

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building, Columbus, Indiana, on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., under 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. Jason Major, Member
 Mr. Logan Schulz, Member
 Mr. Pat Bryant, Member
 Mr. Dale Nowlin, Member

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

Attorney: Mr. Michael McIver, School Attorney

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

Mrs. Wheeldon, the President, opened the board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Wheeldon gaveled out of the regularly scheduled meeting and into the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Second Preliminary Determination Hearing for Lease Rental Bonds

(Dr. Phillips/Dr. Boezeman)

Dr. Phillips reviewed the project timeline. He noted that a public planning session was held in March to define facility challenges and from that time several additional public planning sessions were held to define facility needs, cost estimates, and review the financial impact. This public hearing is the second of the two required meetings. The first public hearing was held on November 13, 2023.

Dr. Boezeman reviewed the facility limitations that the district is currently facing and shared the proposals to resolve them. He noted that the district has the opportunity to do so without increasing the tax rate. He reviewed the facility renovations that would address updating learning environments, the student demand for certain courses, and the projected demographic shift to the west and south sides of the district. CSO Architects partnered to provide cost estimates.

Dr. Phillips reviewed the resolutions that are being requested for board approval. The Project Resolution authorizes a maximum bond issue of \$306M for the renovation of and improvements to facilities throughout the district. The Preliminary Determination Resolution begins the formal process of public notice of the determination to issue bonds and the Reimbursement Resolution uses bond proceeds to pay for project-related expenses incurred before bond issues. He noted that between 2024 and 2030, each year there will be a series of bond issues, planning, design work, and facility work.

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

Dr. Phillips noted that every project will come before the board separately, both for budget approval and for approval of the facility plan.

Public Comments were heard from the following:

1. Chuck Doup
2. Mandy Keele
3. Kathy Oren
4. Eric Grow
5. David Doup
6. Kermit Key
7. Jeff Logston
8. Laura Garrett
9. Cole Bennett

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

After receiving feedback from CEA and the community a referendum was not preferred.

The money spent will look different in every building depending on the needs of each building.

The approvals going forward will be voted on separately each year according to the assessed value growth projects budgeted for the calendar year. The approval before the board

now allows the district to move forward with planning and coordinating with architects for project design.

Mrs. Wheeldon gaveled back into the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:08 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

Best Practice – Columbus Virtual Pathway (CVP) (Ms. Whittney Gaines)

Ms. Gaines shared and reviewed the vision and mission of CVP and noted the school-wide values that are the focus of CVP staff members. The pathway started in 2018 as a method to combat an increasing number of students lost to virtual options outside of the district. Ms. Gaines shared that the pathway expanded during the 2020-2021 school year to support K-12 students during the pandemic. She noted that at the end of the 2022-2023 school year the K-5 pathway was discontinued due to a decrease in enrollment. The numbers have remained steady for 6-12 grade students. Currently, 732 students are served through the pathway.

Ms. Gaines noted that BCSC wants to continue to ensure that there is a viable option for students seeking an online education and offer benefits for online students that are not readily available at Indiana's other online learning options. To do this BCSC offers services above the options offered in other programs. These include facilitators who are physically present for students and are part of the local community. The students have access to a student resource center and many opportunities to connect within the community. The pathway offers high-quality instruction and the curriculum provider has been one of Indiana's top virtual course providers for 5 years running. The staff engages families with quarterly open house events, regular contact with facilitators and administrators, partnership with cohort teams, and a yearly senior celebration.

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

CVP allows students the opportunity to graduate on time.

The students have a staff person at their home school to keep them accountable and make sure they are on track to graduate.

Students are initially assessed by staff members to determine if CVP is the right choice for the student.

WHAT

1) School Board Member Reports

Mrs. Wheeldon provided a Public Works Session update. She noted the board met on Monday, December 4 to review and focus on policies 2520 and 9130.

Mr. Schulz noted that the Education Hall of Fame selection committee members have selected the 2024 award recipient. The award will be presented to the educator at the February 5, 2024 school board meeting.

Mr. Major provided a Columbus Redevelopment Commission update and noted the Columbus City Council approved the Riverfront Project,

Mr. Grimes provided an ISBA update. He highlighted two legislative priorities:

teacher retention and student support service programs. He shared that the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF) participated in the Festival of Lights parade and noted that the C4 program and the Sound and Spirit of Columbus were well represented. He noted the BCSF website has information regarding scholarship opportunities. The deadline for those applications is March 1.

Mr. Nowlin provided a High Ability Broad Based Planning committee report. The committee is working to provide professional development for teachers who have a cluster of high-ability students in their elementary classrooms. He noted that the committee works to identify students who have high ability but are not in the academic challenge programs.

2) Cabinet Reports

Dr. Roberts provided a review on draft NEOLA policies.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals signed in to provide Public Comment:

1. Amy London
2. Lisa Ingellis
3. Mary Mills
4. Michelle Carr
5. Karla Craig
6. Kermit Key
7. Curtis Axsom
8. Eric Grow
9. Susanne Smith
10. Richard Stafford
11. Nancy Merbitz

3) Requests for Approval - Old Business (Dr. Roberts)

a. Minutes of the Executive Session of November 13, 2023, the Minutes of the Public Work Session of November 13, 2023, the Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of November 13, 2023, and Minutes of the Public Work Session of December 4, 2023.

b. NEOLA Policy Revision Recommendations, Policy 2520 – Selection of Library Materials and Equipment and Policy 9130 – Public Complaints and Concerns (Dr. Roberts)

Mr. Grimes made a motion to vote separately on Old Business approval items 3) a and 3) b and to separate the two policies in 3) b for a separate vote, the motion was seconded by Mr. Major.

Upon a call to vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve Old Business 3) a and the motion was seconded by Mr. Major.

Upon a call to vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve Old Business item Policy 2520 under 3) b as presented, the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

Mr. Schulz made a motion to amend Mr. Grimes's motion to include consent language to Policy 2520 and the motion was seconded by Mr. Major.

Upon a call to vote, the motion failed 2-5, with Mr. Schulz and Mr. Major opposing.

Upon a call to vote on the original motion to approve Old Business item Policy 2520 under 3) b, the motion passed 5-2, with Mr. Schulz and Mr. Major opposing.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to strike letter “j” from the draft of Policy 9130, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

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.

4) Requests for Approval - New Business (Dr. Roberts)

- c. Field Trips and Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
- d. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Phillips)
- e. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
- f. Claims and Payroll (Dr. Phillips)
- g. New Policy – Payment Methods for School Sponsored Events (Dr. Roberts)
- h. Adopt Project Resolution (Dr. Phillips/Dr. Boezeman)
- i. Adopt Preliminary Determination Resolution (Dr. Phillips/Dr. Boezeman)
- j. Adopt Reimbursement Resolution (Dr. Phillips/Dr. Boezeman)
- k. Early Literacy Achievement Grant (Dr. Hack)

Dr. Roberts provided additional detail and requested approval of items 4) c-k

Mr. Grimes asked that item 4) g be removed from the consent vote and Mr. Major asked that 4) h, i, and j be removed from the consent vote

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve 4) c-f, and k as presented, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Major.

Upon a call to vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Major made a motion to approve New Business item 4) g as written and the motion was seconded by Mr. Schutz.

Upon a call to vote, the motion failed 3-4 with Mr. Bryant, Mr. Major, and Mr. Schulz voting in favor.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve New Business items 4) h, i, and j, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

Upon a call to vote, the motion passed 6-1, with Mr. Major opposing.

5) Human Resources Recommendations (Dr. Pleak)

Mr. Schulz 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 passed unanimously.

BOARD INPUT AND REVIEW

Mr. Major acknowledged the CSA Lincoln girls' and boys' basketball teams for their 10-0 records, Principal Mr. Mahaffey from Clifty Creek for the excellent Veterans Day program, and thanked those who attended the school board meeting.

Mr. Stenner thanked those individuals who were involved in the meeting presentations and congratulated the two Lilly Scholarship recipients from CEHS.

Dr. Roberts acknowledged Jana Wiersma from The Republic. He shared that Jana will no longer be covering BCSC school board meetings and recognized the great job she has done representing The Republic and the community.

Mrs. Wheeldon acknowledged the work of her peer board members and recognized the amount of time the administration gives to provide additional information and answer questions. She thanked Ms. Gaines for the presentation of CVP.

Mr. Grimes thanked the community members who shared public comments. He acknowledged the many teams involved in upcoming competitions and presentations. He noted that he feels that the job of the board should be to govern the schools.

Mr. Schulz congratulated CMS Spell Bowl on reaching the state finals.


Mr. Nowlin gave commendations to CNHS teacher Natalie Perry for attending with 20 of her students a Chamber of Commerce/IUPUC event that hosted economists from across the state. He gave commendations to the CEHS Drama Club students and staff for their production of "Chicago". He acknowledged that the BCSC teachers are going above and beyond to make it work for students. He thanked Dr. Phillips and Dr. Boezeman for their time and extra effort to answer questions from the board.

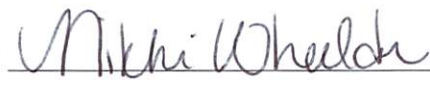
NEXT BOARD MEETING

Regular Board Meeting (Reorganizational Meeting), January 8, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Administration Building, Terrace Room

Regular Board Meeting, January 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Administration Building, Terrace Room

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

 Secretary

Attest:  President