

Porter Advisory Council

Meeting Agenda/MINUTES - November 20th, 2025

I. Call to Order

Ms. Meres called meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Ms. Engelmeier Foor encouraged participant participation and feedback. She noted that input is very helpful to ensure Porter is best serving community and students.

II. New Business

a. Budget

- Budget review is complete. Porter received an update and Porter is in a good position to make decisions on initiative rollouts. One item of interest is new playground equipment for both areas. The cost is substantial,
- Parent advocated that school inquire about adaptive equipment since the planning process has just started.
- Budget also accounts for costs of substitutes, field trips and other operational costs.
- These and other costs accounted for in “flex funding” which ranges annually from between 400 and 450k a year.

b. House System

- Mr. Wood updated the PAC on the House System. We have been emphasizing meeting improvements, based on feedback. We’ve held the first one. The House Captains meet in advance to prepare. We’ve been working on instilling the “Leader in Me” program. They are leading the meetings to improve leadership skills.
- Elementary grades are being included.
- House Mobile Store is going well. Ms. Rabuse and LL2 students work to assemble and deliver goods to students.
- We are reviewing how to fit a House Challenge event in before winter break.
- PTO is working to order House shirts and swag. For example, pens with house names on them and water bottles.

c. Parent Input

- Porter conducts quarterly reviews of continuous commitment plan. We are wrapping up the 2025 vision. We have results from first survey and we’re looking for possible next steps.
- Ms. Foor shared following data and explained the context of feedback received.

	BOY- End of 24-25 results	1 st quarter (83 responses)	2nd Quarter	Gallup	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
My child enjoys being at school (School Environment)	4.4	4.25				
There is appropriate discipline at my child's school. (School environment)	4.42	4.12				
My child has opportunities at school to choose how they learn. (Academic Standards)	4.07	3.9				
My child is appropriately challenged in their classes (Academic Standards)	4.46	4.23				
At school, my child has the opportunity to do what they do best every day. (personalized learning)	4.37	4.03				
My child's school is committed to building the strengths of each student. (personalized learning)	4.48	4.24				
My child's school provides positive feedback about my child. (communication and involvement)	4.53	4.31				
The leadership at my child's school makes me enthusiastic about the future. (leadership)	4.58	4.31				

Quarter 1 Parent Feedback Summary

Category	Top 5 Themes with Explanations
Positive Feedback	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Caring and dedicated staff – Teachers and counselors are praised for being supportive and passionate. 2. Strong communication and welcoming environment – Parents feel staff is approachable and responsive. 3. Academic rigor and preparation for future – Curriculum challenges students and prepares them for high school. 4. Respectful and disciplined culture – Positive comments about student behavior and school discipline. 5. Extracurricular and community engagement – Clubs, volunteer activities, and events foster involvement and connection.
Areas of Growth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve discipline consistency – Concerns about uneven enforcement and bullying issues. 2. Enhance communication from teachers – Requests for timely updates, clearer grading, and proactive outreach. 3. Expand academic opportunities – Suggestions for more language classes, advanced coursework, and manage screen time more effectively if not for academic purposes. 4. Increase arts and music programs – Orchestra and arts offerings seen as limited compared to other schools. 5. More parent-teacher interaction – Calls for conferences, feedback on tests, etc.
Other Insights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desire for sports programs – Parents want more athletic opportunities for students. 2. Technology concerns – Reduce non-educational iPad use. 3. Lunch and equity issues – Requests for free lunch like other schools. 4. Behavioral management transparency – Parents want clarity on how behavior is

- Parent suggested having video tutorials for navigating class work / Canvas. Mr. Wood noted that there are tutorials available and they can share those links. Mr. Wood requested feedback on the quality / effectiveness of the tutorials.
- Parent provided feedback about iPad access and expressed concern about school iPads at home. Ms. Foor explained the Division policy.
- Parent asked about textbook availability across grades. Ms Foor explained how Virginia schools teach against standards and resources are identified and provided to teach against the standards. Text books are not currently approved for Social Studies but students have resources based on standards developed by the state.
- Food pantry was discussed. Porter is looking to establish a pantry and evaluating equipment to offer food and comply with food safety.

- d. Leader in Me
Recently had a staff-wide leader in me training. Franklin Covey provided professional development opportunity. Coaching session will be held during a December planning day. This program is a 3 year approach so we will have opportunities over an extended period.
- e. Multicultural Night Feedback
 - Ms. Foor provided an update on the event. There were at least 300 people and it was probably our biggest event and bigger than last year. It was a beautiful celebration of our diverse cultures.
 - Mr. Wood shared that real time surveys revealed a 99% satisfaction rate of attendees.
- f. Porter Information Nights
 - Wednesday, 12/3/25 6:30- 7:30 pm
 - Tuesday, 1/6/25 6:30- 7:30 pm
 - Ms. Foor shared that there have been well over 500 applications to date.

III. Superintendent Representative Report

Ms. Dinarte provided an update on the matters presented by Dr. McDade. Significant effort has been made by the county to address a variety of challenges.

IV. Counseling Department

High school specialty programs application process is ongoing. New application system is getting positive feedback. Things are going smooth.

SEL Night is scheduled for February 5. We plan to focus on conflict resolution, which is a needs area that students identified.

V. Upcoming Events

Dr. Nicholson provided an update on the upcoming "Day of the Arts" which is set for 12/18. Volunteers are welcome so please sign up.

Our next Family Engagement event will be the "Cookie Exchange" which will be 12/9 at 6:30 pm. This is an extension of the multicultural night. Please bake cookies or other deserts you can share with others. We can learn about traditions and buy a box to collect cookies!

VI. Citizen Comment Time (15 Minutes)

A parent raised a concern about bullying that has been reported it to staff, but has continued. Parent asked for guidance on how to ensure that actions are being taken in view of the confidentiality that students have when discipline occurs?

Ms. Foor identified bullying resources, including administrative team conducting investigations to examine situation.

Ms. Foor described how bullying is defined about how the inquiry is conducted, including the information provided to the complainant and respondent involved.

VII. Next Meeting.....The next PAC meeting will be in January.

VIII. Adjournment.....The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.