

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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 27, 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. Public attendance at and participation in the meeting was conducted virtually.

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  
                              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

Absent:                   Dr. Laura Hack, Director of Elementary Education

Attorney:                 Mr. Chris Monroe, School Attorney

**REGULAR SESSION**

Mr. Todd Grimes provided Reflections.

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

Dr. Shedd, President, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **2022 Budget Hearing (Mr. Phillips)**

Dr. Shedd gaveled out of the regular scheduled Board of School Trustees Meeting, and opened the Public Hearing, at 6:33 p.m.

Mr. Phillips gave a brief overview of the proposed 2022 Budget. He reviewed the Budget Summary, and noted the proposed increase to the 2022 Budget to be 7.6%, which is approximately \$9.7M over the current year. The sources for increased revenue include: state tuition support from the State of Indiana - Per Pupil Tuition Rate; an increase in student fall enrollment, and a rise in both the Operations Maximum Levy Growth Quotient (MLGQ), and the assessed value. Mr. Phillips reviewed expenditures and how the revenue increases will be applied to those categories. The expenditure increases are as follows: salary and benefit increases, hiring of additional staff, increase of substitute teachers, buses and technology equipment, and elementary renovation bonds.

No questions or comments were received from the public. Public comment was allowed via a provided Zoom link.

Dr. Shedd gaveled out of the Public Hearing and back into the regular scheduled School Board Meeting at 6:46 p.m.

## **WHO/WHY**

### **Taylorville Elementary School - Best Practice Presentation (Ms. Sydell Gant/Mr. Jake Shaffner)**

Ms. Gant and Mr. Shaffner participated in the meeting via Zoom. Ms. Gant presented the writing plan for Taylorville Elementary K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. She shared why and how the Taylorville Elementary staff uses intentional writing practices to develop critical thinking and writing skills among the students. She highlighted argumentative literacy, and how it is relevant for all grade levels. She noted the importance for students to form and support text/picture-based arguments, and how the students in the lower-level grades use this practice as a starting point to support deeper learning.

Mr. Shaffner briefly shared the development timeline. He noted that BCSC consulted with Dr. Steven Benjamin to develop a district wide writing plan. Mr. Shaffner shared that Title funds were utilized to bring Smekens Education to Taylorville Elementary. The Smekens staff hosted several professional development sessions to help set the foundation, and develop the support process for the argumentative writing instruction program. Each school year the plan is reviewed.

Mr. Kevin Sweet, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Taylorville, shared a few writing samples from his classroom students. He explained the step-by-step process his students follow in a persuasive writing lesson.

Ms. Gant highlighted grade and cohort data. She shared the skills the students strive to develop on each specific grade level, and noted percentage comparisons from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021. She emphasized the importance of mastering writing skills before students move on to the secondary level.

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

The Growth Model Report Cards (GMRC) score of 2.5, out of 3.0, meets grade level expectations.

The writing plan is aligned to meet expectations on each grade level.

### **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 441 positive test cases reported, 393 are students and 48 are staff members. He noted there have been 2,287 close contacts reported, 112 have later tested positive, and 1,030 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:

Class information and assignments are available to students who are out of school due to quarantine guidelines and other COVID-19 related reasons. Student assignments are placed on the itslearning management system to provide students with daily assignments.

Students could possibly be out of school to quarantine up to ten days. The days counted for a close contact include weekend days.

The latest Executive Order from the Governor of Indiana does provide flexibility to modify mitigation strategies if needed. It is hard to go backwards on mitigation strategies as the school corporation's positive case numbers rise. COVID-19 data will continue to be analyzed, and the flexibility that exists through the Governor's latest order reviewed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Online public comments were shared with all board members. A Google form was provided to the public prior to the meeting so that comments could be provided regarding scheduled agenda items.

### **WHAT**

#### **1) Board Commendations:**

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to CSA Lincoln Principal, Mr. Brett Findley, and his staff for recently being named a National Blue-Ribbon School through the U.S. Department of Education.

Mr. Grimes recognized the following high school athletes for their recent achievements: The CNHS Boys Cross Country Team for their first-place ranking in the state and number ten ranking in the nation. The CNHS Girls Cross Country Team is currently ranked second in the state. Both the girls and the boys CNHS Cross Country teams are repeat conference champions. The CEHS Girls Volleyball Team is currently ranked ninth in the state. The CNHS Girls Soccer Team is currently ranked eighth in the state, and senior Jenna Lang holds the record as the CNHS all-time leading scorer. Three girls qualified for the IHSAA State Girls Golf Finals: Harley Gant from CEHS and CNHS golfers Ella Wilks and Gwen Anderson. The CEHS Boys Soccer Team tied for first place in conference play, and Chris Quisenberry is now the all-time scoring leader for CEHS. The CNHS Boys Tennis Team currently ranks second in the state, five of their seven players have a GPA of 4.0 or higher, and senior Matt Liu and freshman Parth Shah are currently valedictorians of their class. Mr. Grimes congratulated all student athletes at both Columbus North and Columbus East High School for their outstanding efforts and accomplishments.

Mr. Stenner gave commendations to the students who were recognized as scholarship recipients through Youth Leadership of Bartholomew County. He also thanked those individuals who helped with restoring Columbus East High School following the recent water damage.

Ms. Wheeldon gave commendations to those individuals who organized the recent Columbus East Cheerleader Clinic. She also gave commendations to the Sound and Spirit of Columbus Marching Band for their recent halftime performance at the CEHS football game and Northside Middle School Cross Country Coach, Craig Desmore, and his coaching staff for the efforts they pour into the student athletes.

## **2) Board Member Reports:**

Mr. Grimes gave a report on the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF). The Harlem Wizards basketball game fundraiser scheduled for November has been moved to March 2022. The Foundation plans to conduct a fundraiser in November. Registration for “A Brighter Future for All-5K” can be completed at <http://www.indianatiming.com>.

Mr. Stenner gave a report on the Districting and Facilities Meeting. He provided an update on the new process for managing construction projects.

## **3) Cabinet Reports:**

### **CMc Process (Ice Miller, Steve Jones/CSO, Jim Funk/Dr. Boezeman)**

Mr. Steve Jones, an attorney with Ice Miller Legal Counsel, presented an overview of a new project delivery method for construction projects. This process has just recently been permitted to be used in Indiana K-12 school buildings. Mr. Jones reviewed the statutory requirements and presented the differences between a Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) work project and a regular bid construction project. He explained the Request for Proposal (RFP) criteria selection process, and noted the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirement. He shared the statute gives flexibility to who is on the committee and the number of members. The selection committee reviews the proposals, determines a short-list, and schedules interviews. The evaluation committee makes selections based on

the criteria that was established in the RFP. The selection does not have to be awarded to the lowest fee proposer. The CMc is potentially able to self-perform the work. The evaluation committee will select a CMc based on the criteria that was in the RFP. The school will hold two contracts, one with CSO Architecture Interior and Design and the CMc. The CMc will reach out for bids to contract with subcontractors. The CMc will provide pre-construction services when the design is being prepared. After the design is complete, and construction documents have been received, the CMc will present the proposal with the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP).

Mr. Jim Funk, with CSO Architecture and Interior Design, shared the advantages and challenges with the CMc process. A Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) provides preconstruction services, such as cost estimating and scheduling, constructability analysis, material lead times, value engineering assistance, and collaborates with the design team and owner throughout all project phases. He noted that, with this process, there is an opportunity to issue early bidding packages. The CMc is responsible for running the job site, controlling the schedule, and maintaining safety measures.

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

The prices that are quoted are fixed. This is an advantage as the prices could go up, and cost could be higher than expected once the project begins.

The board will see a lot more information and conversation with a CMc. The school corporation looks to use this strategy with the Parkside Elementary renovation, Schmitt Elementary HVAC installation, and the softball/baseball renovations. If the process is successful, BCSC will plan to use a CMc with upcoming renovations. This CMc process is only for the current renovations presented.

### **3-Year District Calendar Review (Dr. Pleak)**

Dr. Pleak presented an opportunity to allow additional professional development days for certified and support staff. Through House Bill 1003, a waiver was submitted and approved to measure the school year in hours. She noted that measuring in hours versus days allows time for professional development. She noted the difficulty to add professional days for teachers with the current allotted school days and the shortage of substitutes. The waiver allows students to not have to make-up the school days.

A calendar committee consisting of Columbus Educators Association (CEA) President, Amy London, and several administrators provided recommendations to help with the decision-making process. It was noted with the current high school schedule there would be benefit to rotate the days students would be out of school. The scheduled days off for students will be held on different week days throughout the school year. This schedule keeps high school students from missing the same classes each time.

Dr. Pleak shared the waiver provides the school corporation flexibility, and noted the many possibilities for professional development for both certified and support staff. If the calendar is approved, two professional development will be added to the second semester and four in future years.

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

The waiver is for this year only. The school corporation will need to apply for the waiver each year.

Every three years the community is surveyed for their input before seeking approval for the next 3-year calendar. The number of school days per semester needs to be balanced and this impacts the start date for the school year.

## **HOW**

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

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of September 13, 2021
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- d. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen) – no fundraisers were presented
- e. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
- f. Refinance of Central Middle School Bonds: Resolution to approve Amendment to Lease (Mr. Phillips)
- g. Refinance of Central Middle School Bonds: Resolution to approve Supplemental Master Continuing Undertaking (Mr. Phillips)
- h. Refinance of Central Middle School Bonds: Resolution to approve Building Corporation (Mr. Phillips)
- i. 2021 Lease Rental Bond: Adopt Resolution determining need for Projects (Mr. Phillips)
- j. 2021 Lease Rental Bond: Adopt Resolution approving Preliminary Plans, Form of Lease and Authorizing Publication of Notice of Hearing on Lease (Mr. Phillips)
- k. 2021 Lease Rental Bond: Adopt Resolution reapproving Formation of Building Corporation (Mr. Phillips)
- l. Permission to receive bids for Construction Manager as Constructor Agreement (Dr. Boezeman)

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. Grimes seconded the motion.

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

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

Dr. Pleak 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 Dr. Bilz.

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

**BOARD INPUT/REVIEW**

Mr. Grimes thanked Ms. Gant, Mr. Shaffner, and Mr. Sweet for their Best Practice Presentation. He wished all fall athletes their best in postseason completion.

Mr. Stenner thanked those individuals who volunteer to serve on the Districting and Facilities Committee. He shared his excitement for the new CMc process for renovation projects, and thanked all of those involved in the planning process.

Dr. Shedd thanked Mr. Phillips, Mr. Monroe, and Dr. Boezeman for their effort on the 4) f-l approval items. She acknowledged the hard work involved in the upcoming construction renovations.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, October 25, 2021, 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

Strategic Planning Session, October 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m., Administration Building Terrace Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ President

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary