

PORTAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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

March 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 6:31 p.m. and declared an open meeting by President Connie Shlimovitz. Roll Call – Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Behnke – yes, Fahey – yes, Stevenson – yes, Shlimovitz – yes.
Board Members Present: Johnson, Shlimovitz, Behnke, Fahey, Stevenson and Garrigan. Student Representative: Ava Bretsch.
- 1.2 Board Members Absent: Cross.
- 1.3 Administrators Present: Sween, Hibner, Paulsen, Gulrud, Schoenborn, Carlson, Jahn, Stolpa, Vander Schaaf, Nickel, J. Garrigan, Podoll, and Stout.
Guests Present: Elizabeth Hansen.
- 1.4 Media Present: None.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Motion by Garrigan, second by Johnson to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call – Behnke – yes, Johnson - yes, Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.
4. Board Updates
 - A. Student Representative Report – Ava Bretsch shared an overview of happenings at Portage High School.
 - B. The Market Update – Elizabeth Hansen discussed how the Market food program has been helping students and families throughout the district this year.
 - C. Angie Gulrud, Cherida Vander Schaaf, and Karissa Jahn shared the Elementary Achievement Gap Reduction report.
 - D. Future Construction Update - Josh Sween offered an update on the middle school and high school construction projects and the initial designs for the spaces.
 - E. Area Board Consortium Report – Connie Shlimovitz said the group recently discussed their districts' referendum efforts, construction projects, superintendent searches, and credible threats.
5. Public Comments – None.
6. Action Items
 - A. Motion by Johnson, second by Fahey to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Johnson – yes, Behnke – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.
 - B. Motion by Behnke, second by Johnson to approve the board commendations as presented. Roll Call – Fahey – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Behnke – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.
7. Committee Reports
 - A. Motion by Garrigan, second by Fahey to approve the Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee Report (Monthly Bills, Gifts to the District, CESA 5 2025-2026 Contract, and Field Trip Requests) as presented. Roll Call – Fahey - yes, Behnke – yes, Garrigan – yes, Johnson – yes, Stevenson – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.

February 2025

Fund 10	\$1,966,342.40
Fund 27	\$317,303.06
Fund 50	<u>\$96,724.14</u>
Total Expenditures	\$2,380,369.60

B. Motion by Stevenson, second by Behnke to approve the Curriculum and Instructional Technology Committee Report (Start College Now/Early College Credit Program applications) as presented. Roll Call – Behnke – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.

C. Motion by Johnson, second by Behnke to approve the Personnel Committee Report (Resignations: Brooke Oakes - School Psychologist - John Muir; Permission to Post School Psychologist (2 positions); discuss Payroll Specialist/HR Assistant position, and discuss special meeting date) as presented. Roll Call – Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0.

8. Motion by Behnke, second by Johnson to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Johnson – yes, Behnke – yes, Stevenson – 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.