REGULAR SESSION

Dr. Bilz offered reflections.

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

Dr. Shedd, President, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Dr. Shedd noted the mission, vision, and high expectation objectives for the district.
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, February 11. Dr. Roberts also noted that the local numbers for positive test cases and hospitalizations are continuing to decline.

He presented the recent revised recommendations from the Indiana State Department of Health and noted, at this point, the recommendations are only information. Dr. Roberts stated no action would be taken until the recommendations were further reviewed by board members and conversations have occurred with CEA.

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

Dr. Roberts noted, according to the revised recommendations from the ISDH, additional PPE supplies will be provided to all BCSC employees.

The revised suggested quarantine recommendations would help get staff and students back into the buildings more quickly. The change would allow symptom-free staff and students to return to school after a 10-day quarantine. Dr. Roberts acknowledged that BCSC has remained with the 14-day quarantine guideline even after the CDC reduced the quarantine period to 10 days in December. He also added it would be difficult to lessen the required quarantine days while trying hard to return our secondary students to in-person learning.

The continued research from across the country, the seeming lack of spread, and decreases in positive test cases have led to the ISDH release of the revised recommendations.

Since Monday, August 10 there have been 498 positive cases within the school corporation. The breakdown of those cases by group (positive cases of group/number of people in group) are as follows:

- Students - 3%
- Certified Staff Members - 7%
- Support Staff Members - 12%

A positive test result due to a close contact with a BCSC student or staff member within a BCSC building has been very minimal.
The contact tracing process is being conducted at the building level, with the assistance of Kelli Thompson, Director of Health Services, and her team. The tracing information is tracked back to the Health Services Department to securely record the data for state reporting and school corporation statistics.

Dialogue will continue in order to determine whether testing kits will be utilized within the school corporation. Dr. Roberts noted that, at this time, the comfort level is not strong enough to administer tests to students and staff. He noted in order for on-site testing to be considered there would need to be a specific protocol in place prior to testing.

Dr. Roberts stated the importance of continued conversation and data review with our local health professionals in order to determine a return date for our secondary students.

The COVID-19 Task Force will be adding to their metrics the percentage of individuals who have been vaccinated within Bartholomew County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one signed in to speak.

WHAT

1) Board Commendations

Mr. Grimes congratulated Ms. Brooke Lynott and Mr. Dakota Huddleston. Both individuals are BCSC teachers who recently received a Lilly Teacher Grant Award.

Dr. Shedd shared the i-CARE Program recently received state recognition from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. She congratulated the program for having some of the highest levels of academic achievement within the State of Indiana.

Dr. Shedd also recognized and congratulated Northside Middle School Principal, Ms. Amy Dixon and Assistant Principal, Mr. Evan Burton. Both administrators received the 2020-2021 Outstanding Administrators of the Year Award issued by the Indiana Council for Exceptional Children.

Dr. Roberts noted that the Columbus East and Columbus North Marching Band Directors have teamed together to create additional opportunities for band students. The marching bands will begin practicing together as one and working towards performances and state competitions.

2) School Board Member Reports

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer shared that the 2021 Education Hall of Fame winner will be recognized and honored at the March 1, 2021 School Board Meeting.
Mr. Grimes shared that he is currently attending the ISBA New School Board Member Academy. He also provided information on the upcoming BCSF fundraiser. The Foundation will be holding a Virtual Trivia Night on Saturday, February 13 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. All proceeds will benefit BCSF.

Dr. Shedd provided a legislative update. She noted the variety of conversation currently taking place in regards to three specific bills. The bills would increase the amount of funding within the voucher system for the state of Indiana. She noted that she will continue to provide progress of the legislation as it moves forward.

3) Cabinet Reports

2020 Year End Financial Report (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips shared the final 2021 Tax Anticipation Warrant (TAW) Interest Rate to be .63% and also provided highlights from the 2020 financial results.

The overview of the Education Fund showed an increase in revenue, due to a rise in the first semester ADM count and the timing of federal government deposits. He noted there is normally one federal deposit per calendar year, but in 2020 deposits were received in January and December. He reported the year to date total of expenditures with transfers to be $77,551,834 in the Education Fund.

Mr. Phillips shared an overview of the Operations Fund. He noted revenues were as expected since we do not budget for tax cap losses. Mr. Phillips shared that losses were expected to be less than what the state estimated in the fall, but this year there was an unexpected decrease in the December tax distribution. The county’s law suit with HPI was decided by the Indiana State Supreme Court and led to a half million dollar reduction of property tax distribution to the corporation in December. He shared that between the half million dollars that was expected to be saved in tax cap losses and the half million underpayment from the county there was no change.

The expenditures for the Operations Fund are well under budget, due mainly to buildings being closed a large part of the year. He noted that a large amount of the budget for fuel and utility expenditures were not needed due to buses not running and buildings being unoccupied. He shared that there was not an urgent need to fill vacant operational positions, such as bus drivers and custodians, since the students and staff were not in the buildings. He reported the year to date total of expenditures to be $23,484,080 in the Operations Fund. He added that the cash balance in the Operations Fund is higher than it has been in years prior.

Mr. Phillips shared that a recommendation soon would be presented to the board to gradually draw the cash balance down in the Operations Fund. He noted one of the recommendations will be to make a transfer from the Operations Fund to the Rainy Day Fund and bring a plan before the board to begin replacing roofs and HVAC units in many of the school corporation buildings.
Mr. Phillips explained the Health Trust is the second largest expense for BCSC, but it is not tax supported. He noted that, after five years of continued losses, a plan design change was made to increase revenue and reduce costs. The costs decreased in 2020, but since it has been an unusual year it is hard to determine if the decreases are due to the challenges of COVID-19 or the changes that were made to the health care plan.

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

The first round of federal support from the Cares Act distribution was used to purchase PPE for the school corporation.

This is the 2020 Financial Report and does not reflect the spending of the new Operating Referendum Dollars.

Mr. Phillips noted the target in the Health Care Reserves would be 40% of the expected expenditures.

4) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of January 25, 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. NEOLA - Indiana Corporation Policy Update, Volume 33 Number 1 (Dr. Roberts)
g. Appointment to Bartholomew County Public Library (BCPL) Board (Dr. Roberts)
h. 2020 Appropriation Adjustments (Mr. Phillips)
i. Final 2020 Education to Operations Fund Transfer (Mr. Phillips)
j. Support Staff COVID-19 Stipends (Dr. Roberts)

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

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

Upon a call for the vote, Items 4) a-j 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 Mr. Grimes.

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

**BOARD INPUT/REVIEW**

Mr. Grimes shared his personal overview as a new board member and noted the great learning experience.

Ms. Wheeldon reflected on a recent personal reminder. She noted sometimes an answer takes time to achieve and there is value in that process.

Mr. Stenner shared his gratitude for having the right staff in place for the COVID-19 challenges and thanked Dr. Shedd for her current position as a liaison for state legislation.

Mr. Pat Bryant thanked all who wished him a Happy Birthday.

Dr. Shedd acknowledged the high school seniors who have shared their concerns and voiced their desires to return to in-person learning. She reminded everyone that we are in business for the students and their input has value.

Dr. Roberts shared condolences to the family of local educator, Ms. Helen Heckman. Ms. Heckman was the principal of St. Bartholomew School. She passed on Thursday, February 4.

Dr. Shedd announced that the next School Board Meeting would be on Monday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

__________________________________President

__________________________________Secretary