

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 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, Indiana on Monday, September 13, 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  
                              Mr. Todd Grimes, Member  
                              Ms. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member  
                              Ms. Nikki Wheeldon, Member

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

Attorney:                 Mr. Chris Monroe, School Attorney

**REGULAR SESSION**

Mr. Pat Bryant provided 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.

## **WHO/WHY**

### **Exhibit Columbus Presentation: High School Design Team (Mr. Jensen/Mr. Darin Johnson)**

Mr. Jensen introduced the High School Design Team. The students thanked the school board for the opportunity to present, and shared their appreciation for the C4 Architecture Program. The students, from all three BCSC high schools, were part of the team that participated in the 2021 Exhibit Columbus Project. They presented the step-by-step process they followed to create their exhibit, "Tunnel Vision". They noted the survey they conducted with community members and students to gather additional project ideas. Those ideas were reviewed, and many were incorporated into the project. The students noted it was important to document the architectural history of Columbus, highlight landmarks, and note the significance of the architecture designs located in Columbus. They noted the value of team effort and collaboration, and the reward they continue to receive as they watch the community fully utilize the "Tunnel Vision" Exhibit.

### **Update: COVID-19 Plan of Action for 2021-2022 (Dr. Roberts)**

Dr. Roberts reviewed data, both from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), and shared the update of the COVID-19 Task Force numbers. He provided an explanation of the color coded COVID-19 maps, and highlighted where Bartholomew County stands in regards to positive test cases. He noted the BCSC metrics, and reviewed the current numbers reported since the first day of the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Roberts shared that, out of 326 positive test cases reported, 290 are students and 36 are staff members. He noted there have been 1,656 close contacts reported, and 876 symptomatic individuals that had to be sent home.

Dr. Roberts referenced the numbers that were reported when the district went to eLearning on November 9, 2020. Those numbers were 106 positive test cases (70 students and 36 staff members).

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

The numbers presented are accumulated numbers up to today. The increase in numbers have not created a disruption in daily operation. If the district needs to make an adjustment, the first step would be to start small, looking first at a classroom, then the school building, before going to eLearning for the entire school corporation.

The discussions regarding quarantine guideline adjustments continue. Even with the mask mandate the challenge remains with the increasing percentage of individuals now testing positive. We appreciate the mask flexibility given with the recent Governor's Executive Order, but it is not the right time for the school corporation to make a mitigation adjustment. The current numbers have put the district on hold in regards to the flexibility. An adjustment to the mitigation guidelines is something that will be kept in mind as the daily numbers continue to be reviewed.

Disposable masks are available for all individuals entering all BCSC buildings.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

William Broaddus, Columbus, IN

Mr. Broaddus shared additional data he had gathered on COVID-19. He feels the mitigation provisions that are currently in place could damage students, both mentally and physically. He requested that all mitigation strategies be removed, and classroom and extra-curricular activities return to normal.

Donna White, Columbus, IN

Ms. White shared her concerns in regards to a particular situation at one of the elementary schools.

Jason Major, Columbus, IN

Mr. Major shared his concerns with the COVID-19 contact tracing guidelines. He believes the rights of the students, who have not been vaccinated, have been violated. He feels that several BCSC employees are not adhering to the mask mandate policy.

Abigail Bryant, Edinburg, IN

Ms. Bryant, Media Specialist at Taylorsville Elementary, shared her concerns on air ventilation within the BCSC buildings. She recommended the federal funds received through the ESSER III grant be used to purchase additional ventilation for the buildings. She feels that additional ventilation within the classrooms would be more beneficial than masks.

Richard Liu, Columbus, IN

Mr. Liu thanked the school board for their time and energy in supporting student education. He thanked the board for their vote to mandate masks. He recommended the board move to request all students and staff be vaccinated.

Mark Niemoeller, Columbus, IN

Mr. Niemoeller shared information in regards to the potentially harmful carbon dioxide effects of wearing a mask. He feels humans are not designed to consume the amount of carbon dioxide that is being breathed in while wearing a mask. He feels that cognitive function is limited, and students have a difficult time learning under these conditions.

## **WHAT**

### **1) NEOLA Policy Revision Recommendations:**

Dr. Roberts provided the Second Reading of Volume 33, Number 2 of the NEOLA Policy Revisions. He reviewed the recommendations with the school board.

### **2) Board Commendations:**

Mr. Grimes shared CSA Lincoln Principal, Mr. Brett Findley and his staff are very excited to have parent and community volunteers back in the school building. He noted their help with student achievement, and success, is much to be commended. Mr. Grimes gave commendations to Schmitt Elementary Principal, Ms. Kaity Day, for all of the good happenings in her building. He noted that her staff and the PTO have worked closely to accommodate the needs of students who are in quarantine. Mr. Grimes gave commendations to Mr. Jay Payne, Principal at Central Middle School. Central is

celebrating “Kindness Week” (September 13-17). The middle school students are spreading kindness beyond the walls of Central, and out into the community, by collecting needed items for the Afghan refugees. Mr. Grimes shared Central Middle School teacher, Ms. Mindy Summers, has been chosen as an academic coach state finalist by the Indiana Association of Secondary Principals (IASP). He noted Ms. Summers has developed a strong track record, over the last 13 years, as the academic coach at Central Middle School.

### **3) Board Member Reports:**

Ms. Wheeldon shared the excitement that is occurring with the Redevelopment Commission. She encouraged everyone to reference their web page for current information. BCSC will be presenting a request for TIF funds at an upcoming meeting.

### **4) Cabinet Reports:**

#### **2022 Budget Work Session (Mr. Phillips)**

Mr. Phillips noted that this was an informal budget session, and at the next regularly scheduled board meeting there would be a public hearing for the 2022 budget. The school board will be asked to approve the budget at the regularly scheduled October school board meeting. Mr. Phillips reviewed the Budget Summary, and noted the proposed increase to the 2022 Budget to be 7.5% over the current year budget.

He noted the needed revenue increase for the 2022 Budget will come primarily from the State of Indiana Per Pupil Tuition Rate. He explained how the funding is calculated for ADM estimates and provided detail for how virtual students are funded. He estimated the Fall ADM count to be 11,427 students. This number is up 120 students from last school year.

Mr. Phillips shared the total assumed revenues for the Education Fund to be \$87,914,492, and the total assumed expenditures, including transfers, to be \$87,989,872. The salary and benefit portion of the Education Fund Budget equal 95.5% of the expenditures.

Mr. Phillips shared the Operations Fund is primarily supported by property taxes, and consists of capital projects, maintenance and transportation. He noted the assessed value in the county is expected to increase by 6%, and there will be an increase of 4.3% in the 2022 Max Levy. The actual 2021 Tax Cap loss is \$2.2M, and the DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance) 2022 Tax Cap Loss is estimated to be \$2.3M.

The Operations Fund Expenditures include several large capital purchases, which are returning to the Operations Fund from G.O. Bonds paid through the Debt Service Fund. Two of those larger purchases will be for bus replacement, and additional technology equipment for staff. The Capital Projects expenditures will include the completion of the roof at Taylorsville Elementary, and visitor bleachers for the football field at Columbus East High School. Also included in the Operational Expenditures are the added positions of a Routing Coordinator and a Maintenance Supervisor.

Mr. Phillips shared the process for and the transfers from the Operation Fund to the Education Fund. The expenditures moving from Operations include: utilities and insurance, custodial services, school resource officers, and some administration costs, totaling \$10,857,567. He noted a large percent of these costs are from the increase in benefits and salary for custodial services. The expenditures that moved to the Education Fund include: technology directly related to the classroom, technology employees, software, hardware and AV equipment, totaling \$3,749,793. The net transfer for the Capital Project Fund (Operations) Budget is 8.4% of the Education Budget. Mr. Phillips noted this percent is well below the 15% threshold the State of Indiana recommends.

He noted the Debit Service Fund for 2022 to be \$15,859,920, and shared the specific debt that will roll-off over the next few years.

Mr. Phillips shared the 2022 Referendum Debt Fund is essentially flat, and will remain essentially flat through 2029. There is a slight change in the Referendum Operating Fund, with an increase in safety and security, salaries, and salary related benefits.

He shared the rough estimates of the year-end reserves for 2021 to be as follows: Education Fund, \$3,173,111; Rainy Day Fund, \$4,874,348; Operations Fund, \$11,346,803; and the Debt Funds, \$7,588,287.

Mr. Phillips concluded by noting a formal budget hearing will be held at the next school board meeting, Monday, September 27, and the Budget Adoption will be held at the Monday, October 25 school board meeting.

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

All federal and state grants are kept separate from the local funds. There are two federal grants in the Education Fund Budget, one being the Summer School Grant. The State of Indiana funds this program and reimburses expenses. The additional revenue that is received is from Federal Impact Aid. The school corporation receives funds from the lost property taxes of the two townships connecting to Camp Atterbury. The federal government formulates the amount the school corporation might possibly lose in property taxes, and distributes funds accordingly.

Mr. Phillips noted the Indiana Form 9 Report, a record of all expenditures from every fund, can be found on the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) website.

#### **Pathway Paraeducator Update (Dr. Pleak)**

Dr. Pleak provided an update on the new pathway and reviewed the timeline for the nine individuals enrolled in the program. The students and their mentors will meet quarterly for support, to develop relationships, and work on skill sets. Dr. Pleak shared the excitement of this pathway, and noted we are very fortunate to have some future teachers with us.

### **HOW**

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

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 23, 2021
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- d. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- e. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
- f. NEOLA Policy Revisions, Volume 33 Number 2 (Dr. Roberts)

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

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

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

**6) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations (Dr. Pleak)**

Dr. Pleak 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 Ms. Wheeldon.

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

**BOARD INPUT/REVIEW**

Mr. Stenner shared that many thoughts and prayers continue to be with the family of Columbus East High School student, Lilly Streeval.

Ms. Wheeldon thanked the C4 students for their Exhibit Columbus presentation. She also thanked Mr. Bryant for his reminder of the value of the Bartholomew County Library, and the many resources the library has to offer to the community.

Mr. Grimes thanked the students and staff of the C4 Program, Ms. Mindy Summers for her state recognition as the Central Middle School Academic Coach, and all teachers and students for their hard work during these tough times.

Dr. Shedd thanked the C4 students for their presentation. She also thanked Mr. Phillips for the thorough work on the Budget Work Session.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, September 27, 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ President

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary