BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020 MINUTES

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, IN 47201, on Monday, July 20, 2020 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.

The members of the Board were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Mr. Jeff Caldwell, President
          Dr. Jill Shedd, Vice President
          Mr. Pat Bryant, Secretary
          Mr. Rich Stenner, Member
          Mr. James Persinger, Member
          Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member
          Dr. Julie Bilz, Member

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

School Attorney: Mr. Chris Monroe

REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Caldwell shared reflections.

Following the pledge of allegiance and determination of quorum the meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Mr. Caldwell referenced the Mission and Vision statements as well as noted the high expectation objectives.
WHO/WHY

Columbus North High School Athletic Director (Ms. Heiny)

Mr. Bryant made a motion for the recommendation to approve Mr. Brian Lewis as the Columbus North High School Athletic Director, and Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer seconded the motion.

Principal David Clark introduced Mr. Brian Lewis to the school board, as their recommendation for the Columbus North Athletic Director position. He shared Mr. Lewis attended Indiana University on a football scholarship. He obtained his Bachelor degree from Indiana University in 2011 and his Master’s degree, in Athletic Administration, from William Woods University in 2017. Mr. Lewis had previously been both a football and basketball coach on the high school level. For the past eight years, he has been the assistant athletic director for Mary Institute and Saint Louis Country Day School located in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Lewis shared that he and his family are looking forward to relocating to the Columbus area. He stated he is thankful for the new opportunity Columbus North has given him and is looking forward to his new role as head Athletic Director.

Mr. Lewis said he is passionate about making sure students are respected with dignity. He believes his job as an athletic director is to hold the coaches accountable in making sure students are being respected and growing as human beings. He shared he is excited to watch the students succeed not only athletically, but academically as well.

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

Public Comments:

Comments were heard from local Columbus resident Tiffany Kapczynski, 2939 Wandering Way. She shared her concerns with eLearning and the lack of completed data presented at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 fourth nine week period. She also stated she feels the community was given incomplete information and inaccurate data from the local newspaper, in regards to the percentage of teachers wanting to come back to school in person. She stated that she feels the individuals wanting schools closed are sending their students out to other activities in the community. If the community can be open she believes that students should be back in the classrooms. She concluded by asking the school board to send the students back to school.

Kristi Edwards, 2961 Tulip Drive, shared her concern of the mental well-being of the BCSC teachers should students return to the classroom. She shared her opinion for the need of additional support staff to help teachers with the added additional responsibilities. We need to consider the teachers and their mental well-being as well as the students, she concluded.
Substitute teacher and 13242 South 600 East resident Ruben Guthrie expressed his concerns for students heading back to the classroom. He believes that a student’s education is not going to matter if one of their family members gets sick. He stated that his vote would be to keep students home for at least a month or take a different approach.

Todd Gant from 554 Kinney Lane thanked the school board and leadership for hearing public comments. He stated that he feels safe sending his three daughters back to school on Thursday, August 6. He also shared that eLearning went ok, but there is value to his daughters being in the classroom and in person with their teachers. He stated that BCSC had empowered his girls and that spoke volumes for him. He requested that board members please allow kids to return to school on Thursday, August 6.

Dr. Rachel Kerschner of 15961 East 200 South stated her support of students returning to school. Dr. Kerschner is a mother of four, as well as a local pediatrician. She shared supporting data from the Journal of American Pediatrics that indicate the benefits students receive by being in school. She also believes support services are very beneficial for students and those services would not be fully utilized if students were not in school. She hopes that the children will be back in school this fall.

Jennifer Ratcliff of 2771 South 900 East thanked the school board for dedicating their time to our children and encouraged the school board to have an in-person option this fall. Ms. Ratcliff shared she believes school is more than academics, it is a social interaction as well. She believes the community is seeing an impact from being shut down this spring, both mentally and financially. She concluded that we need to mitigate our risks and get the students back in school.

Columbus, Indiana resident and parent of four children Jonathan Abbott requested that the students be allowed to return to school. Mr. Abbott stated that he has a student with a learning disability and feels it would be helpful for his child to learn in person.

BCSC substitute and mother of two BCSC students, Michelle Carr, 3229 Rolling Hill Drive, shared her comments. She supported the safety measures BCSC put into place for the last nine weeks of the 2019-2020 school year. Her family is still concerned about the virus. Her daughter learns by extreme repetition and shared that her daughter spent 7 hours a day in eLearning. She understands that remote learning will be challenging, but believes it is the only safe option for her family. She also believes that selecting remote learning will hinder her son’s high school academic success, but also believes that eLearning is the safest option of learning for her son. She shared not to complain about eLearning, but for others to see her health concerns.

Felipe Martinez of 3465 Riverside Drive shared appreciation of the school corporation and the learning opportunities provided for his children. Mr. Martinez stated his desire to see an opportunity for a hybrid program. He shared many universities are bringing students back in person and also offering various online options. He stated that giving learning options helps students learn the best way for them individually.
Tracy Martinez of 3465 Riverside Drive stated she wants her children to go back to school. She also acknowledges that she knows BCSC cares about her children, but her children are not her deepest concern. She is worried about the potential exposure for the teachers, cafeteria workers, custodians and support staff.

School Board Member Reports:

Mr. Caldwell thanked Mr. Phillips for attending the Redevelopment Commission Meeting and stepping up in Dr. Roberts’s absence with a grant request presentation. Mr. Phillips presented information in regards to the STEM related programs.

Cabinet Reports

Mr. Phillips presented both the Operation and Education 2nd Quarter Financial Fund Reports. Mr. Phillips also congratulated Ms. Janae Norman, Student Service Coordinator, on completing her first safety grant as well as managing the funds of the grant.

The following information was shared in response to questions from the board.

Board member Rich Stenner asked for an update on the Health Trust Fund. Mr. Phillips responded that due to COVID-19, BCSC employees are unable to have elective procedures and this has given a chance for the reserves in the Health Trust Fund to grow.

Reopening Plan (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts presented a detailed version of the Reopening Plan for BCSC PreK-12. The detailed plan resembles the Executive Summary released on July 6. Dr. Roberts explained the revised recommendations from the plan in regards to mask coverings. Those revisions include:

- All students and staff will be provided two washable coverings.
- All students and staff are required to wear a mask covering at all times.

He also referenced the link within the document that explains how to properly wear the mask and acknowledged the reasons one may be exempt from wearing a mask. He stated that the remainder of the executive summary basically remained the same with a couple of changes made to clarify the language and make sure it is clearly understood.

Dr. Roberts summarized the approach of mitigation factors.

- Temperature screening everyone on first point of entry to any BCSC property whether a building, activities on outside grounds or boarding a school bus.
- Every student and staff member will be wearing a mask.
- Physical distancing to every point possible with 50% maximum capacity in large common spaces and utilizing every space possible in the classroom. The teachers
and staff will be maximizing the space in all BCSC buildings as well as getting the students outside, as weather permits, to utilize space.

- Handwashing and the availability of hand sanitizer throughout BCSC buildings.

Dr. Roberts also outlined how different lunch time will look, explained the need for personalized water bottles and hydration stations and emphasized the new procedures for bus transportation. He re-emphasized the top four areas of concerns BCSC will be tackling and continuing to address as areas of prevention are practiced. Those areas involve temperature screening, face masks, physical distancing to the extent possible and hand washing often.

Dr. Roberts reviewed the multiple learning pathways listed in the plan. Each pathway gives learning options for parents and students if a determination is made that it is not best to return to the classroom on Thursday, August 6. Therefore, based on how parents feel with the circumstances, they have the option of choosing either a traditional learning environment or an on-line learning pathway for their child(ren). The proposed plan also helps determine how to adjust quickly if the current data would prevent students returning to the classroom. Dr. Roberts stated that the understanding and determination of knowing what is considered a safe return to school was made with the input and data of many local medical professionals. Dialogue occurred and metrics were established with the help of the following medical advisors: Dr. Box, Commissioner of the Indiana State Department of Health; Dr. Scott, President of the Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Dr. Brian Niedbalski with the Bartholomew County Health Department; Dr. Weaver, Chief Medical Officer of the Indiana State Department of Health and local CRH physicians, Dr. Slade Crowder and Dr. Tom Sonderman. Dr. Roberts shared how the provided metrics were established, how tracking will take place and how the daily data given will help BCSC take steps to open and get back into the classroom. He emphasized how strong the community effort is needed in practicing prevention.

Dr. Roberts presented the options for Support Teaching and Learning. The Bridge Model is designed to be short term. This option is for those who may not feel comfortable with their child returning to school on Thursday, August 6. This model gives flexibility to change options as the student and parent desire. Columbus Virtual Pathway is another online learning model. This pathway is designed for a semester level, but emphasized flexibility is there if a student would need to move from one program to another. Questions in regard to the learning options can be sent to the following email address: onlineoptions@bcsc.k12.in.us.

The following was shared in response to questions from the board.

Dr. Roberts indicated preparations have been made to share weekly the level of the spread indicators. The data is gathered and followed as a county, region and state to indicate where the BCSC community stands in regards to the spread.

Additional information was shared in regards to how administrators will determine staffing. Dr. Roberts shared after Friday, July 24, accurate numbers will be available which will help determine what type of staffing is needed in each building. All staff has been surveyed to determine who falls into an at-risk category and who is willing to do online teaching. After the
numbers come in on Friday, July 24, it will be known how many students are requesting the Bridge Program or the Columbus Virtual Pathway. He stated that once we understand the real numbers we will know how to place our staff. Flexibly is key in how we move forward.

Dr. Roberts responded we are just now starting to get employees back into our buildings. We are working with Columbus Regional Health and the BCSC Health Clinic to test individuals who have symptoms or to indicate if a test is even necessary.

Dr. Niedbalski shared if we would have a positive case or a suspected case we will have the student or employee see their primary care physician. He indicated at present CRH is only wanting to test symptomatic, potential positive cases. If one may have had exposure or is just curious, the local state testing site is available.

Dr. Roberts commended Dr. Niedbalski for his wisdom and advice as we wrestle with tough situations.

Dr. Niedbalski explained the procedure for contact tracing. The Indiana State Health Department will be conducting this procedure. The school corporation as well as the local health department could be asked to assist with the tracing procedure.

In response to additional board questions.

Mr. Jensen stated C4 is now under the control of the Governors Work Council not the Indiana Department of Education. The Governors Work Council requires 51% of C4 classes to be in person. Mr. Jensen presented the secondary level learning options as a menu, allowing students to create their schedule according to their current needs. He explained that on the secondary level a student has the option of participating in person and online. We will work with each individual to determine the best option for the student. The skilled learning classes will have to be in person, but there are other classes that could be completed online. All secondary students will need to get with their high school counselors to create their schedules.

Dr. Roberts shared the links within the Reopening Plan and explained they are being revised nearly every day. A lot has been learned through the questions received from parents and documents have been revised. Hopefully the more information that is provided the better we all will clearly understand.

Dr. Roberts helped clarify the CEA survey questions that were asked by the board. He shared the discussion that has occurred with administration and CEA representatives.

Parents can reach out and direct their online questions to onlineoptions@bcsc.k12.in.us. All other questions in regards to reopening can be directed to reopening@bcsc.k12.in.us.

In response to additional board questions:

Dr. Hack responded to how the Bridge Model is characterized versus the eLearning
experience of the fourth nine weeks of 2019-2020. Students will be engaged whether in person or online. She shared that developmental opportunities will be planned for our Bridge Teachers.

Dr. Roberts reviewed the conclusion of the Reopening Plan.

Dr. Bilz made a motion to move forward with the Reopening Plan and Dr. Shedd seconded the motion.

Mr. Caldwell shared that BCSC is more than education. For some children within our school corporation it is their meal for the day and their only set of adult eyes. Mr. Caldwell acknowledged coming back to school is increasing risks, but this plan is what we are doing to mitigate the spread and concerns with COVID-19.

Dr. Shedd noted the board vote is allowing our leadership and staff to prepare and go forward. It is endorsing our leadership to move forward. She shared that she takes pride in the fact BCSC always offers choices for their learners. The plan presented today affords those choices. She appreciates the leadership as well as the perspective, so that decisions are not based on emotions.

Dr. Bilz questioned if this is enough time to analyze the data and allow teachers and staff to plan accordingly for Thursday, August 6. She stated that she had reservations about the time allowed to plan for the start date.

Mr. Persinger stated we are implementing this plan as trends are rising and positive cases increasing. Do we want to put our staff in the same situation again as the situation is changing?

Dr. Roberts explained that board members are approving a plan to go forward, not deciding to open or close school.

Dr. Niedbalski stated from a number stand point all of the surrounding county indicators are in the yellow or the green. He added that the county as well as the city are currently in discussion to have a county wide mask mandate to help lessen the spread.

Mr. Stenner shared he is glad for the solid plan we have to review and the stakeholders that have put time into the plan gathering the information. He is glad we have established metrics that are understandable. BCSC is dependent on the community to have success in moving forward with this plan.

Upon a call to vote, the motion carried, 5 to 2.

**HOW**

4) Requests for Approval: (Dr. Roberts)
Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen) – no requests submitted
d. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
e. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
f. Revision to Board Policy 5111.03 - Children And Youth In Foster Care (Dr. Pleak)
g. Adopt Preliminary Bond Resolution - 2020 Capital Equipment G.O. Bonds (Mr. Phillips)
h. Adopt Reimbursement Resolution - 2020 Capital Equipment G.O. Bonds (Mr. Phillips)
i. Student Expulsion Appeal (Dr. Roberts)

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

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer made a motion to approve the reviewed items and Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, Items 4) a-i were unanimously approved.

2) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations:

Ms. Heiny requested approval for the Human Resources recommendations as presented.

James Persinger made a motion to approve the recommendations, Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer seconded the motion.

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

BOARD INPUT/REVIEW

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer thanked the administration for providing masks and keeping an eye on the numbers.

Dr. Julie Bilz thanked the BCSC administration for their leadership with the presented plan. She also noted that her vote decision had nothing to do with the framework.

Mr. Persinger thanked the leadership and administration for their preparation and efforts, as well as the overwhelming amount of people that reached out to the school board.

Dr. Shedd shared appreciation for the passion that was heard from the BCSC community and the amount of individual research that went into their public comments.

Dr. Roberts added that the school board would be meeting for a scheduled Strategic Planning Session on Friday, July 31.
The next regular scheduled School Board meeting is Monday, August 10 in the Terrace Room of the BCSC Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

__________________________________Secretary

Attest:__________________________________President