

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, DECEMBER 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, December 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. 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

Absent:                                    Dr. George Van Horn, Director of Special Education

Attorney:                                 Mr. Chris Monroe, School Attorney

**REGULAR SESSION**

Mr. Stenner 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**

#### **United Way Check Presentation (Dr. Roberts)**

Dr. Roberts presented a check to United Way President, Mark Stewart. Dr. Roberts acknowledged the important partnership between BCSC and the United Way of Bartholomew County and noted the joint efforts to serve the youth of the local community.

He recognized the 44 individuals, 11 which were students, who organized 23 campaigns throughout the school corporation. The check that was presented totaled \$33,399, which was the highest total amount raised in the corporation over the last six years.

#### **Mark and Wendy Elwood Foundation Donation (Dr. Roberts)**

Dr. Roberts recognized and thanked Mark and Wendy Elwood for the generous funding their foundation provides to the school corporation. He noted in 2019 the foundation began providing funding for “Project Prevent”. This program helps teachers create positive classroom opportunities for 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students. The students now have designated classroom time to guide them through steps to make positive life choices and to care for their mental health. The school corporation is grateful to the Elwood Foundation for the help in launching this important instruction for students.

#### **State Spell Bowl Champions (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)**

The following students were introduced and recognized for their achievements in the first-ever individual Indiana Academic Spell Bowl Competition. Northside Middle School student, Vincia Li and Central Middle School student, Ramu Alagappan earned perfect scores by spelling 72 consecutive words correctly.

The Parkside Elementary Spell Bowl Team also had a perfect score in the Indiana Academic Elementary Team Competition and earned the State Champion Title.

### **Presentations**

#### **Lillian C. Schmitt Elementary – Best Practice Presentation (Mrs. Kaity Day/Mr. Patrick Mahaffey)**

Schmitt Elementary Principal, Mrs. Day, Assistant Principal, Mr. Patrick Mahaffey, UDL (Universal Design for Learning) Coordinator, Mrs. Kate Edgren, and Title I Instructional Coach, Mrs. Jill Bless presented information on the effective use of multisensory instruction. This program has helped to build a strong early literacy foundation for the students at Schmitt Elementary.

Mrs. Edgren noted that all students learn differently and this particular instruction has been very important for students in primary classrooms. She shared it helps build multiple connections throughout each school day for students, and the research indicates students are more involved and engaged in learning when they are using all senses.

Mr. Mahaffey shared the success stories the multisensory instruction pathway has provided to two particular students. He noted the students’ tremendous academic growth, the decrease in frustration with learning, and the notable confidence the students are showing in the classroom. Mrs. Bless shared the journey with preparation and implementation of the multiple sensory learning pathways. She noted training opportunities that are available for the staff, and commended the teachers on their flexibility, collaboration and creativity efforts. Mrs. Edgren shared a video of a second-grade classroom

implementing the several multisensory practices. Mr. Mahaffey noted some of the positive results of the program, including a substantial decrease in "at-risk" students, and an increase in mid-year NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) testing scores. Mrs. Day shared the next steps will be to use the incoming data to provide individualized multisensory instruction to students who are identified as "at-risk", and to increase practice options and effective utilization of resources.

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

The IREAD intervention program is part of the HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) Platform. This program also has a microphone option available to attach to a student device. This feature allows teachers to direct and support the learning as the student participates in the program.

This is an early literacy program for K-2 grade students. All the programs can be accessed at students' homes. Several strategies and activities to engage students are posted on the Schmitt Elementary social media page.

### **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 514 positive test cases for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, and as of Monday, December 13, there have been 382 positive test cases for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

Dr. Roberts noted that coming out of fall break an adjustment was made to the quarantine guidelines. The recommendation was made under the direction of the IDOH. Their suggested recommendation allowed schools with masked environments, in the classroom and on school buses, to keep most identified close contact students in school. Dr. Roberts noted that even with the higher amount of positive cases this semester more BCSC students have been kept in-person.

He acknowledged that the one question that continues to be confronted is how much longer masks will be required. Dr. Roberts shared that as long as positive cases remain high it is difficult to recommend masks to be optional. If the quarantine and close contact protocols from the Governor of Indiana and the IDOH was to change, then consideration for a revision would be reviewed. The goal is to keep students in-person.

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

Mr. Grimes shared that if the case numbers become more favorable he hopes the school board will be able to begin a dialogue to potentially lift the mask mandate.

The stress is driven more when students are out of the classroom. The constant rise in positive staff member cases continues to create challenges to adequately cover classrooms.

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer thanked the local community employers who are creating flexible options for their employees to be with their quarantining students.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments offered.

## **WHAT**

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

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer announced that the 2022 Education Hall of Fame recipient has been determined. The individual will be announced and honored at the school board meeting in February 2022.

Mr. Grimes congratulated the CSA Lincoln Robuskie Team, they competed in a state tournament at the University of Indianapolis. The theme for the competition was “Transportation”. The team chose to focus on school bus safety and how to make a school bus safer in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Grimes congratulated both the CNHS and CEHS competitive cheer teams and wished them the best at their upcoming national cheer competitions. He gave commendations to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade students and staff members at Southside Elementary for their efforts in collecting and wrapping presents for the “Angels of Love” organization.

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

Mr. Grimes provided an update on the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation. The foundation participated in the local Festival of Lights Parade on December 4 and honored retiring Executive Director, Suzi Bruin at the December 7 meeting. The foundation welcomed Nicole Cunningham as the new Executive Director and thanked Mr. Mike Jamerson for serving as president of the foundation. He also noted that the “Grateful Thankful Campaign” was a success for all BCSC employees.

Dr. Jill Shedd reported she attended a discussion held for Region 9 and 10 school board presidents. She noted the different school board summaries that were shared by other area school corporations. She also provided an update from the Indiana School Boards Association, Executive Director, Terry Spradlin, on legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

### **3) Cabinet Reports:**

Mr. Phillips reviewed the final approved tax rate for the 2022 budget year. He shared the tax rate will continue to be tracked with neighboring school districts to see how BCSC compares to other property tax rates.

## **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 November 15, 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 Policies – Emergency and Electronic Meetings (Dr. Roberts)
- g. Permission to award bids for HVAC control system replacement at Columbus East and Columbus North High School (Dr. Boezeman)
- h. Title II and Title IV Grants (Mr. Edwards)
- i. Collective Bargaining Agreement Memorandum of Understanding (Dr. Pleak)

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 4) a-i were unanimously approved.

### **5) 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 Mr. Grimes

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

### **BOARD INPUT/REVIEW**

Mr. Grimes thanked Dr. Gene Hack and the C-4 students for the production of the 2021 Holiday cards, the Schmitt staff for their best practice presentation and the state champion spellers from Northside Middle, Central Middle and Parkside Elementary. He extended best wishes to the CEHS and CNHS winter athletic teams in their upcoming cross-town rivalry competitions.

Ms. Wheeldon thanked the school board team for the support during her first year of service, and shared she is looking forward to working together for another year. She thanked the teachers and staff for their extra effort to support students with class assignments while out due to COVID-19.

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Mr. Stenner echoed the comments of his colleagues and thanked Suzi Bruin for all her hard work with the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation.

Dr. Bilz sent a charge to all BCSC staff to relax and have a wonderful and peaceful holiday.

Mr. Bryant wished everyone a happy holiday.

Dr. Shedd recognized the hardships the town of Mayfield, Kentucky and its surrounding areas are experiencing with the recent tornado damage. She thanked the individual efforts of the BCSC staff to continue to provide to all its learners.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ President

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary