

PORTAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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

August 12, 2024

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, Stevenson – yes, Shlimovitz – yes.
Board Members Present: Johnson, Cross, Shlimovitz, Garrigan, Behnke, Stevenson and Fahey. Student Representative: None.
- 1.2 Board Members Absent: None.
- 1.3 Administrators Present: Sween, Paulsen, Gulrud, Jahn, Vander Schaaf, Kane, Schoenborn, Stolpa, Podoll, Garrigan, Stout, Carlson, and Nickel.
Guests Present: Steve Dubberstein, Krista Escobedo.
- 1.4 Media Present: Nick Walczak, Portage Daily Register.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Motion by Cross, second by Behnke to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call – Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.
4. Board Updates
 - A. Presentation of PCSD Recognition Award Recipient – Josh Sween presented an award to recipient Krista Escobedo (John Muir).
 - B. Presentation of the IPAK Award to the PCSD from the Boys and Girls Clubs of West-Central Wisconsin – Josh Sween shared the award with President Connie Shlimovitz.
 - C. Elementary Goal Update on the 2023-2024 School Year – Nikki Schoenborn, Melissa Kane, Cherida Vander Schaaf and Angie Gulrud shared last year's data.
 - D. Technology Goal Update on the 2023-2024 School Year – Justin Nickel provided an update on the department's goal progress.
 - E. Board Consortium Report – Connie Shlimovitz said the districts discussed upcoming referendum efforts.
5. Public Comments – Steve Dubberstein shared his thoughts regarding the proposed referendum.
6. Action Items
 - A. Motion by Behnke, second by Johnson to approve the previous meeting minutes as amended. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Johnson – yes, Cross – yes, Behnke – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.
 - B. Motion by Garrigan, second by Fahey to approve the 2024-2025 Budget as presented. Roll Call – Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Stevenson – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.
 - C. Motion by Behnke second by Stevenson to set the annual meeting and budget hearing for Monday, September 16, 2024 at 6:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Gerstenkorn Building. Roll Call – Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Cross – yes, Behnke – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

D. Motion by Johnson, second by Behnke to approve the board retreat for October 28, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Roll Call – Cross – yes, Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes, Garrigan – yes, Johnson – yes, Stevenson – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

E. Motion by Behnke second by Stevenson to approve the membership renewal for Association for Equity in Funding (AEF) as presented. Roll Call – Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

F. Motion by Garrigan, second by Behnke to approve membership renewal for the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA) as presented. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Johnson – yes, Cross – yes, Behnke – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

G. Motion by Behnke, second by Johnson to approve the 2024-2025 Immunization Exclusion and Compliance Proposal as presented. Roll Call – Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Stevenson – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

H. Motion by Behnke, second by Cross to approve the 2024-2025 District Medical Advisor as presented. Roll Call – Cross – yes, Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes. Garrigan – no, Johnson – no, Stevenson – no, Shlimovitz – no. Motion failed: 3-4.

I. Motion by Stevenson, second by Garrigan to approve the 2024-2025 Coaches' Handbook as presented. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Johnson – yes, Cross – yes, Behnke – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

J. Motion by Garrigan, second by Stevenson to approve the 2024-2025 Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook revisions as presented. Roll Call – Stevenson – yes, Behnke – yes, Fahey – yes, Garrigan – yes, Johnson – yes, Cross – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

K. Motion by Garrigan, second by Johnson to approve Initial Resolution Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$53,030,000 as presented. Roll Call – Cross – yes, Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes, Garrigan – yes, Johnson – yes, Stevenson – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

L. Motion by Garrigan, second by Johnson to approve the Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of an Initial Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$53,050,000 as presented. Roll Call – Fahey – yes, Stevenson – yes, Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

7. Committee Reports

A. Motion by Garrigan, second by Stevenson to approve the Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee Report (Monthly Bills except Checks 322643 and 322657, 24-25 Budget, 23-24 Pupil Transportation Report, 23-24 Census Report, and Gifts to the District) as presented. Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Cross – yes, Johnson – yes, Behnke – yes, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 7-0.

B. Motion by Garrigan, second by Stevenson to approve the Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee Report (Checks 322643 and 322657) as presented. Roll Call – Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Johnson – yes, Garrigan – abstain, Stevenson – yes, Fahey – yes, Shlimovitz – yes. Motion carried: 6-0 with one abstaining.

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

D. Motion by Cross, second by Johnson to approve the Personnel and Negotiations Committee Report as presented (Hires - Sara Stone-Sadek - ELL Teacher, Samantha Marx - 4 / 5 Teacher, Lewiston, Ashley Achterberg - 8th Grade ELA Teacher, BMS, Sheila Friedel - Special Education Teacher, Woodridge, Miranda Shanks - Spanish Teacher pending contract release, PHS, Lakota Krueger - K/1 Teacher, Lewiston). Roll Call – Garrigan – yes, Behnke – yes, Fahey – yes, Johnson – yes, Stevenson – yes, Cross – yes, Shlimovitz – no. Motion carried: 6-1.

8. Motion by Behnke, second by Stevenson to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Roll Call – Fahey – yes, Behnke – yes, Cross – yes, Garrigan – yes, Johnson – yes, Stevenson – yes, Shlimovitz – 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.