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, March 1, 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
Mr. Chad Phillips, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services
Mr. William Jensen, Director of Secondary Education

Virtual: Mr. Chris Monroe, School Attorney

**REGULAR SESSION**

Ms. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer offered reflections.

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

Dr. Shedd, President, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.
Presentation for the 2021 Education Hall of Fame Award to Susan Finke Scott
(Dr. Roberts/ Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer)

Dr. Roberts presented the prestigious 2021 Education Hall of Fame Award to Ms. Susan Finke Scott and thanked those that spoke of Ms. Scott’s legacy. He noted the misfortune, due to the many COVID-19 restrictions, of not being able to have the typical recognition reception. He acknowledged those individuals who contributed to a video in her honor and thanked Mr. Larry Perkinson for his efforts in organizing the tribute.

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer, Chairman of the Education Hall of Fame Committee, noted a few of Ms. Scott’s contributions to the school corporation. She shared quotes from the individuals who submitted nomination letters. A few of the quotes were: Ms. Susan Finke Scott has a heart for helping people, high expectation of herself and others, a gifted facilitator, a pioneer for women administrators, and is student-centered.

Ms. Scott was presented with a plaque inscribed with selections from her letters of nomination. A second plaque in her honor will be placed at North High School.

Ms. Scott shared that she was proud to call BCSC her home. She noted several of her fondest memories and also reflected on how she has learned from the challenges. She thanked her family and colleagues for the kind words shared on her behalf and noted that she felt blessed and honored to be the 2021 recipient of the Education Hall of Fame Award.

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

Dr. Roberts noted that, currently, 5 days of in-person learning continues for students grades K-8 and a hybrid model remains in place for 9-12 grade students. He shared that students in grades 9-12 will return to 5 days of in-person learning on Monday, March 22. He noted that approximately 1,500 students plan to continue eLearning after spring break. He shared local data and noted the trend appears to be going in a positive direction. Dr. Roberts shared the current data from the state map and noted the positive test cases within the school corporation. The numbers of positive cases since August 10 are as follows:

568 positive test cases (345 students, 156 support staff members and 67 teachers)

- 3% of Students
- 13% of Support Staff Members
- 8% of Certified Staff Members

Dr. Roberts noted that conversations continue to take place in regards to Prom and Graduation. He shared that options are being weighed and close attention to event restrictions monitored, in order to make the safest decision for those two upcoming events.
PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one signed in to speak.

WHO/WHY

Columbus North junior, Trey Nebergall was honored and recognized as the Columbus Chamber of Commerce Maverick Challenge Winner. Trey went on to place 2nd out of 300 participants in the regional competition. His business, Aspire Media Group, is a full service media company that provides professional photography, video, drone and 3-D tours for real estate agents.

Columbus East wrestlers Sam Morrill and Kade Law were recognized for their achievement as IHSAA State Wrestling Finalists. Both athletes were honored for their 2nd and 3rd place finishes, respectively, and for their character traits as individuals. Sam Morrill is a senior and will be continuing his wrestling career at the University of Indianapolis.

WHAT

1) Board Commendations

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to Central Middle School Language Arts Teacher, Mindy Summers and her Team Adventure Students. The students were recognized for their writing achievements with the Indiana Women’s Education Foundation, IRT, DAR and Letters of Literature Anthology with the Indiana State Library. Congratulations to the young writers at Central Middle School.

Mr. Brent Chitty, Columbus East Varsity Basketball Coach, received exemplary behavior recognition from the IHSAA. Basketball official, Mr. Justin Jackson, commended Coach Chitty for his interaction with players during the February 12 basketball game with Jennings County.

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to the leadership of the Columbus Educators Association (CEA) in collaboration with the Bartholomew County Retired Teachers Association (BARTA). Together their efforts resulted in a Third House Session, with State Representative Ryan Lauer and Senator Greg Walker, which focused solely on education.

Dr. Shedd acknowledged Brown Music competition winners Minjung Kim and Reagan Lykins. Minjung is a senior at Columbus North High School. She received the Betty F. Brown Award for Instrumental Excellence for her violin. Reagan is a senior at Columbus East High School. She was the recipient of the Anna Newell Brown Award for Vocal Excellence.
2) School Board Member Reports

Dr. Bilz reported the Health Trust Fund will begin a strategic planning process. The focus will be on approving communication and diligence in mitigating rising health care costs.

Dr. Bilz also provided an update on the work of the Diversity Council. She thanked Ms. Kimberly Easton for her continued work in overseeing various diversity committees. She noted the council is doing an outstanding job recognizing implicit bias, diversity and presenting relatable curriculum and presentations to the schools.

Mr. Grimes noted the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF) Trivia Night was a success. There were 23 teams involved and a total of $6,500 was raised. He thanked the community and those who participated. He also gave an update on the partnership BCSF has with Donors Choose and BCSC classrooms. A total of 6,600 students have been impacted with the matching dollars of 72 grants.

Dr. Shedd gave an update on the Business Advisory meeting. She shared updates on the 3 major networking partnerships. She noted how each partnership, Manufacturing and Education, IT Network and Health Care, benefits students within the school corporation.

3) Cabinet Reports

Cares 2.0 Update

Dr. Pleak presented an update on Cares 2.0 (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security). She noted ESSER II (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) is part of the Cares Act. She shared the grant process, time frame for spending the funds and allowable uses. The four allowable priority uses for this particular funding are the following:

- Addressing learning loss
- Supporting educators
- Sustainable innovation
- Updating technology and other infrastructure

The funding for the ESSER II does not include an equitable share requirement, which indicates funds will not need to be spent on non-public schools within the area. All non-public schools will be receiving emergency funding and have already received planning allocations.

Dr. Pleak noted that the process for determining how the Cares dollars will be spent has begun to take place. Several conversations with CEA leadership, cabinet members, program directors and IDOE specialists have taken place to determine the priority of needs within the school corporation. Throughout the conversations, the top primary focus for making the greatest impact for students was teachers serving students. Other areas of priority were preparing for a virtual pathway, professional development, technology and operational needs.
Dr. Pleak noted that the next steps for the corporation will be to post additional teaching positions for the 2021-2022 school year, seek board approval for the ESSER II funding, submit the final grant application to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and plan and host a Virtual Teacher Fair on April 7.

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

At this point 34 teacher positions will be posted.

The typical attrition rate in a school year is 10%, which is approximately 70 teachers for BCSC.

Postings will include 10 teachers at the Primary level, 14 teachers at the Secondary level (testing areas of English and Math), 8 Special Education teaching positions and 2 EL (English Learners) teaching positions.

2020-2021 Bridge Update

Dr. Hack shared an updated on the Bridge Pathway and noted the success of the program. She noted 715 students, out of the August 2020 total enrollment, will continue into the fourth quarter. Dr. Hack expressed her gratitude to Wendy Foster for her efforts to create and maintain the pathway for BCSC students and their families. The Bridge numbers have decreased as families become comfortable sending their students back to in-person learning for quarter four.

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

We continue to move teachers back into the classroom as students move back to in-person learning.

HOW

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

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

Dr. Bilz made a motion to approve the Human Resources Recommendations and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

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

Ms. Heiny introduced Mr. Joshua Giebel as the new K-12 Virtual Pathway Director. Mr. Giebel has spent the last 11 years at CSA New Tech. He shared he is eager and excited to personalize learning for BCSC students.
5) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of February 8, 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)  
e. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)  
f. Resolution to Transfer Operation Funds to the Rainy Day Fund (Mr. Phillips)  
g. SEL donation from Mark and Wendy Elwood (Dr. Roberts)  
h. Resolution to Continue Leave related to FFCRA (Dr. Roberts)  
i. Resolution Opposing the Establishments of Education Scholarship Accounts and the Expansion of the Indiana School Choice Scholarship Program (Dr. Roberts)

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

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

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

BOARD INPUT/REVIEW

Dr. Bilz noted the refreshment of being able to recognize teacher and student achievements. She shared she is hopeful that the board meetings will again be full of student accomplishments.

Mr. Stenner thanked Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer for her opening reflections. He congratulated Ms. Susan Finke Scott and expressed gratitude for the work of educators, students and mentors.

Ms. Wheeldon congratulated Mr. Giebel on his new position. She also noted the skill level of those individuals who work virtually.

Mr. Grimes congratulated Education Hall of Fame Award recipient Ms. Scott. He also thanked Dr. Roberts and the other 23 Indiana Superintendents for drafting a letter of resolution opposing the establishment of education scholarship accounts.

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer congratulated Ms. Scott and expressed gratitude for all she has contributed to the school district.

Dr. Shedd shared appreciation for the diverse ways we celebrate our accomplishments.
Dr. Shedd announced that there would be a Strategic Planning Session on Friday, March 26, 9:00 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

The next School Board Meeting will be on Monday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

_______________________________President

_______________________________Secretary