

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held at the Administration Building, Columbus, Indiana, on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., pursuant to notice having been duly given to the media and to all members of the Board in accordance with the rules of the Board.

On call of the roll, the members of the Board were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Mrs. Nikki Wheeldon, President
 Mr. Rich Stenner, Vice President
 Mr. Todd Grimes, Secretary
 Mr. Pat Bryant, Member
 Mr. Jason Major, Member
 Mr. Dale Nowlin, Member
 Mr. Logan Schulz, Member

Administration: Dr. Jim Roberts, Superintendent
 Dr. Gina Pleak, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 Mr. Chad Phillips, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services
 Mr. William Jensen, Director of Secondary Education
 Dr. Laura Hack, Director of Elementary Education
 Dr. Brett Boezeman, Director of Operations
 Mr. Charles Edwards, Director of Title Services

Absent: Dr. George Van Horn, Director of Special Education

Attorney: Mr. Michael McIver, School Attorney

REGULAR SESSION

The business meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mrs. Wheeldon, the President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

WHO/WHY

PUBLIC HEARING:

Additional Appropriation (Mr. Phillips)

The Public Hearing began at 6:32 p.m. Mr. Phillips reviewed the process and noted that the requested amount of \$600,000.00 would cover the additional salaries and benefits needed to begin the high school reconfiguration work. This amount is half of the total needed for the 2023-2024 school year. The remaining amount would be included in next year's budget.

Mr. Edwards provided additional detail regarding the model that will be implemented on the secondary level and noted that waiting on implementation would delay making an impact for students. Dr. Pleak noted the addition of 4 certified positions and 4 administrators would be needed to implement the model. She shared that this new model would not increase classroom number size.

Mr. Phillips noted that although this is an additional appropriation, this is not above the state revenue we currently receive or cash balances we currently have in reserve. This resolution would be funded by the Education Fund and would not impact local taxes or property taxes. The Education Fund is not funded by property taxes and this additional appropriation would not affect the tax rate. He noted that the Director of Operations and the Director of Technology positions are funded through the Operations Fund and all building administrators are currently funded by the Education Fund.

The following comments were given by the Board:

Mr. Grimes noted his support for the team approach, but questioned the need of hiring additional staff.

Mr. Schulz noted he is in support, but asked that the following teacher concerns be covered: Structure of advisory periods, resource periods, truancy, and disciplinary action.

Mr. Nowlin acknowledged his support of the new model approach but asked that part of the process be to revitalize the implementation of advisory period consistently across the board.

Mr. Major noted the CEA (Columbus Educators Association) survey results and shared that teachers are concerned with class support, hallway passes, advisory period and that the restructuring is happening too quickly.

The following information was given in response to questions from the Board:

This particular model would be implemented with the fewest additions of staff members possible to model what was viewed and benchmarked at Brownsburg Community High School.

The following comments were given by the public:

Barbara Handt is a teacher at CNHS. She stated her concerns about the lack of data and input from stakeholders regarding the new initiative and asked for additional data and reconsideration of the new model.

Carla Craig is a library assistant at Mt. Healthy Elementary. She questioned the impact of having additional administrators versus the hiring of more teachers. She shared that implementing this model at the elementary level would be more beneficial.

The following information was given in response to questions from the public:

Dr. Roberts noted that if the school corporation would invest additional dollars into the PreK-2nd grade now, the data from that investment would not be available for ten years. The investment now is targeted specifically toward the immediate improvement in graduation rates.

The following comments were given by the public:

Laura Daily is a business department teacher at CNHS. She noted she was not totally against this new initiative but asked for consideration to combine resources and use them more efficiently. She asked that the district take a methodical approach to support the initiatives and, in the process, look for systemic changes to pay for what we want to do within the district.

Tony London is a local county commissioner. He requested the board table this request in order to gather additional information. He shared he feels that an additional appropriation is not needed at this time and could be presented at the yearly budget discussion.

Amy London is a teacher at CNHS and is the Columbus Educators Association (CEA) President. She thanked the administration for the work that has gone into the reconfiguration model. She asked that the board table the vote and look at the data, the current staff, and practices and to see how can we make the graduation rates better.

Amy Menefee is a parent of a CEHS student. She shared the concern that many BCSC parents do not know about this change and asked the board to table the vote in order to give details to parents and the community.

The following information was given in response to comments from the public:

Dr. Roberts noted that a presentation regarding the reconfiguration was made at the March 6, 2023 board meeting and discussed at the March 24, 2023 Strategic Planning Session, which is open to the public. Dr. Roberts reviewed the new initiative and the plan for implementing the new model.

The Public Hearing concluded at 7:07 p.m.

RECOGNITIONS:

Columbus North High School State Gymnastics Finalist(s) (Mr. Brian Lewis/Ms. Kaitlyn Rediker/Mr. Bob Arthur)

Athletic Director Mr. Lewis thanked the school board for recognizing the students and noted the gymnasts had competed at a high level throughout the season. Coach Rediker reviewed the stats and the successes of the season. She introduced the team and noted their 4th-place State finish. Coach Bob Arthur reviewed the state competition and recognized Coach Sandy Freshour for her time and commitment to the team.

Reece Euler was recognized for her individual medals.

Maverick Challenge State Finalist (Dr. Roberts)

Columbus North High School business teacher and Maverick Challenge sponsor Ms. Laura Daily introduced CNHS junior Sid Jain as the 2023 Maverick Challenge winner. Since 2008, CNHS has had a Maverick Challenge winner. This competition is sponsored by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Sid created a business plan titled "Sid's Studio". His digital media marketing business offers original and professional social media content to customers at an affordable rate.

Ms. Daily noted that Sid holds a DECA state office as vice president of marketing, maintains an A average, and has done work for several local businesses.

Sid thanked the community and the school corporation. He noted his business wouldn't be successful without community support. He thanked Mr. Josh Burnett for his support, mentorship, and the opportunity to pair with BCSC.

2023 Edna V. Folger Outstanding Teacher Award (Dr. Pleak/Ms. Marsha VanNahmen)

Dr. Pleak introduced Ms. Marsha VanNahmen, Assistant Director for IUPUC Center for Teaching and Learning. Ms. VanNahmen noted the award is designed to recognize the impact teachers have both inside and outside the classroom and to celebrate dedication and innovation. The award is funded by SIHO Insurance Services, Columbus Education Coalition, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, and the IUPUC Center for Teaching and Learning. Ms. VanNahmen presented the Edna V. Folger award to Rockcreek Elementary 6th-grade teacher Ms. Angie Ginder. She noted that Ms. Ginder puts relationships first, listens with a caring heart, and pushes both the school and her students in a positive direction.

Ms. Ginder thanked her colleagues, students, and their families who nominated her for the award. She noted the honor of receiving this award and being on the list with other Edna V. Folger Award recipients who taught her as a student.

2023 BCSC Teacher of the Year Nominations (Dr. Pleak)

Dr. Pleak shared the qualifications a teacher must hold and the process used for submitting a nomination. She noted that 519 nominations were received for this year's award. Dr. Pleak introduced the nominees for Teacher of the Year as follows: Clifty Creek- Melissa Streeval; CSA Fodrea- Shellie Huff; CSA Lincoln- Diana Roberts; Mt. Healthy- Robin Anderson; Parkside- Jenny Taylor; Richards- Cari Renner; Rockcreek- Krea Hill; Schmitt- Becky Lawson; Smith- Lisa Haines; Southside- Robin Kiel; Taylorsville- Kevin Sweet; Central- Michelle Fee; Northside- Molly Fountain; East- Jennifer Carroll; North- Nathan Schiefer; CSA New Tech- Carter Screeton; CVP- Julie Caruso; C4- Charles "Mike" Ward; Pre-K/Early Childhood- Shanon Martin. She concluded by sharing that out of the 19 teachers recognized they hold 306 ½ years of BCSC experience.

PRESENTATIONS:

Best Practice – Parkside Elementary (Mr. Chris Smith/Ms. Dana Bodart)

Principal Mr. Chris Smith and Assistant Principal Ms. Dana Bodart shared how Parkside Elementary developed their Reading Foundational Skills as Best Practices. From the book study "Shifting the Balance", Mr. Smith noted the process and steps taken to stay within the UDL framework and BCSC Strategic Plan to develop a skillset for students. Mrs. Bodart shared reading strategies and noted several positive changes that are supporting the data, one being an increase in iREAD scores.

Kindergarten teachers Mrs. Ashley Kreutzjans and Miss Allison Beckner shared experiences on how the "Fry List Sight Words" work in their classroom and why it is successful. They shared the part

that “Phonological Awareness” plays in successful reading, noting a 30% growth in phonological awareness in their students from August to December. This data was measured by the oral blending assessment. She noted that the winter NWEA reading assessment measured that 67% of kindergarten students were proficient in phonological awareness. She shared that guided reading is based on several components and noted that teachers work with students to make it decodable, sequential, and multi-sensory.

Miss Beckner noted the next steps in K-2 phonics alignment to be the following: merge the Orton Gillingham Multisensory approach and the current reading series, explore more phonics sequentially aligned text to use as guided reading materials with students, and to investigate the best way to fit high-frequency words into phonological scope and sequence.

The following information was given in response to questions from the Board:

Professional Development days were used for staff vocabulary training.

NWEA gives a good reading of data on “Phonological Awareness” and student progress.

The school guiding team meets and continues to evaluate instruction on grade level.

“We will consider student performance at Parkside Elementary with this tool compared to other schools and consider how training peers would be beneficial.”

There are ways parents can help at home with decodable books.

“Currently we work on Phonological Awareness with 1st-graders.”

Miss Beckner and Mrs. Kreutzjans concluded by sharing the enthusiasm both the teachers and students have now that they are in their newly remodeled kindergarten classroom spaces.

Secondary Math Resource Adoption (Mr. Brad Branham/Mr. Ed Vogel/Mrs. Corie Williams/Mrs. Laura Ousley)

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Coordinator Mrs. Laura Ousley recognized the committee members and shared the process the committee followed to determine a recommendation. She noted the goals set by the committee which included selecting the resources that fit non-negotiables and enable students to achieve success in mathematics courses.

The timeline was reviewed by UDL Coordinator Mrs. Corie Williams. She shared information from the vendor presentations as well as recommendations from teachers in each building and noted the committee is seeking approval for new resources that support the implementation of the Indiana State Standards.

Math Department Chairs from CNHS Mr. Brad Branham, and CEHS Mr. Ed Vogel shared their recommendations for each secondary level, noting their desire to stay unified and frugal with their selections. Mrs. Williams shared the CSA New Tech recommended selections and noted their choices are unique to their project-based teaching and learning.

Mr. Vogel noted the rationale for each curriculum selection and Mr. Branham summarized each selection and expounded on the reasons why there are not many curriculum changes. Mr. Branham requested the board to consider a district 7-12 grade licensing for Delta Math. This resource will help build a growth mindset, provide the choice of a combination of skills for an assignment, math problem samples, and the ability to display problems in other languages and help students make connections between equations, graphs, tables, and context. Mr. Vogel noted that the district currently has several teachers in secondary math using the free version. He shared the advantages of paying for a district license over the free version and added the extra benefit of providing Canvas integration. Mr. Branham

noted that all of the series presented received green ratings in all three categories from Ed Reports and that the teachers are very excited about the resources and the engagement possibilities they provide for the students. Mrs. Williams shared benchmarking with other school corporations and noted the accessibility of the resources from the vendors that were presented.

The following information was given by the committee in response to questions from the Board:

Delta Math would be an additional fee for each student. The cost for a district license for grades 7-12 is approximately \$1.62 per student.

Dual credit is offered at both schools.

HMH (Houghton Mifflin & Harcourt) and Illustrative Math have several options available in Spanish.

Each vendor has Professional Development days available and additional support for Special Education teachers. The afternoon portion of the April 6, 2023, PD Day will be spent with departments reviewing curriculum in grade level groups and asking for teacher feedback.

Illustrative Math offers two days of personal training, four virtual specific pieces of training sections, and several additional selections based on teacher needs.

Dr. Roberts noted that the governor has proposed that textbook materials and resources be covered by the state in the budget. The Senate is currently having a conversation regarding this fee. If the legislation would be approved the change would be for the next school year.

Mr. Phillips noted that each school district curriculum in the State of Indiana is defined the same but funds could be applied differently.

Legado Program (Dr. Laura Hack/Dr. Michael Parsons)

Clifty Creek Elementary Principal Dr. Michel Parsons shared a presentation on the Legado Spanish Immersion Academy. He noted the program began in 2018 with Pre-K and Kindergarten, 3 classrooms, and 62 students, and to date the program has grown to accommodate Pre-K thru 4th-grade, 10 classrooms, and 220 students. Dr. Parsons shared that the program will continue to add a grade level each school year until the program is able to house Pre-K through 6th-grade with approximately 15 classrooms and 350 students. Assistant Principal Mr. Patrick Mahaffey noted the growth in the teaching staff and defined Legado as a program designed to develop bilingual and bi-literate learners, improve student academic performance using two pathways in their brains, provide students exposure and understanding of other cultures, promote empathy and respect for diverse learning environments, and prepare students for success in a global economy.

Mr. Mahaffey introduced Instructional Coach, Greicy Patino. She noted that both ELL students and native English-speaking students make up the program. The ELL students learn English while developing proficiency in their native language and achieving academic success, keeping their cultural identity, and growing their self-esteem. The native English-speaking students are able to learn a new language while further developing their cognitive and academic skills and fostering cross-cultural understanding to best prepare for success in a diverse world. The Legado program targets the Spanish language and utilizes an 80/20 dual-language instructional model. She noted much work is being done as teachers, staff and students work together to create diverse learners. She shared video testimonials noting how parent involvement is one key factor in the success of the Legado Spanish Immersion Academy and noted the program has grown due to the commitment from BCSC.

The following information was given in response to questions from the Board:

There are 52 kindergarten spots available in the Legado Spanish Immersion Academy; 20 of those available will be filled by students coming in from BCSC Pre-K programs. There were 100 received applications to fill the available spots.

There have been several students enroll in the district that have been in dual programs in other school districts.

Half of the students that are enrolled into the Legado program are English-speaking and half non-English speaking.

Students that complete the program will receive a certification that will be indicated on their high school diploma with a seal of biliteracy. Students will be able to communicate in written and spoken form.

BOARD COMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Major gave commendations to the Parkside Elementary students artwork that is displayed in the Terrace Room hallway; CSA Fodrea teachers Stacy O'Brian and Stephanie Kiel for PBIS recertifications; 3rd-grade increase in iLearn scores; and the Smith Elementary Robotics Team for their state title and upcoming national competition in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Stenner thanked the BCSC teachers and staff employees for their time and efforts in the many board meeting presentations.

Mrs. Wheeldon gave commendations to Mr. Phillips and his financial team and noted their tremendous efforts and limited findings in the recent state audit; and Mr. Josh Burnett's efforts in the many videos and picture collages provided for the district and community.

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to CSA New Tech for the recent building tour; CEHS basketball player Sage Stahl - Indiana All-Star; and CNHS student Sreepadaarchana Munjuluri – 2023 Poetry Out Loud State Champion. She will represent the State of Indiana in the national competition and the C4 Culinary Team will be competing as a national finalist in May.

Mr. Nowlin echoed commendations to Smith Elementary STEM teacher Lisa Haines and the Smith Cyborg Robotics Team. The team qualified for the National Robotics Contest on May 2, 3, and 4 in Dallas, TX. He also echoed commendations to CNHS junior Sreepadaarchana Munjuluri. She recently won the Poetry Out Loud state competition out of 1,000 competitors and will be participating in Washington D.C. for the National finals. CSA New Tech student Austin Menefee was one of the 14 state finalists.

WHAT

1) School Board Member Reports

Mr. Nowlin provided a Council for Youth Development (CYD) report. He noted the Empowerment Summit that CYD hosted at the Columbus Learning Center. The summit recognized potential student leadership.

Mr. Grimes provided a Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF) report. The foundation will hold its third annual Good, Better, Best 5K on Saturday, April 29 at Southside Elementary. Mr. Grimes also provided a legislative report from the State House.

Mrs. Wheeldon noted she had attended the Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission meeting.

Mr. Stenner provided an update on the School Board's Public Engagement Subcommittee. He noted that goals have been determined and discussed.

Mr. Major provided an update from the City of Columbus Redevelopment Commission, noting the grand opening of the "1821 Trail".

2) Cabinet Reports

2023-2024 Calendar Change (Dr. Pleak)

Dr. Pleak presented a request for a change to be made to the 2023-2024 school calendar. On April 8, 2024, a total eclipse is scheduled to pass over the community during the afternoon hours. The timing of the eclipse could lead to a potential challenge for the school corporation and the community. Dr. Pleak requested that the board approved March 28, 2024, Professional Development Day be moved to Monday, April 8, 2024. The teachers and staff would participate in a PD Day on that day and students would not attend school. She noted the recommendation for this approval will be requested at the April 24, 2023 board meeting.

GO Bond Timeline for Schmitt Elementary (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips reviewed the timeline and shared the process that will be followed over the next few months for the GO Bond. He noted that this is a tax-neutral bond.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Appleby -1938 Creekstone Drive, Columbus, IN 47201

Mr. Appleby asked the school corporation to review the elementary district boundary around his property. He shared that his home is in the Mt. Healthy school district and the homes around him are in the Southside school district. He requested the next steps he would need to take for redistricting.

HOW

3) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of March 6, 2023, Minutes of the Executive Session of March 8, 2023, March 24, 2023, March 28, 2023, and Strategic Planning Session of March 24, 2023
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- d. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- e. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
- f. Permission to Award Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment #2
- Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning for Schmitt Elementary (Dr. Boezeman)
- g. Declare School Buses as Surplus and Permission to Donate/Trade
(Dr. Boezeman/Mr. A.J. McKeand)
- h. Elementary Math Resource Adoption (Dr. Laura Hack/Mrs. Gail Koors/Mrs. Amy Elsbury)

- i. Approval of Juul Agreement Settlement (Dr. Roberts/Mr. Phillips)
- j. 2023 Additional Appropriation Resolution (Mr. Phillips)
- k. Uphold Expulsion Examiner's Determination Regarding Student Discipline
(Dr. Roberts/Mr. McIver)

Dr. Roberts shared additional information on the reviewed items and requested approval.

Mr. Grimes asked to pull 3) j from the vote and Mr. Major asked to pull 3) h and 3) k from the vote.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the reviewed items 3) a-g & i and Mr. Schulz seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, items 3) a-g & i were approved unanimously.

Mr. Nowlin made a motion to approve the reviewed item 3) h and Mr. Grimes seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, item 3) h was approved unanimously.

Mr. Major made a motion to postpone consideration for 3) j and Mr. Schulz seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was denied 3 to 4.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the reviewed items 3) j and Mr. Stenner seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, items 3) j carried 4 to 3.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the reviewed 3) k and Mr. Schulz seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, item 3) k was carried 6-0. Mr. Major abstained.

4) Human Resources Recommendations (Dr. Pleak)

Dr. Pleak requested approval of the Human Resources Recommendations as presented.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the Human Resources Recommendations and the motion was seconded by Mr. Major

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

5) Human Resources Determination (Mr. McIver)

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the Human Resources Determination and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried 5-2.

BOARD INPUT AND REVIEW

Mr. Stenner valued the input of the board conversation, even on topics that were not in agreement.

Mr. Nowlin acknowledged the teacher recognitions and noted that teachers and students are the core of the school district.


Mr. Shultz requested that the policy drafts be posted on the district website.

Mr. Grimes offered to have conversations outside of the board meeting concerning his vote for the Additional Appropriation Resolution. He thanked all of those involved in the presentations and congratulated all of the teachers and students that were recognized for their achievements.

Mr. Major requested to meet with a fellow board member to gather additional questions regarding the Additional Appropriation Resolution.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

 Secretary

Attest:  President