The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held at the Administration Building, 1200 Central Ave., Columbus, Indiana on Monday, January 25, 2021 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:  
Dr. Jill Shedd, President  
Dr. Julie Bilz, Vice President  
Mr. Pat Bryant, Secretary  
Mr. Rich Stenner, Member  
Ms. Nikki Wheeldon, Member  
Mr. Todd Grimes, Member

Virtual:  
Ms. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member

Administration:  
Dr. Jim Roberts, Superintendent  
Ms. Teresa Heiny, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Dr. Laura Hack, Director of Elementary Education  
Dr. Gina Pleak, Director of Title Services  
Dr. George Van Horn, Director of Special Education  
Dr. Brett Boezeman, Director of Operations

Virtual:  
Mr. Chad Phillips, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services  
Mr. William Jensen, Director of Secondary Education

School Attorney:  
Mr. Chris Monroe

**REGULAR SESSION**

Mr. Stenner offered reflections.

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

Dr. Shedd, President, called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.
WHO/WHY

Update: COVID-19 Plan of Action for 2020-2021 (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts reviewed the current daily schedules for both the elementary and secondary students. The elementary students continue to have an option of 5 days of in-person learning and secondary students are following the hybrid model. He shared the COVID-19 data continues to be reviewed daily, along with ongoing conversations with local health care professionals, to help determine the 5-day instruction return date for secondary students. The next date to make that determination is Thursday, January 28.

He also reviewed the flowchart of community spread, the Indiana State Department of Health advisory level map and the BCSC Operating Considerations Model. He noted that this data is part of the determining factor of when to bring secondary students back to 5 days of in-person learning.

The following information was shared in regards to questions from the Board.

The identification of contact tracing at the secondary level is currently relatively low.

Currently the state of Indiana is vaccinating the most at-risk population and at this time there are not enough dosages in the state to vaccinate anyone under the 70 years of age mark. Dr. Roberts noted that as soon as vaccines become available for teaching staff, Director of Health Services, Kelli Thompson and her team will be ready and available to administrate the vaccinations.

C4 Virtual Open House (Dr. Gene Hack)

Dr. Gene Hack shared the history and an overview of the C4 Program. He noted the C4 Program encourages career exploration for all students in K-12, providing many opportunities to connect students to real life situations.

Dr. Hack gave a preview of the 2021 Virtual Open House. The virtual experience will be in place of the annual in-person Open House and Career Fair, which would traditionally take place this time each year. The C4 Virtual Open House will be available to the public Live from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 3. The tour will include programming, course guides, introduction of staff, student and parent testimonials, available resources, as well as a 360 video tour of a few classroom areas. He acknowledged those BCSC staff members who were responsible for creating and designing the virtual open house experience.

The following information was shared in regards to questions from the Board.

Currently the bio-medical program has the highest enrollment numbers. Typically, the students enrolled in the program are interested in nursing, engineering, medicine and data research.
The state of Indiana is divided into career center areas. The school corporations represented within the C4 program (area 41) are Decatur, Bartholomew, Jackson, Brown and Edinburgh Community Schools.

Each of the school corporations provide their own transportation for their students and pay a tuition reimbursement. There are about 3,000 students within BCSC who are currently enrolled in a one-hour program class.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one signed in to speak.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Dr. Shedd gavelled out of the regular meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Williams noted that as a participant of the E-Rate program, BCSC is required to follow the guidelines of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). The E-Rate Program allows schools to receive funding based on their free and reduced lunch population. The funds help to pay for internet connections as well as internal connections within BCSC buildings. Mr. Williams shared that the school corporation receives a 60% discount from the program, which is vital for the success of the technology department to keep policies and filters in place to protect students. Mr. Williams also added that BCSC partners with vendors to create and maintain an internet filter as well as a firewall.

No questions or comments were received from the public.

Dr. Shedd gavelled back into the regular scheduled meeting at 7:10 p.m.

**WHAT**

1) **NEOLA Policy Revision Recommendations**

   Dr. Roberts provided the first reading of the NEOLA policy revision recommendations. He briefly explained each revision recommendation within Volume 33, No 1. He noted the second reading and a request for approval will be on the February 8 agenda.

2) **Board Commendations**

   Dr. Jill Shedd honored 2021 CSA New Tech seniors, Haley Barr and Jadi Miller. Both students were recipients of the 2021 Lilly Endowment Scholarship. She also gave commendations to the 2021 Lilly Endowment finalists: Marin Wieneke, Taylor Hollen, Josie Burbrink, Gabriela Heredia, Brock Burbrink, Emmaleigh Martin and Helena Ho.

   Mr. Bryant congratulated the Columbus East Girls Basketball Team for their HHC Conference Championship title. The team went undefeated in conference play this season.
Mr. Grimes gave commendations to those responsible for the BCSC website. He noted his frequent use of the website and how each time he finds it to be very user friendly.

3) School Board Member Reports

Dr. Shedd gave an update on the January 15 Business Advisory Board Meeting. She acknowledged community partners, AEI, SIHO and the City of Columbus for their generous variety of computer donations to the new IT Pathway. She noted that Dr. Roberts provided an informative COVID-19 presentation and answered related questions from the members.

Dr. Shedd also shared that a brief summary of the school corporation’s legislative priorities were discussed with the business advisory group. She noted the importance of informing the advisory board of legislation that is of priority to the school corporation.

As a legislative liaison, Dr. Shedd provided an update from ISBA. She shared there are currently two bills to be monitored by the school board association. She noted Senate Bill 155 in regards to school referendum and Senate Bill 124 in regards to the start of the first day of the 2022-2023 school year. She also noted that the ISBA is in opposition to both of the bills.

4) Cabinet Reports

Technology Department Annual Update (Dr. Boezeman / Mr. Williams)

Dr. Boezeman introduced Mr. Nick Williams, Director of Technology and commended him for his continuous effort through the ever changing challenges of the pandemic.

Mr. Williams introduced the staff of the Technology Department and explained their job roles and responsibilities. He defined the BCSC infrastructure supporting UDL learning and shared the ways technology is utilized throughout the school corporation.

He noted the key to success throughout the pandemic has been collaboration. He acknowledged the flexibility his staff has displayed working with parents, students and staff in all departments. He also noted the vital relationships BCSC has with their vendors. The vendors continue to go above and beyond to support the school corporation, which has allowed hot spots to be delivered quickly to students in need. Mr. Williams noted his staff continues to learn with other agencies throughout the county and state to stay up to date with the latest technology changes.

Mr. Williams gave an overview of the new responsibilities his team quickly has adapted to during the course of the pandemic. His team continues to manage and support in-person learning, BRIDGE, CVP, Hybrid and eLearning while managing the call center, virtual meetings, communication through websites, status page and text alerts.
He stated that connectivity has been one of the biggest challenges, not only with socioeconomics, but geographically. The technology department has distributed over 400 hot spots and continues to support each one of them.

Mr. Williams noted the shift in professional development. The UDL Institute was held virtually this year and all monthly workshops for teachers and support staff have been recorded and made accessible at any time.

The following information was shared in regards to questions from the Board.

Student devices are maintained on a four-year cycle. Every first, fifth and ninth grade student receives a new device.

The pandemic has created flexibility among students and staff and has taken teachers to the next level with technology, assuring our teachers they can learn anytime, anywhere.

The county broadband initiatives will help improve lack of connectivity in certain areas of the county, but this will take time to completely resolve.

There are many opportunities available now to continue to engage our stakeholders.

5) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of January 11, 2021
b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen) – no requests
d. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen) – no requests
e. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
f. Resolution to Continue Leave Related to FFCRA
g. To Acquire Permission to Receive Food Service Bids

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

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the reviewed items and Mr. Grimes seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, Items 5) a-g were unanimously approved.

6) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations (Ms. Heiny)

Ms. Heiny requested approval of the Human Resources Recommendations as presented.

Ms. Dayhoff- Dwyer made a motion to approve the Human Resources Recommendations and the motion was seconded by Ms. Wheeldon.
Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

**BOARD INPUT/REVIEW**

Ms. Wheeldon thanked Dr. Gene Hack for the thorough C4 presentation and showed her enthusiasm for the upcoming C4 Virtual Event on Wednesday, February 3.

Mr. Stenner showed appreciation of the role of athletics within the community. He thanked those involved with technology to provide the opportunity for the community to safely sit at home and watch livestreamed athletic events.

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer announced Ms. Susan Scott as the 2021 Education Hall of Fame winner. Ms. Scott is currently the Assistant Principal at Columbus North High School. She will be recognized and honored at the next school board meeting. Dr. Roberts noted that the specific details in regards to the reception have not yet been finalized and will be announced at a later date.

Dr. Shedd announced that the next School Board Meeting would be on Monday, February 8, 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

_______________________________ President

_______________________________ Secretary