

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 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, February 6, 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. Jason Major, Member  
                              Mr. Dale Nowlin, 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  
                              Mr. William Jensen, Director of Secondary Education  
                              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

Attorney:                 Mr. Michael McIver, School Attorney

**REGULAR SESSION**

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

Mrs. Wheeldon, the President, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

## WHO/WHY

### **HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR APPROVAL: (Dr. Roberts/Dr. Pleak)**

#### **Director of McDowell Adult and Alternative Education**

Dr. Roberts introduced Mr. Mark Newell and made a recommendation to the board to appoint him as the Director of McDowell Adult and Alternative Education. He noted that Mr. Newell is a Columbus North High School graduate. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Math Education, Master of Science in Secondary Education, and his building-level administrator certification from Indiana University. Mr. Newell was hired into the school corporation as a math teacher at Columbus North High School and took over as the Math Department Chair at Columbus East High School and Central Middle School ten years later. He was the interim assistant principal at Northside Middle School before becoming the principal at Columbus East High School in 2008. The vacancy for this position was created by the recent appointment of Ms. Megan Shaff as Director of Title Services.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the recommendation to hire Mr. Mark Newell as Director of Adult and Alternative Education, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

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

Mr. Newell thanked his wife for her support, and Dr. Roberts and the school board for the opportunity. He gave a special thanks to the Director of Secondary Education, Mr. Bill Jensen for his support and mentorship. He shared his excitement to continue the work at McDowell in supporting students to find their success, and asked for the ongoing support of the community and the school board to continue to support students and staff throughout the community.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Presentation of the 2023 Education Hall of Fame Award (s)**

Dr. Roberts and former school board member Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer presented the Education Hall of Fame Awards to Columbus East High School teacher Mrs. Peggy Myers and former BCSC Superintendent Dr. John Quick. Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer recognized those individuals who served on the nomination committee and shared the nomination process.

Dr. Roberts presented a plaque to each of the recipients noting that Mrs. Peggy Myers has taught within BCSC since 1993, making strong contributions to the Special Education Department. Mrs. Myers developed "Champions Together" at Columbus East High School which has provided athletes with and without disabilities inclusivity in school and sports. Dr. Roberts shared a few of her noted strengths as being: supportive and encouraging; tireless; true humanitarian and advocate; innovative and creating an inclusive environment.

Mrs. Myers thanked the school corporation for the tremendous honor and opportunity to work with students. She thanked her family, her students, their families, and the administration for their support.

Dr. Roberts noted that Dr. Quick's career included five years as an elementary school teacher, 17 years as a principal, five years as an assistant superintendent, and 13 years as a superintendent. He joined BCSC in 1991 as principal of Taylorsville Elementary School. In 1998, Dr. Quick was promoted

to assistant superintendent, and in 2003 become the superintendent of the school corporation. Dr. Quick retired from BCSC in 2016. Dr. Roberts shared a few words received from Dr. Quick's nomination letters: puts kids first; immersed in the community; highest expectations for BCSC; values families; a trailblazer in networking skills; and far-reaching influence in the field of education.

Dr. Quick was humbled by the kind words. He acknowledged and thanked his wife and children for their support and acknowledged his parents for the positive impact they have had on his life. He thanked former school board member of 24 years, Mr. Ray Zeigler for his mentorship and guidance and his administrative assistants Mrs. Shirley Bozell, Mrs. Jayne Surface, and Mrs. Robin Dorsett.

He encouraged the school board to continue to build and expand programs and buildings to attract more students, noting you can't shrink your way to greatness.

### **Best Practice – McDowell Education Services (Ms. Megan Shaff)**

Director Ms. Megan Shaff presented the history of the McDowell building, noting the building was built in 1960 by architect John Carl Warneke and named Mabel McDowell Elementary School. In the 1982-1983 school year, the building transitioned to Adult Education; in 2008 alternative high school programming for BCSC moved to McDowell and building renovations were completed in 2013.

Ms. Shaff shared the variety of ways McDowell serves the community, emphasizing that the campus includes children as young as six weeks, middle and high school-aged students, and adult learners.

Alternative Education teacher Mr. Josh Gonsior gave an overall view of the alternative high school program. Mr. Gonsior shared that the program is a community school that offers several different programs for students to succeed and graduate. The state requirements for enrollment are that a student is withdrawn before the graduation date, fails to comply academically, and would benefit from instruction offered in a different setting other than the traditional classroom. The state also requires a 15 to 1 teacher-classroom ratio. He noted that research shows that the smaller the class size the more chance for student success.

He presented what a day looks like for a McDowell student. The students attend all three high schools and meet every day, either for a morning session or an afternoon session. This allows students to receive more credits in a shorter amount of time. He stated, "We have high expectations for students and we build upon their successes. We help the student stay on track, and collaborate with the services needed to support each student's needs."

The Restart Program, housed at the Youth Services Center, is a temporary pathway for students in grades 7-12 who are potentially disruptive to a classroom setting or struggle to attend school. This program gives the student an opportunity to be successful. He noted that both the Alternative Pathway and the Restart Program provide ways for students to be successful in a short period of time.

Adult Education Coordinator Ms. Nikki Nolting gave an overview of the opportunities available in the Adult Education Program, noting that the enrollment numbers for the English Language Learners (ELL) program have surpassed the enrollment numbers in the basic adult education program. She shared that since 2018 there have been 496 individuals earning their high school diplomas, and 101 earning certifications, which also carry Ivy-Tech credits. McDowell partnerships with many local businesses to provide onsite ELL classes for their employees.

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

To serve additional students, we would need additional space, teachers, and staff members. We would like to serve as many students as possible.

We see relationships growing between the staff and students. The ELL program is extending out to the community with projects such as the Afghanistan Project at Camp Atterbury.

#### **BOARD COMMENDATIONS:**

Mr. Nowlin congratulated and gave commendations to the Columbus East High School Art Department teachers and their students. Art teachers Ms. Allison Kocur Buck, Mr. Brad Barber, Ms. Sydney Albert, and 18 students were recognized through the Scholastic Art Awards program in 2D and 3D Art and Photography. He gave commendations to Ms. Megan Shaff for hosting an impressive building tour of McDowell Education Services, noting how impressive it was to see students learning in many different ways. Mr. Nowlin thanked Mr. Jay Payne and Mr. Blake Manuel for hosting a building tour of Central Middle School and providing an overview of the many efficient and effective learning opportunities taking place at CMS. He recognized and provided commendations to CMS Media Specialist Michelle Fee for her work with students on "The Charge", a combination video/magazine school announcement.

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to the following: Future Farmers of America (FFA) Parliamentary Procedure team for their 4<sup>th</sup> Place win in the Section 4 state contest; CNHS Girls Bowling team and wished them well in the state finals; three senior basketball players: CEHS - Saige Stahl, CNHS - Cooper Horn and CNHS - Lauren Barker for reaching the 1000-point milestone; CEHS wrestling team for their eighth-straight sectional title; CEHS boys swim team for setting three school records; CEHS diver - Junior Gabbie Myer as she advances to the state finals; the C4 Program for their impressive open house conversations, and the Human Resources Department for their efforts in the monthly newsletter

Mr. Major noted he is working with two different schools to have academic, athletic, and staff commendations to share at the next board meeting. He gave commendations to all winter athletes for their hard work and effort and gave commendations and thanked the Roberts/Cox family for singing the national anthem before the CEHS boys' basketball game.

#### **WHAT**

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

Mr. Grimes provided a legislative session report, noting just over 200 bills involve K-12 education. He reported that the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF) will host their biggest fundraiser of the year. The Harlem Wizards will be in town on Sunday, March 5. Tickets are available online.

Mr. Stenner provided a Business Advisory Committee report. The committee heard a presentation from Wellness Director, Mrs. Kristen Beck on the ability to track BCSC graduates and learn from their post-grad experiences.

Mr. Nowlin met with High Ability Broad Based Coordinator, Mrs. Gail Koors to gain an understanding of the program. He noted that 140 students currently participate in the academic challenge program and 1,200 students outside of the program are currently being tracked.

Mr. Major thanked Mr. John Green and Mr. Chad Phillips for their time to meet with him to gain a better understanding of the BCSC Health Trust Fund.

Mrs. Wheeldon attended the ISBA school board president's meeting. She shared that it was time well spent in discussion and making connections.

## **2) Cabinet Reports**

### **2022 Financial Report (Mr. Phillips)**

Mr. Phillips noted that the Education Fund revenues were up 5.4% over 2021 and were less than 1% over budget. The state tuition support was slightly higher than expected and interest earned was above budget. The Operations Fund revenues were up 8.2% over 2021 and were in line with budgeted revenues. The Tax Cap losses of just under \$1.9M were offset by higher revenues from interest earned and a few miscellaneous revenue categories including indirect costs, rental revenues, and disposal of property.

He noted that the Operating Referendum revenues were 4.3% higher than in 2021 and 1.4% higher than the budget.

The Education Fund Expenditure salaries were up 3.5% (\$1.8M) over 2021, but 2.1% lower than budget, and benefits were up 3.7% from 2021 and at budget. He noted that salaries and benefits make up 95.6% of the post-transfer Education Fund expenditures. The other expenditures within the Education Fund were as expected while the transfer to Operations Fund was up 18.7% over 2021 with the increases for classified staff, utilities, and property/liability insurance.

The Operations Fund salaries and benefits expenditures were up \$1.5M or about 11% over 2021 and very close to budget. The non-personnel expenses were up 20% over 2021 and were just over budget, including encumbrances from 2021. This increase was driven by increases in utilities, fuel and equipment.

The largest part of the Operating Referendum Expenditures is teacher salary increases. Mr. Phillips shared that the board and the public expressed support for the vast majority of the referendum to go toward BCSC's employees. In 2021, compensation increased 8.9% over what would have been expended for Education and Operations Fund salaries without the Referendum Funds.

The Debt Service Fund reflects the elimination of the 2020 GO bond that was paid off in 2021 and the addition of the first full payment for the 2021 lease rental bonds which are being used to renovate Parkside Elementary. Four of the bond issues will be paid off in the next two years. The majority of the current debt will be paid within the next six years.

Mr. Phillips noted that with the exception of the Debt Service Fund, cash balances are up from the end of 2021. The Debt Service cash balances will continue to decline as old debt is replaced with new oncoming debt. The Indiana code only allows the district to carry 15% of the next year's debt payment on new debt, whereas that maximum was 50% for older debt.

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

The combined Education Fund balance and the Rainy Day Fund give us an indication of the funds available to pay salaries should the state stop providing funding.

If the district would stop receiving cash from the state we would have the available funds to get through three bi-weekly payrolls. If this should happen there are other emergency opportunities to generate funding by issuing additional tax anticipation warrants.

The total labeled "Other" in the Education Fund is nearly 100% supplies, with a small amount being for teacher travel mileage.

Work is done each new year on closing the gap between the actuals and predicted budgeted amounts based on the previous year's budget. The rising costs of fuel, water, and sewer are a factor.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No one signed in to speak.

**HOW**

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

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of January 23, 2023
- 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. Resolution to Establish Savings Parameters and Hire Underwriter and Bond Counsel (Mr. Phillips)
- g. Resolution to Approve Supplement to Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking and Reapprove Building Corporation (Mr. Phillips)
- h. Permission to Award Taylorsville Elementary School Roof Contract (Dr. Boezeman)
- i. Permission to Award Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment #6 - Educational Improvement Project (Dr. Boezeman)
- j. Transportation Routing Software Contract (Dr. Boezeman/Mr. McKeand)

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

Mr. Major made a motion to approve the reviewed items 3) a-j and Mr. Nowlin seconded the motion.

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

- k. Purchase of Buses (Dr. Boezeman/Mr. McKeand)

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the reviewed item 3) k and Mr. Shultz seconded the motion.

Mrs. Wheeldon and Mr. Major abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Upon a call for the vote, item 3) k was approved 5-0

**4) 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. Major.

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

### **BOARD INPUT REVIEW**

Mr. Major wished the seniors well who will be competing in academic and athletic competitions. He noted that Mr. Schulz and he are looking forward to the upcoming Northside Middle School and Taylorsville Elementary building tours.

Mr. Schulz thanked BCSC and ISBA for the recent new school board training. He shared that the training was insightful and helped to better understand his role as a new school board member. He noted that he is part of the IDOE Standards review to reduce the number of measures specified in the social science, economics, and financial literacy section. He asked the board to provide their input. He requested that the recommended policy updates be made available to the public to help drive engagement and allow the public to see what the board will be voting on for approval.

Mr. Grimes congratulated Dr. Quick and Mrs. Myers for being Education Hall of Fame Award recipients, Ms. Shaff and the McDowell staff for their Best Practice presentation, Mr. Newell for his recent appointed position, and Mr. Phillips for the thorough financial report,

Mr. Stenner thanked the entire staff at McDowell for the work they do each day.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**


Subcommittees will meet as follows:

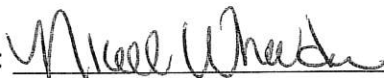
School Board Agenda, February 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m. Administration Building, Terrace Room

Public Engagement, February 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m. Administration Building, Boardroom

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

 Secretary

Attest:  President