

PORTAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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

February 10, 2025

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 Connie Shlimovitz. Roll Call – Johnson – yes, Cross – yes, Garrigan – yes, Behnke – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes.
Board Members Present: Johnson, Cross, Shlimovitz, Behnke, Fahey, and Garrigan.
Student Representative: Olivia Gaunt.
- 1.2 Board Members Absent: Stevenson.
- 1.3 Administrators Present: Sween, Hibner, Paulsen, Gulrud, Schoenborn, Carlson, Jahn, Kane, Vander Schaaf, Nickel, J. Garrigan, Podoll, Muth, Geike and Stout.
Guests Present: Jean Mitchell, Monica Lerch, Knight Klafke, Avery Collin, Nick Trago and Caitlin Ciolkosz, others.
- 1.4 Media Present: None.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Motion by Johnson, second by Behnke to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call – Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Johnson - yes, Garrigan – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.
4. Board Updates
 - A. Student Representative Report – Olivia Gaunt shared an overview of happenings at Portage High School.
 - B. Future Construction Update – Middle school students Monica Lerch, Knight Klafke, Avery Collin, Nick Trago and Caitlin Ciolkosz shared input from their tours of nearby schools and their renovation projects. Josh Sween offered updates on the middle school and high school construction projects.
 - C. WASB Convention Report – Nicky Cross and Kelly Behnke shared their experiences at the Wisconsin Association of School Boards annual convention.
5. Public Comments – None.
6. Action Items
 - A. Motion by Johnson, second by Cross to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Fahey – yes, Johnson – yes, Cross – yes, Behnke – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.
7. Committee Reports
 - A. Motion by Cross, second by Behnke to approve the Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee Report (Monthly Bills except Checks 323151 and 323136, January 2025 Membership Report, Gifts to the District and Budget Transfers) as presented. Roll Call – Fahey - yes, Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Garrigan – yes, Johnson – yes, Shlimovitz - yes. Motion carried: 6-0.

January 2025

Fund 10	\$2,479,264.64
Fund 27	\$407,453.24

Fund 50	\$93,451.53
Total Expenditures	\$2,980,169.41

B. Motion by Behnke, second by Johnson to approve the Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee Report (Checks 323151 and 323136) as presented. Roll Call – Behnke – yes, Cross – abstain, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – abstain, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 4-0 with two abstaining.

C. Motion by Johnson, second by Cross to approve the Personnel Committee Report (Resignations: Gerald Burr - BMS Tech Ed Teacher, Retirements: Julie Metzler - District Speech/Language, Jody Steinhaus - Lewiston K/1 Teacher, and Mike Hemming - John Muir 5th Grade Teacher; Permission to Post: Tech Ed, Speech/Language, and K/1 Teacher, 5th Grade Teacher; Student Custodial Assistant Pilot Program) as presented. Roll Call – Fahey – yes, Cross – yes, Behnke – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.

D. Motion by Behnke, second by Johnson to approve the Safety Committee Report as presented. Roll Call – Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Garrigan – yes, Johnson – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.

8. Motion by Behnke, second by Cross to go into Closed Session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.85(1)(c), for consideration and action as appropriate of employment, performance evaluations and compensation for identifiable individual employees, including administrative employees at 7:07 p.m. Roll Call – Fahey – yes. Cross – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Behnke – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.
9. Motion by Behnke, second by Johnson to return to open session at 9:10 p.m. Roll Call – Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.
10. Motion by Behnke, second by Johnson to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Cross – yes, Johnson – yes, Behnke – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.

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.