

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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, November 15, 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
- Absent: Ms. Nikki Wheeldon, Member
 Ms. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, 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

Dr. Shedd 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

Recognitions:

Presentation of TIF\$ for Education (Dr. Roberts/Mayor Jim Lienhoop/Mr. Phillips)

Dr. Roberts introduced and thanked Mayor Jim Lienhoop and the City of Columbus for graciously working alongside BCSC with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dollars. Mayor Lienhoop thanked BCSC for the continued partnership and presented the school corporation with a \$1M check. The Mayor stated this is the sixth year the City of Columbus and BCSC has partnered together to provide programs related to STEM – science, technology, engineering and math, i-Grad, Information Technology Pathways through Ivy-Tech, and the continuation of the Transitional Planning Program. He expressed how important the continued partnership is to the City of Columbus, and shared appreciation for the efforts into these four programs.

Columbus North Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams (Mr. Brian Lewis)

Columbus North Athletic Director, Mr. Brian Lewis thanked the school board for recognizing the accomplishments of the student-athletes. He introduced the coaches of the cross-country teams, Mr. Danny Fisher and Mr. Rick Sluder, and commended their continuous efforts to encourage and support the students with their goals.

The girls, coached by Coach Sluder, finished with the IHSAA State Championship Title, and the boys, coached by Coach Fisher, finished third in the state. Coach Fisher congratulated senior Reese Kilbarger-Stumpff for capturing the Boys Cross Country Individual State Championship Title and being the recipient of the IHSAA Mental Attitude Award. Coach Fisher commended Reece for his accomplishments both on and off the course. Both CNHS coaches noted the pride they share for the positive way the teams represent BCSC and the community.

Presentations:

Richard L. Johnson Center – Best Practice Presentation (Mr. Shane Yates)

Pre-K Director, Mr. Shane Yates and his staff gave an update on the BCSC- Pre-K Programs and presented a Best Practice Presentation on the book *Conscious Discipline*. Ms. Kim Backmeyer, Assistant Director stated that currently there are 233 pre-k students in the 4-year old program, and 41 early-childhood students in the 3-year old program. She noted there are eight BCSC facilities with Busy Bees Classrooms, and new this school year, an ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) classroom. The ABA classroom was inspired by BCSC employee, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Ms. Angela Allen. The classroom has one full-time teacher, two registered behavior technicians (RBT), and Ms. Allen (BCBA).

Mr. Yates shared the benefits the classrooms receive daily from the *Conscious Discipline* tools. He noted the tools are not only helpful for the students, but for adults as well. Ms. Kate Edgren, UDL Coordinator (Universal Design for Learning) presented the three main components of *Conscious Discipline*. The first component that staff members address in the classroom is safety. She shared that controlling and changing classroom behaviors have a profound effect on both students and adults. The second component is the connection piece. Ms. Edgren noted that connecting with each student helps govern behavior in the classroom. The final component is problem-solving. She noted that conflict gives opportunities to teach, and mistakes allow students to learn and try a new approach.

Busy Bees Pre-K Teacher, Ms. Jessica Anderson shared how the *Conscious Discipline* tools play out in the classroom. She noted the importance of a common language and shared several tools that students learn to make choices that make a difference and set expectations for the classroom. She shared a personal story of a student and the progression he made through using the *Conscious Discipline* tools. The student reached and exceeded his goals and was ready for kindergarten. Ms. Anderson noted that the students are learning from their teachers on how to build relationships, express empathy, and check in on their peers. The students are taught that their personal choices can make a difference and there are consequences for their improper actions. She noted the staff strives to make sure every child feels loved and safe in the classroom. The students are given choices in how to problem-solve and taught coping skills to help self-regulate their emotions in the classroom.

Mrs. Anderson noted there is ongoing professional development available on this topic at monthly staff meetings.

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

These tools will soon be available to parents in a PowerPoint. Ms. Anderson also has a private Facebook page to share coping and safety tips with parents.

Several BCSC staff members worked through the *Conscious Discipline* book study with Dr. Laura Hack. 30 staff members participated in the after-school book study.

The staff worked with a smaller group of students during the pandemic. This gave staff members more opportunity to implement the tools, evaluate and start strong with the 2021-2022 school year.

The newly added ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) classroom helps to eliminate or decrease the list of behaviors in the classroom. The classroom is a full five-day program.

The “On Our Way Pre-K Program” is an application process with specific household guidelines. There is a modified rate for free and reduced households.

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 presented a graph indicating the positive cases for the 2021-2022 school year, noting there were 515 positive test cases for the 1st quarter, and as of Friday, November 12, there have been 110 positive test cases for the 2nd quarter.

Dr. Roberts shared the changes that were made to the quarantine protocol in October. These changes have allowed the majority of the students to be able to stay in school. He noted there have been many questions regarding the removal of the mask mandate. The masking requirement will continue to be evaluated by monitoring the Governors' Executive Orders, close contacts, quarantine protocols, and positive cases. He also noted that there has been quite a bit of discussion in regards to vaccinations. He shared that ongoing attention to OSHA guidelines, legal counsel conversation and attending IDOH webinars will continue as the circumstances are evaluated. He noted that the school corporation will do what is legally required. He shared that vaccinations are now available to children ages 5 and above.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Eric Grow, Columbus, IN

Mr. Grow expressed his concerns with the mask mandate. He asked if there was a plan to remove the masks. He also shared his concerns in regards to a couple of books that are available in the high school libraries and asked the school board to review the materials.

WHAT

1) Board Commendations:

Mr. Grimes acknowledged “The Sound and Spirit of Columbus” on a successful first season as a combined band. He also congratulated all the fall student athletics and their success in the post-season tournaments.

He gave commendations to the students receiving Academic All-State and noted there were several students with this honor. He thanked Mr. Josh Burnett for the weekly newsletters and live streaming efforts to keep communication available for the community, and Dr. Boezeman and his staff for reviewing proposals and interviewing for the CMc (Construction Manager as Constructor).

Dr. Bilz gave commendations to CEHS Senior, Kade Kikendall. Kade’s senior pollinator project was conducted around the pond at Marr Road and State Street. There were 43 cypress trees planted near the pond with the help of 30 volunteers, many of whom were students. She also gave commendations to Smith Elementary 6th-grader, Colby Payne. Colby planted 5 redbud trees at Smith Elementary. She thanked both students for their efforts on these pollinator projects.

2) Board Member Reports:

Mr. Grimes reported that Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation’s (BCSF) Executive Director, Ms. Suzi Bruin will be retiring in December. He thanked her for her leadership with the foundation and shared Ms. Nicole Cunningham will be transitioning into that leadership role. He also thanked Ms. Bruin and Community Development Coordinator, Ms. Angie Emmitt for their efforts in securing several community sponsors for the recent 5K fundraiser. The foundation plans to have a presence in the Festival of Lights parade on the 4th of December.

3) Cabinet Reports:

First Reading of NEOLA Policies (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts provided the First Reading of the NEOLA Policy Revisions for Emergency and Electronic Meetings. He noted the four policies to be reviewed and shared the NEOLA recommendations.

Love Chapel Update (Dr. Hack)

An informational slide was reviewed on the continued partnership BCSC has with Love Chapel, noting that BCSC and Love Chapel distribute over 500 packages of food items to BCSC families every week.

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 October 25, 2021, and Minutes of the Strategic Planning Session of October 29, 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. Permission to approve Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) for Multi-School Project (Dr. Boezeman)
- g. 2022 Tax Anticipation Warrant Resolution (Mr. Phillips)

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

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the reviewed items and Dr. Bilz seconded the motion.

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

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

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

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the Human Resources Recommendations and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

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

BOARD INPUT/REVIEW

Mr. Grimes thanked Mr. Eric Grow for continuing to provide public input, Mr. Yates and his staff for their Best Practice Presentation, and Mayor Lienhoop and the City of Columbus for their continued support. Mr. Grimes acknowledged the CNHS Cross Country Program as a model program for the State of Indiana, and thanked Coach Sluder and Coach Fisher for their efforts into the program.

Mr. Stenner echoed Mr. Grime's comments, and also acknowledged the schools that honored veterans on Veterans' Day. He also thanked the teachers, students, and volunteers for their efforts in supporting Love Chapel.

Dr. Bilz acknowledged the great opportunity senior projects provide for students, and thanked the community for their involvement with the projects.

Mr. Bryant thanked Mr. Yates and the staff from Busy Bees for their Best Practice Presentation. He also acknowledged and thanked the Veterans of the community.

Dr. Shedd thanked Mayor Lienhoop for attending the school board meeting, and noted the ongoing partnership the school corporation has with the City of Columbus.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, December 13, 2021, 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

_____ President

_____ Secretary