

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022 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, January 24, 2022, 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  
                              Ms. Nikki Wheeldon, Vice President  
                              Mr. Rich Stenner, Secretary  
                              Dr. Julie Bilz, Member  
                              Mr. Todd Grimes, Member  
                              Ms. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member

Absent:                    Mr. Pat Bryant, 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**

Ms. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer 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**

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Columbus Signature Academy – Lincoln Campus / Best Practice (Mr. Brett Findley)**

Principal, Mr. Findley and 4<sup>th</sup> grade educator, Mrs. Delaney George presented the effective ways teaching is occurring in the classrooms at CSA Lincoln. Mr. Findley noted constant improvement is taking place as teachers and staff invest in people, relationships, culture and stay in a continuous process of professional growth.

Mr. Findley shared data from Dr. John Hattie, Director of the Melbourne Education Research Institute. The CSA staff used this information to select four areas of influence to help maximize student achievement. The teachers specifically targeted the following areas: collective teacher efficacy, teacher estimates of student achievement, student self-efficacy, and teacher credibility. He noted one factor impacting an increase in student achievement is the student/teacher relationship. Students are continuing to know and trust their teachers at a higher level and when a student trusts their teacher and the building staff they begin to take ownership in the building and that ownership expands into their community activities.

He shared the CSA Lincoln timeline that teachers and staff have followed to determine steps needed to identify what areas to expound on to see maximum student achievement.

Mr. Findley shared faculty efficacy often dictates teacher efficacy and noted that teachers, staff, and the support of parents and grandparents all are pieces that come into play to make an impact for students and the school.

Mrs. George presented the multi-day process for classroom transformations. She shared this is a fun way that allows students to be excited about learning. Teachers are enthusiastic about the content and students can tackle a tough learning concept in a fun way.

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

The teaching staff evaluates the entire student body, shares the highest identified needs, and chooses the influences for student achievement based on those particular student needs. The needs of students are always changing.

The teachers and staff work with students to determine how to make the best use of the 7 hours that students are actually at school. A part of the UDL (Universal Design for Learning) piece is knowing each student and investing in each student well. Students are made to feel valued and know they are in charge of their choices and destiny.

#### **STEM Presentation (Dr. Hack/Mrs. Davida Harden)**

Mrs. Davida Harden, Curriculum Specialist for the K-6 grade STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) initiatives presented a brief overview of the program and shared success stories within the corporation. She noted that from the 2015-2016 school year until the present, paraprofessionals have planned and delivered instruction for the program. The STEM Labs have been funded by multiple grants from community partnerships. Starting in the 2022-2023 school year, the labs will be staffed with certified teachers working through the College and Career Readiness Pathway.

She noted the curriculum focus and shared that students in the district have exposure in the following areas: STEM Career Exploration and Exposure, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Computer Science, Digital Literacy, Classroom Standards Connections, Engineering Challenges, and Employability Skills. The STEM instructors intentionally plan and use the UDL (Universal Design for Learning) framework and the Engineering Design Process as the foundational tools.

Mrs. Harden thanked the community organizations who partner with BCSC and shared personal experiences from BCSC teachers as to why they believe STEM is important in the classroom. She shared the STEM lab timeline for the 2021-2022 school year, noting the funding, ways the program is communicated, staffing for the labs, and professional development.

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

Mr. Phillips presented the budget for the labs and the approval process for requesting the funding sources for the next two years. He noted half of the funds will come from TIF (Tax Increment Financing) dollars and a half from the Operating Referendum dollars.

#### **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 explained the color-coded COVID-19 maps and highlighted where Bartholomew County stands in regards to positive test cases, COVID-19 hospitalizations, and test turnaround time.

He shared the positive cases for the 2021-2022 school year, noting there were 960 positive test cases for the first semester, and, as of Monday, January 24, there have been 642 positive test cases for this semester. On Tuesday, January 18 there were 99 positive cases in one day. The week of January 15 through January 21 there were a total of 262 students and staff that tested positive.

Dr. Roberts noted that staff absences are closely monitored, and recalled that in the past couple of years school closings were largely due to the lack of being able to staff the absences of operational positions. The staffing is closely monitored each day to keep buildings open and clean. He shared that the administrators have become creative in covering the classrooms and buildings on a daily basis. Many employees are filling their job description and often duties of other positions to keep buildings open and students in school. Dr. Roberts thanked all the BCSC staff for continuing to help to keep students in school during these challenging times.

He noted that Mrs. Kelli Thompson, Director of Health Services is monitoring the suggestion from the IDOH to adjust the contact tracing guideline. She is carefully processing the detail of the new information from the IDOH and local health professionals.

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

The internal COVID-19 spread rate from cases contacted at school is not increasing. The close contacts that are occurring are from within the community.

There is always a possibility of going to eLearning, there is no plan to do so at this point. We plan to do everything we can to stay open. Before we would go to eLearning we would first look at a classroom, a wing, or even a particular building before we would shut down the entire school corporation.

The impact that extra-curricular activities have had on the spread is calculated in the internal contact spread rate.

The surrounding area school districts that are currently closed have had to do so primarily due to operational absences.

### **Board Commendations:**

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to the five teams from both CEHS and CNHS who recently participated in the Chamber of Commerce Maverick Challenge. The CEHS team of Sarah Hockersmith, Sophia Myers, and Morgan Olson will advance to the regional competition and represent Bartholomew County on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

He gave commendations and recognized CNHS Girls Cross Country Coach, Rick Sluder. Coach Sluder was recently named the 2021 U.S. Track and Field Association - Girls High School Cross Country Coach of the Year for the State of Indiana, and to CNHS Tennis Coach, Kendal Hammel. Coach Hammel will be inducted into the IHSAA Tennis Hall of Fame on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Grimes also commended CNHS senior Carson Dibble. Carson is a varsity basketball player and a unified track coach. He was recently awarded "The Gifts of the Game Scholarship" by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association. Mr. Grimes shared that Columbus North Varsity Basketball Coach, Paul Ferguson noted that Carson is an outstanding athlete and an excellent role model for the community.

Commendations were given to CMS student Ethan Reynolds for his efforts with "Ethan's Table", a service to the community to help those in need of meals. Ethan's community service started with ten dollars of his money and now he has established Ethan's Pantry to continue to provide additional ways to help those in the community who need meal assistance.

Mr. Grimes thanked all BCSC teachers for their continued efforts with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19 and congratulated the nine BCSC teachers who were selected and recognized as *The Republic's* "Readers' Choice" winners.

Dr. Bilz shared commendations for the following CNHS senior projects: Lucia Signorino for her mural project, Carman Rice for establishing pet starter boxes for new pet owners, and Alivia Steinkoenig for organizing Jenga block kits for Love Chapel.

She also commended the students at CSA New Tech for their recent leadership efforts during the annual campus open house. The students were in charge of setting up different club booths, answering general questions, and staying very engaged in leadership efforts throughout the evening.

Dr. Shedd commended the McDowell Education Center for receiving a Certificate of Recognition from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Director, Megan Shaff, Program Coordinator, Nikki Nolting, and teachers Maura Rodriquez and Debbie Pogue coordinated a 5-week program with "Operation Allies Welcome" to teach English to the Afghan refugees living at Camp Atterbury.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Lindsey Holden-Kay, Columbus, IN

Ms. Holden-Kay is a BCSC parent and a prosecuting attorney. She noted her support and shared her appreciation for the school bus stop arm camera initiative. She expressed her thanks for the cameras that BCSC is installing on the buses and commended BCSC for their efforts, noting that the installation of the cameras benefits the entire community.

Mr. Eric Grow, Columbus, IN

Mr. Grow shared his thoughts on the process of policies and procedures. He expressed his desire for better communication between the board members and their constituents. He asked to be contacted for further conversation with the school board members.

## **WHAT**

### **1) School Board Member Reports:**

Mr. Grimes gave an update on the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation. He shared volunteers are needed for the BCSF Stars and Harlem Wizards game on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., and noted the previously scheduled fundraiser BCSF Virtual Trivia Night had been canceled. DonorsChoose has helped fund 122 projects for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students and he shared that BSCF looks forward to the growing number of projects impacting learning within the community.

Ms. Wheeldon provided a Columbus Redevelopment Commission update and highlighted the extension of the “1821” Trail along First Street. This trail extension will also include architectural and art elements to encompass the 2021 Bicentennial theme of “Common Ground.” Funding for the extension will be provided by the Columbus Redevelopment Commission, Columbus Parks Foundation, and the selling of commemorative bricks.

Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer announced the 2022 Education Hall of Fame Award recipient to be Dr. Linda DeClue. Dr. DeClue will be recognized and honored at the Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting.

Rich Stenner provided a Council for Youth Development (CYD) update and announced there will be a professional development session presented by the CYD titled “Parental Engagement” on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Shedd provided a CCIC update and shared that the following items were discussed at the last meeting: employment engagement surveys; STEM lab; Equity Works; and the professional development days added to the school year calendar. She also shared an update from the Business Advisory Council. The focus of that meeting was on the Counseling Counts presentation. Both Family Service and Centerstone shared there has been an increase in the referrals and shared issues that are being identified in students. Anxious behaviors and depressive moods have had a large jump in elementary learners.

Dr. Shedd gave an update on the first Third House Session. Senator Greg Walker and Representative Ryan Lauer were present. Two particular bills discussed were political party denotation on the ballot for school board candidates and HB 1134 associated with library books.

### **2) Cabinet Reports:**

#### **Technology Department Annual Update (Dr. Boezeman/Mr. Williams)**

Mr. Williams introduced the staff of the Technology Department and explained their job roles and responsibilities. He defined the BCSC infrastructure supporting UDL (Universal Design for Learning) and shared the ways technology is utilized throughout the school corporation.

He emphasized the key to ongoing success is collaboration. The team is included in nearly all BCSC decisions, maintains vital partnerships with vendors, and continues to learn through various organizations throughout the county and state. Mr. Williams noted the importance of technology

training for all staff and that his team is always looking through the lens of UDL to utilize tools to create engaging training and allow accessible training to staff at all times.

Ms. Brenny Kummer, Coordinator of Instructional Technology shared the different ways training is provided for teachers and teacher assistants. Virtual workshops, monthly newsletters, book studies, and the New Teacher Academy are just a few options available for teachers for professional development. She noted that all staff members have different needs and the tech team strives to provide training that is fresh, engaging, and has multiple options. Some of the professional development made available is often a requested topic by students and staff. Ms. Kummer works with the tech leader teachers in each of the buildings to provide updates as it relates to instructional technology.

Mr. Brian Trivett, Coordinator of Administrative Systems oversees the training for administrative assistants. He provides updates in PowerSchool, Skyward, TrueTime, ParentSquare, offers assistance with monthly reporting and bi-weekly secondary counselor meetings, and oversees professional development training sessions.

Ms. Eva Cagwin, Coordinator of Administrative Systems noted that all BCSC employees receive ongoing training. She provided detail for the new BCSC HelpJuice Knowledge Base. This is a tool to create, store and access help articles. These articles have texts, pictures, videos and appeal to all learning styles. This is available now and it is a goal to make it available to include all parents and staff. In addition to the knowledge base specialized training, staff needs are met where they are with the training they need, whether that is a small group training session, one on one, or self-help options.

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

Due to scheduling some staff members prefer reviewing the recorded sessions rather than attending the live sessions.

A Parent-Portal is available for both ParentSquare and PowerSchool. All parents have an account and once they are set up they can utilize both options through their Parent-Portal. The number of parents who have set up their login has almost doubled over the last year and a half.

#### **School Bus Stop Arm Camera Report (Dr. Boezeman/Mr. AJ McKeand)**

Dr. Boezeman along with Transportation Director, AJ McKeand and SRO, Julie Quesenbery presented how BCSC is evaluating school bus stop-arm violations, informing the community, and working towards a solution. Dr. Boezeman shared sample lane images of properly boarding and exiting a school bus, and Director of Transportation, AJ McKeand explained, according to Indiana State Law, the proper lane positions a school bus is to be in for students to board and exit.

He shared that BCSC would like to install cameras on all buses to promote the safest environment possible for students. The cameras will be recording when the ignition is running. Three still shots are taken and video is also available. He noted the stop-arm report and how information is recorded and reviewed. He added it is a full upgrade for buses including interior and dashboard cameras. The vendor, 24/7 Security will be providing a maintenance agreement.

Officer Quesenbery shared the process for issuing a citation. She noted that any citation that is given is issued to the owner of the registered vehicle. The process is fairly simple to get those citations processed and documented to better track those incidents.

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

The driver marks the tape by clicking a button at the time the citation is made. The bus is stopped and the air brake has been pulled while the bus driver is marking the occurrence.

The volume of citations is hard to anticipate at this time. The fine for the first offense is approximately \$150. The second offense is a misdemeanor.

We do partnerships with law enforcement and local newspaper to communicate to the public the correct stop procedure for all lanes.

All 120 BCSC buses will be equipped with the new cameras by the first of August 2022.

Dr. Roberts noted that current SB121, introduced by Senator Niemeyer, is attempting to add additional enforcement to the registered owner of the vehicle that disregards a school bus stop-arm. This bill would charge the owner with a Class B infraction. Dr. Boezeman and Dr. Roberts will be testifying and supporting this additional piece of legislation tomorrow, Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Indiana State House.

## **HOW**

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

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of January 10, 2022
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen) – no field trip requests
- d. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen) – no fundraiser requests
- e. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
- f. NEOLA Policies – Volume 34, No. 1 (Dr. Roberts)
- g. To acquire permission to receive Food Service Bids (Dr. Boezeman)
- h. Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) Contract (Dr. Boezeman)
- i. Reappointment to Bartholomew County Public Library (BCPL) Board (Dr. Roberts)
- j. Final 2021 Education to Operations Fund Transfer (Mr. Phillips)

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

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

Upon a call for the vote, Items 3) a-j were unanimously approved.

### **4) 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 AND REVIEW:**

Mr. Grimes thanked Mr. Findley and Mrs. George for sharing a few of the great things going on for students at CSA Lincoln, and Mrs. Harden for providing the school board with a STEM Lab update for the eleven elementary schools within the district. He thanked Mr. Williams and the technology team for all they do behind the scenes for the school corporation and Dr. Boezemen, Mr. McKeand, and SRO, Quesenbery for the information on school bus stop-arms. He thanked all of those involved to keep students learning in-person. The real learning takes place with a teacher/student relationship, and he noted that becomes a challenge when students are not in-person.

Dr. Bilz thanked the community members for their public comments. She acknowledged the 2022 Education Hall of Fame Award recipient, Dr. Linda DeClue.

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer shared she feels the fine for disregarding a school bus stop-arm should increase.

Ms. Wheeldon shared the learning opportunities she encountered at the recent CEHS Open House and shared appreciation for the programs available for students.

Mr. Stenner thanked all of the presenters and speakers for their time and effort.

Dr. Shedd shared her appreciation for the efforts that went into all of the presentations and thanked those who continue to put forth the extra time and effort to help fill absences to help keep students in school.

Dr. Roberts noted the process has begun to select the next Teacher of the Year. Those applications are available now through February 25<sup>th</sup>. A teacher of the year is selected from each building and from those individuals one teacher is selected to represent the district as the 2022 Teacher of the Year.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ President

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary