

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held at the Administration Building, Columbus, Indiana, on Monday, January 9, 2023, 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: Mrs. Nikki Wheeldon, President
 Mr. Rich Stenner, Vice President
 Mr. Todd Grimes, Secretary
 Mr. Pat Bryant, Member
 Mr. Dale Nowlin, Member
 Mr. Jason Major, Member
 Mr. Logan Schulz, Member

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

Absent: Mr. William Jensen, Director of Secondary Education

Attorney: Mr. Michael McIver, School Attorney

Mrs. Nikki Wheeldon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OATH OF OFFICE (Mr. McIver)

Mr. Jason Major, Mr. Dale Nowlin, Mr. Logan Schulz, and Mr. Rich Stenner took their oaths of office and were seated as participating members of the Board of Trustees.

REGULAR SESSION

Determination of Quorum

Meeting Called to Order (GAVEL)

Election of Temporary Chairperson

Mr. Rich Stenner made a motion to nominate Mrs. Wheeldon as a temporary chairperson.

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

Mrs. Wheeldon assumed the duty as temporary chairperson.

HOW

1) Election of Officers for the January 2023 – December 2023 Board of School Trustees

Mrs. Wheeldon asked for nominations for president, vice president, and secretary. A motion was made by Mr. Bryant to nominate the following slate of officers: Mrs. Wheeldon as President, Mr. Stenner as Vice President, and Mr. Grimes as Secretary. Mr. Major nominated Mr. Schulz as Vice President.

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

Upon a call to vote for vice-president, the motion was carried 5 votes in favor of Mr. Stenner and 2 votes in favor of Mr. Schulz.

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

The officers assumed their duties.

WHO/WHY:

BOARD COMMENDATIONS

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to Dr. Roberts, Mr. Fred Armstrong, and Mr. Josh Burnett for the BCSC Holiday Greeting production and to the Columbus North High School Bulldog Pantry Coordinator Ms. Tonya Cruser. Ms. Cruser created a social media drive to raise money to pay off outstanding balances on student lunch accounts across the district. Mr. Grimes noted that Ms. Cruser wanted to thank those who generously donated to the cause.

Mr. Nowlin gave commendations to CSA New Tech teacher, Mr. Joe Steele, and his creative writing class. The class contributed to a disc golf tournament to help promote the Columbus Disc Golf Club's efforts to get a course installed at Donner Park. Mr. Nowlin gave commendations to Mr. Brad Branham, Math Chair at CNHS, and the CNHS Math League team. He noted that after three rounds of a 6-round tournament, CNHS is in 2nd place in the statewide contest. Mr. Nowlin also shared commendations for Mrs. Jennifer Hester and Mr. Dan Marsh from CNHS. The two Student Assembly sponsors worked with students to collect 9,000 cans of food for distribution to 145 families. Mr. Nowlin gave commendations to the Northside Middle School counseling team of Mr. Tim Lax, Mrs. Autumn Bowen, and Mrs. Becky Yates for their collaborative efforts to provide a calm presence to students as

they go above and beyond to help the students navigate the expectations and challenges of middle school.

Mr. Stenner gave commendations to the teachers and adult volunteers for their extra efforts and time contributed to the many BCSC holiday programs across the district.

Mr. Major suggested representing all school buildings with commendations and that each school board member is assigned to a building to work with principals to identify commendations in all areas. Mr. Nowlin suggested that staff members be notified with a written note when a commendation has been given at the school board meeting.

Mrs. Wheeldon gave commendations to each BCSC teacher and staff member for their efforts in successfully getting through day one of the second semester.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one signed in to provide public comment

WHAT

2) School Board Member Reports

Mr. Grimes gave a legislative liaison report. He reported that he attended a Legislative Action Network Webinar hosted by the Indiana School Board Association (ISBA). He shared that there are 150-200 proposed bills for the upcoming session concerning K-12 education.

Mr. Stenner provided an update on the Council for Youth Development. He shared that former Executive Director, Mrs. Heather Carson, and her family have relocated. Her replacement is Ms. Sara Dunlap.

Mrs. Wheeldon gave an update for the Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission. They have recently entered into a contract with a financial management group and have elected new officers for the year.

3) Cabinet Reports

Board of Finance Meeting (Mrs. Wheeldon/Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips noted the officers for the Board of Finance would be the same as the school board officers for 2023. He shared that per Policy 6144, the school corporation uses three investment tools. The investment instruments are US Treasury Bills or Notes, Bank CDs (for 2 years or less), and Money Market Sweep Accounts. Mr. Phillips reviewed the Money Market account at First Financial Bank noting that most of the revenue total came during the second half of the calendar year. The total revenue from 2022 from the First Financial Bank sweep accounts was \$178,515.01.

Treasury Purchases were made in the spring and in the fall of the 2022 calendar year. Mr. Phillips noted that any interest made from the health and dental funds is treated independently and goes right back into the Health Trust Fund. He noted that is one advantage of being a self-insured entity. The district earns monies based on what is in the bank.

The school corporation has chosen to only invest monies from January 1 to December 31. The books are closed out at the end of the year, reporting the interest earned, and then start over for the next year. Total yields from the Treasury Purchases for 2022 were \$341,252.52 in interest. Mr. Phillips reported the total income earned from investments was \$519,768.00. This interest income is up from 2021.

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

Other than wire fees for each treasury transaction, there is a one-time flat dollar fee, it is not percentage based.

There were not any different investing strategies this year compared to the 2019 calendar year.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (DUAB) School Corporation Fiscal Indicators. Mr. Phillips reported all cash balances are up and the financial indicators for BCSC are strong. These are lagging indicators due to the complexity that is difficult to capture around each corporation's unique financial situation.

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

Although the data is lagging it is looked at often by the DUAB personnel to proactivity reach out to districts where there might be a concern.

Mr. Phillips presented a BCSC Extra-Curricular Fund report. He shared that in November cash balances were analyzed and a recommendation was made to the principals to invest the available funds. Every school participated. He noted that typically balances are larger in the fall due to fall fundraising and athletic events. He shared the larger amount of spending usually takes place in the spring for field trips and end-of-the-year activities.

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

Extra-Curricular accounts are student and family-generated funds. Mr. Phillips shared that activity in these accounts is roughly 95% generated from athletic teams and events, school team shirts such as spell bowl, and fundraisers. There are no district monies represented in these accounts.

Mr. Phillips shared the final 2023 Tax Rate to be just under one dollar at \$0.9997. This rate is lower than the advertised tax rate and was anticipated due to an increase in assessed values. He shared a tax rate history comparison and noted that the district always advertises higher than the final tax rate.

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

In 2006-2007, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels put into place tax caps and the state took over the responsibility of funding the Education Fund. At that time sales tax increased by one cent. That is the reason for the drop in the tax rate in 2009. The district now operates on a tax maximum levy.

In May 2020, voters in the district approved an Operating Referendum. This was implemented in 2021. The district is currently in the third year of the approved eight-year period for the referendum.

If the district issues more debt and has a lower assessed value their rate will be much higher. The Education Fund comes from the state and is issued via per pupil tuition. The Operations Fund and Debt Fund are funded by the property rate tax.

HOW

4) Reorganization of Business Services January 2023-December 2023 (Mr. Phillips)

- a. Appoint Corporation Treasurer
Mr. Stenner made a motion to appoint Mr. Phillips as Corporation Treasurer, and Mr. Nowlin seconded the motion.
Upon a call to vote, the motion was carried unanimously.
- b. Appoint Corporation Deputy Treasurer
Mr. Stenner made a motion to appoint Ms. Paula Betros as Corporation Deputy Treasurer, and Mr. Schulz seconded the motion.
Upon a call to vote, the motion was carried unanimously.
- c. Authorize Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to Invest School Corporation Funds.
Mr. Stenner made a motion, and Mr. Grimes seconded the motion.
Upon a call to vote, the motion was carried unanimously.
- d. Approve School Treasurer Bonds
Mr. Grimes made a motion, and Mr. Major seconded the motion.
Upon a call to vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

5) Establishment of Board Meetings, Remuneration, and Required Notices (Mrs. Wheeldon)

- a. Establish Board Remuneration as Provided by Law
Mr. Grimes made a motion, and Mr. Major seconded the motion.
Upon a call to vote, the motion was carried unanimously.
- b. Designate Newspapers or Qualified Publications in which to Publish Required Notices
Mr. Major made a motion, and Mr. Grimes seconded the motion.
Upon a call to vote, the motion was carried unanimously.
- c. Set School Board Meeting Dates – January 23, 2023, to July 31, 2024
Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the meeting dates, and Mr. Major made a motion to amend the meeting dates to reflect as follows: January 23, 2023, to July 15, 2024. The motion to amend was seconded by Mr. Schulz.
Upon a call to vote, the motion to amend was carried unanimously.

6) Recommendations for Public Disclosures of Conflict of Interest (Mr. McIver)

- Mr. Grimes made a motion, and Mr. Major seconded the motion.
Upon a call to vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

7) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of December 12, 2022
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- c. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)

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

Mr. Nowlin made a motion to approve the reviewed items and Mr. Major seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, Items 7) a-c were unanimously approved.

d. Appointment of Dr. Roy Goode as School Physician (Dr. Roberts)

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve and Mr. Major seconded the motion. Mr. Stenner refrained from the vote due to working for the same corporation as Dr. Goode.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried 6-0.

e. Appointment of Mr. Mike McIver as School Attorney (Dr. Roberts)

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve and Mr. Grimes seconded the motion. Mr. Major refrained from the vote due to past affiliation with Mr. McIver's law firm.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried 6-0.

8) Human Resources Recommendations (Dr. Pleak)

Dr. Pleak requested approval of the Human Resources Recommendations as presented.

Mr. Nowlin made a motion to approve the Human Resources Recommendations and the motion was seconded by Mr. Major.

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

BOARD INPUT REVIEW

Mr. Major thanked his family for their support during his campaign. He shared his plans to do his best to involve parents as much as possible going forward, have discussions and be transparent with the public. He shared he will work with the board to provide excellent education opportunities for students and to provide the staff teams with rewarding and challenging careers. He shared his thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Mr. Stenner welcomed the new board members and noted he is looking forward to the work they have in front of them.

Mr. Grimes thanked Mr. Phillips for his financial presentation and the work he continues to do for the district. He welcomed the new board members and noted he is looking forward to working with them in the new year.

Mr. Shultz thanked everyone for their support. He noted his hopes that as the board looks to form committees that there is detail to educational benchmarking and openness to other districts' best practices that might work within BCSC. He shared how he hoped that the board can modify the view of public comments to better engage with the public.

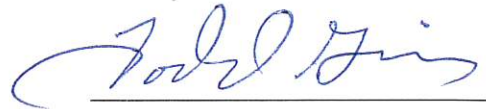
Mr. Nowlin thanked the President, Nikki Wheeldon for a smooth first meeting. He congratulated and thanked Mr. Keith Burton for building new musicians and developing character. He thanked the school resource officers, deans, and administration for doing the best they can to keep students safe. He noted an article in The Republic regarding a drop in the graduation rates and requested a presentation with detail on those rates as well as how iGrad fits into those numbers.

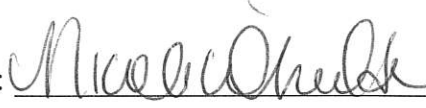
Mrs. Wheeldon thanked those who contributed to the success of the board meeting. She noted that she is looking forward to working with the new board.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

 Secretary

Attest:  President