call – Shlimovitz – yes, Johnson- yes, Garrigan – yes, Cross – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey- yes, Behnke – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

D. Motion by Cross, second by Shlimovitz to approve the Policy Committee Report (Revisions as recommended in Vol. 32, No. 2) as presented. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Johnson – yes, Cross – yes, Shlimovitz – yes, Behnke – yes. Motion carried: Motion carried: 7-0.

E. Motion by Cross, second by Garrigan to approve the Personnel Committee Report (Resignation – Amy Eppinger, Director of Instructional Technology, Hire – Justin Nickel, Director of Instructional Technology) as presented. Roll Call – Cross – yes, Fahey – yes, Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Johnson – yes, Shlimovitz – yes, Behnke – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

8. Motion by Garrigan, second by Johnson to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Roll Call – Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes, Cross – yes, Garrigan – yes, Johnson – yes, Stevenson – yes, Behnke – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

Suzanne Hemler
Recording Secretary

The Portage Community School District will be a premier learning community that builds authentic relationships with students, families, and the community. We will cultivate globally minded, resilient, and courageous students who are ready to excel in higher learning, career and life.