

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024 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, January 8, 2024, 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. Dale Nowlin, Member  
                                     Mr. Jason Major, Member

Absent:                        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  
                                     Dr. Laura Hack, Director of Elementary Education  
                                     Dr. Brett Boezeman, Director of Operations  
                                     Mr. Charles Edwards, Director of Secondary Education  
                                     Mrs. Megan Shaff, Director of Title Services  
                                     Mrs. Jessica Vogel, Director of Special Education

Attorney:                     Mr. Michael McIver, School Attorney

Mrs. Nikki Wheeldon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**REGULAR SESSION**

Determination of Quorum

Meeting Called to Order (GAVEL)

Election of Temporary Chairperson

Mr. Grimes made a motion to nominate Mrs. Wheeldon as a temporary chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Major.

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

Mrs. Wheeldon assumed the duty as temporary chairperson.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No one signed in to provide public comment.

### **HOW**

#### **1) Election of Officers for the January 2024 – December 2024 Board of School Trustees**

Mrs. Wheeldon asked for nominations for president.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to nominate Mrs. Wheeldon as the 2024 school board president.

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

Mrs. Wheeldon asked for nominations for vice president.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to nominate Mr. Stenner as the 2024 school board vice-president.

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

Mrs. Wheeldon asked for nominations for secretary.

Mr. Nowlin made a motion to nominate Mr. Grimes as the 2024 school board secretary.

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

The officers assumed their duties.

### **WHAT**

#### **2) School Board Member Reports**

Mr. Grimes provided a Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF) update. He noted available scholarship opportunities for students and awards for teachers; additional information can be found at [www.bcsfstars.org](http://www.bcsfstars.org). He provided a legislative update noting that the short session has begun with plans to finish before the March 14 deadline. There are roughly 150 K-12 education bills to be proposed.

Mr. Major provided a BCSC Health Trust update. He shared that the year-end review indicated strong financials and encouraging recommendations to keep health costs low. The committee plans to soon tour the new BCSC Health Clinic at Nexus Park.

Mrs. Wheeldon noted that committee assignments for the 2024 calendar year will be voted on at the January 22, 2024 board meeting.

### **3) Cabinet Reports**

- **Board of Finance Meeting (Dr. Phillips)**

Dr. Phillips noted that annually the Board of Finance requires the district to appoint the board of finance officers and review the investment policy. He noted the officers would be the same as the school board officers for 2024. Dr. Phillips shared that per Policy 6144, the school corporation uses three investment tools. The investment instruments are US Treasury Bills or Notes, Bank CDs (for 2 years or less), and Money Market Sweep Accounts. Dr. Phillips reviewed the Money Market account at First Financial Bank noting the total revenue from 2023 from the First Financial Bank sweep accounts was \$1,089,519. The Treasury Purchases were made in the spring and the fall of the 2022 calendar year and netted \$1,967,688 in the interest earned for the 2023 calendar year. This amount includes interest earned from extra-curricular accounts.

Dr. Phillips reviewed the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (DUAB) School Corporation Fiscal Indicators. Dr. Phillips reported all cash balances are up and the financial indicators for BCSC are strong and show no concern. These are lagging indicators due to the complexity in capturing each corporation's unique financial situation.

- **Extra-curricular Fund Report (Dr. Phillips)**

Dr. Phillips presented a BCSC Extra-curricular Fund report, which is also a statutory requirement. He noted that the 2022-2023 school year was the first year the district invested the extra-curricular monies. The gain noted in the first semester is due to the collection of fundraiser proceeds and often the account balances will drop in the spring when monies are expended.

- **2024 Property Tax Rate (Dr. Phillips)**

Dr. Phillips shared the final 2024 BCSC portion of the Property Tax Rate to be just under one dollar at \$0.9985. He shared a tax rate history comparison and noted that the district always advertises higher than the final tax rate. There are four different groups that are tracked for comparison, one is the state average. The other groups are districts that are similar to the size of BCSC geographically, budget-wise, and from an assessed value standpoint.

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

The five corporations listed above and below BCSC when sorted by budgets were used for comparisons.

The interest earned from investing extra-curricular monies returns to the extra-curricular accounts.

- **NEOLA Policy Revision Recommendations (Dr. Roberts)**

Dr. Roberts reviewed the policies remaining to be updated based on statutory language changes from the last legislative session.

## **HOW**

### **4) Reorganization of Business Services January 2024-December 2024 (Dr. Phillips)**

- a. Appoint Corporation Treasurer – Dr. Phillips
- b. Appoint Corporation Deputy Treasurer – Paula Betros
- c. Authorize Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to Invest School Corporation Funds
- d. Approve School Treasurer Bonds

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve 4) a-d and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

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

### **5) Establishment of Board Meetings, Remuneration, and Required Notices (Mrs. Wheeldon)**

- a. Establish Board Remuneration as Provided by Law
  - i. Per annum: \$2000
  - ii. Per diem: \$112/regular meeting + \$62/meeting of a different group for which appointed liaison.
- b. Designate Newspapers or Qualified Publications in which to Publish Required Notices
- c. Set School Board Meeting Dates – January 23, 2024, to July 31, 2025

Mr. Nowlin made a motion to amend 5)a-ii, striking through regular and replacing with BCSC School Board, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant. “Per diem” was reviewed by the Board so that it was well understood that the \$112 and \$62 pay amounts were maximums PER DAY. For example, an evening that includes three School Board meetings results in pay of \$112, not \$112 x 3.

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

Mr. Nowlin made a motion to approve 5) a-c as written and amended, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

Upon a call to vote, the motion to amend was carried unanimously.

### **6) Recommendations for Public Disclosures of Conflict of Interest (Mr. McIver)**

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve 6), and the motion was seconded by Mr. Major.

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

### **7) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)**

- a. Minutes of the Executive Session on December 11, 2023, and the Regular School Board Meeting of December 11, 2023

- b. Field Trips and Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
- c. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
- d. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Phillips)
- e. Claims and Payroll (Dr. Phillips)
- f. Appointment of Dr. Roy Goode and Dr. Jennifer Hartwell as School Physicians (Dr. Roberts)
- g. Appointment of Mr. Mike McIver as School Attorney (Dr. Roberts)
- h. Resolution for Final 2023 Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund (Dr. Phillips)
- i. MOA for Family Engagement Grant (Mrs. Shaff)
- j. Resolution to participate in Class Action Social Media Litigation (Dr. Roberts)

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

Mr. Nowlin requested 7)a be pulled from the list of approval items and voted on separately.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve 7)b-j, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

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

Mr. Nowlin requested an amendment be made to item 3)b of the minutes of Regular School Board Meeting of December 11, 2023.

A motion was made by Mr. Nowlin and seconded by Mr. Grimes to amend December 11, 2023 approval item 3)b regarding Policy 9130 to read as follows: "Upon a call to vote, the motion to pass Policy 9130 striking letter "j" passed 4-3, with Mr. Nowlin, Mr. Major and Mr. Schulz opposing".

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

Mr. Nowlin made a motion to approve item 7)a as amended, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Major.

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

## **8) 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.

## **9) Additional Human Resources (Dr. Pleak)**

Dr. Pleak requested approval of an additional Human Resources Recommendation as presented.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the additional Human Resources Recommendation and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

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

### **BOARD INPUT REVIEW**

Mr. Bryant congratulated the new school board officers.

Mr. Major acknowledged the five remaining months of the school year. He encouraged the seniors as they complete senior projects and graduation requirements and wished the winter athletics well as their seasons come to a close.

Mr. Stenner noted his appreciation of the input of his colleagues.

Mr. Grimes noted he is looking forward to a new and exciting calendar year.

Mr. Nowlin congratulated and thanked the new officers of the school board. He shared that he has recently become a Book Buddies volunteer and noted it to be a very well-run program. He thanked Dr. Roberts for providing a clear explanation of the recommended policies to be reviewed. He noted the need to fulfill the request to have the Google form on the district website in order for continued public engagement and transparency around policy changes.

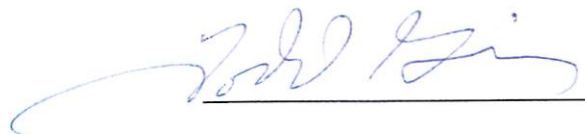
Dr. Roberts acknowledged that January is National School Board Member Appreciation Month. He thanked the board members for their great work for students.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

There will be an Executive Session, Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building.

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

 Secretary

Attest:  President