

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 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, February 7, 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  
                              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**

Mr. Pat Bryant 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.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **2022 Additional Appropriation Public Hearing (Mr. Phillips)**

Dr. Shedd gaveled out of the regular scheduled Board of School Trustees Meeting, and opened the Public Hearing, at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Phillips presented the additional appropriation requests as follows:

- \$300,000 for the Operations Fund for stop-arm cameras for school buses.
- \$160,000 for the Operating Referendum Fund for fall semester 2022-2023 STEM Lab expenses.

No questions or comments were received from the public. Dr. Shedd gaveled out of the Public Hearing and back into the regular scheduled School Board Meeting at 6:37 p.m.

## **WHO/WHY**

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Presentation of the 2022 Education Hall of Fame Award to Dr. Linda DeClue (Dr. Roberts/Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer)**

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer, Chairman of the Education Hall of Fame Committee, acknowledged those individuals who contributed to a video in Dr. DeClue's honor and thanked Mr. Larry Perkinson for his efforts in organizing the tribute.

Dr. John Quick noted a few of the many contributions Dr. DeClue has made to the school corporation. He shared he was honored to have her at his right hand for over a decade, as she was often the voice of reason, nonjudgmental, and always fair. Ms. Kathy Schubel noted how Dr. DeClue always kept the needs of students first as she worked alongside teachers to help determine the best choice for students. Ms. Schubel noted that she has given over and above to education and the local community.

Dr. Roberts presented the prestigious 2022 Education Hall of Fame Award to Dr. Linda DeClue and thanked those that spoke of Dr. DeClue's legacy. He noted the misfortune, due to the many COVID-19 restrictions, of not being able to have the typical recognition reception. He shared quotes from the individuals who submitted nomination letters. A few of the quotes were: Dr. DeClue is empathetic and fair, a problem solver, she led with grace and dignity, a great communicator and mediator, tremendous colleague, fiercely loyal, United Way Luminary, unwavering community commitment, instrumental in support and implementation of UDL and PBIS, and her mission in life was not only to promote and develop the potential in every student but to bring out the best in everyone. She was presented with a plaque inscribed with selections from her letters of nomination and a second plaque in her honor will be placed at the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation, Administration Building.

Dr. DeClue shared several of her fondest memories and also reflected on how she has learned from the challenges. She recognized her family and thanked them for their support, noting the DeClue family has been and will continue to be vested in the success of BCSC. She thanked her colleagues for the kind words shared on her behalf and noted that she felt blessed and honored to be the 2022 recipient of the Education Hall of Fame Award.

### **W.D. Richards Elementary / Best Practice (Mr. Darin Sprong)**

Mr. Sprong and several members of his staff presented how the school's motto "We are Raider Nation" is lived out daily in their building. He shared that their goal is to create a fully inclusive school where all students, families, and staff feel celebrated and have equitable access to education and services. He noted the challenges present, but shared the staff works hard every day to intentionally strive to reach this goal. The why of the work is more than academics. Staff members work each day to create support systems for students and help students learn valuable lessons about tolerance, patience, and the benefits of diversity. Teachers and staff also work together to increase the social and community skills of students and decrease behavior issues and absences. Mr. Sprong noted the book titled "The Circles All Around Us" by Brad Montague is just one resource the teachers and students utilize together to create ways to see a bigger community. Mr. Sprong shared this has been a little scary and uncomfortable at times as we strive hard to learn and grow.

Mr. Sprong showed a video showcasing the students at Richards and the staff members, parents, and community members who value the emphasis Richards Elementary places on the many cultures represented in the building. The building's core beliefs and BCSC strategies and objectives share how the work at Richards ties to what is happening in the building and across the district. Students need to feel safe and secure for deeper learning to take place.

Ms. Tiffany Powell, Music Teacher at Richards, spoke of the diverse community within the building and how that community is being recognized and built one student at a time. She noted that teachers and staff feel cared for and supported by a strong outside community group of people who work with building staff helping to build a sense of trust, care, and support.

She highlighted a few of the six benefits the staff uses to build community. There are 550 students at Richards and the teachers and staff want students to feel that they belong and that no one else can fill their space. They want students to take ownership of their learning at a young age. This allows students to develop habits that move with them to middle school and into adulthood.

Ms. Tammy Hebert, UDL (Universal Design for Learning) facilitator, shared how the UDL connection provides multiple ways of engagement in the classroom, school building, and into the community. She noted teachers want to remove barriers so that all students are learning and shared the checkpoints that help teachers provide options for students to learn.

Amy Mocas, PBIS (Positive Behavior Instructional Supports) facilitator, presented the PBIS expectations for students. She shared that daily consistent regular teachings, modeling, and affirmations help prevent, enhance and develop positive social and academic behaviors. She thanked those individuals who provide community connections to the Raider Nation and added that staff and students learn from the community members that volunteer their time.

### **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 February 4, there have been 915 positive test cases for the second semester.

Dr. Roberts provided an update on the IDOH contact tracing process and shared how the school corporation will utilize the Parent Square software to provide notification to parents when a positive case has been identified. He noted that, within a masked environment and with the new updated IDOH quarantine protocol guidelines, an asymptomatic student can stay at school with no quarantine period required unless the individual would develop symptoms.

If exposure to a positive case occurs outside of school, a vaccinated student or staff member may report to school unless symptoms are present. If unvaccinated, the individual will need to stay at home for 5 days, monitor symptoms, and follow enhanced precautions.

Dr. Roberts reviewed the positive cases in the corporation by date, indicating the positive cases are starting to decline. By moving to the current IDOH quarantine protocol we can keep more students in school.

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

If we have a positive case outside of the school day, we would identify and quarantine those individuals if needed. We have asked for mask compliance at all extra-curricular events but we have not required our administrators to act as mask police at events.

Depending on a middle school or high school student's schedule they could get multiple close contact notices.

Dr. Shedd thanked the Director of Health Services, Ms. Kelli Thompson, and the nursing staff for their efforts in taking care of our students and staff.

### **Board Commendations:**

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to BCSC Transition Coordinator, Ms. Mary Hamlin for connecting students to local businesses for employment. The current economy has provided many businesses the opportunity to partner with the school corporation. More students with disabilities are working with competitive pay within the community. He commended Dr. Roberts for his recent testimony before the Indiana Senate to enforce school bus stop arms and to Dr. Boezeman and Officer Quesenbery for their assistance in implementing this effort. He also commended the CEA (Columbus Educators Association) leadership, Dakota Huddleston and Amy London, and the school corporation for hosting a Third House Session. The session with Representative Ryan Lauer and Senator Greg Walker will focus on educational questions.

He thanked Dr. Laura Hack and other BCSC staff members for their extra efforts to cover additional duties to help keep schools open. He acknowledged the efforts of teacher Mrs. Rawlins and her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Parkside Elementary class for their efforts in the WISH-TV "I love to read challenge". The class is spending an average of 5 hours a week reading.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Eric Grow, Columbus, IN

Mr. Grow shared his desires for additional communications with school board members and for the board to contend with their contingents.

## **WHAT**

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

Mr. Grimes provided detail for the upcoming Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation fundraiser. BCSF will be sponsoring the Harlem Wizards on Sunday, March 6. He noted that volunteers are still needed for the event and information is available on the website [www.bcscschools.org](http://www.bcscschools.org). He also provided an update on how the “Lightening Grants” are being utilized across the district.

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

#### **Strategic Plan Update (Dr. Roberts)**

Dr. Roberts provided an overview of the new BCSC Strategic Plan. He noted that stakeholders from across the school corporation provided input on the five-year plan. The plan features core beliefs, a mission and vision, three focus areas, and six strategic initiatives. He shared that each initiative is driven by key objectives, as well as the programs and methods that will define the objectives. The plan includes imagery of three Bartholomew County bridges that are representative of our unique identity and symbolic of the desire for the plan to serve as a connector between the current and desired pathways. Dr. Roberts outlined the three areas of focus:

- Excellence & High Expectations – BCSC prepares expert learners through an equitable system of high-quality curriculum, resources, and educators.
- Healthy, Safe & Welcoming Environments - BCSC provides safe and welcoming learning environments in which every learner has positive relationships and access to resources needed to thrive.
- Pathways to Success – BCSC provides equitable access to flexible, student-centered options for success.

The board will be asked to approve the plan at the Monday, March 7, 2022 School Board meeting.

#### **2021 Financial Report (Mr. Phillips)**

Mr. Phillips reported that the 2021 Education Fund revenues were up 3.4% compared to the budget and 2.5% over the 2020 revenues. He shared that this is almost entirely due to increases in the state per-pupil funding and ADM increases. The revenues in the Operations Fund were up slightly over 2020, but down compared to budget. Mr. Phillips shared that tax cap losses continue to grow, totaling over \$1.7M in 2021. The revenues in the Operating Referendum were 7.2% above budget as the assessed value was higher than expected. Mr. Phillips reported that the 2021 Education Expenditures for salaries were up more than 4.5% as the 9% support staff increase was implemented in July and the 6% teacher increase occurred in the fall. The substitute teacher costs were up more than 100%, or more than \$700,000 in 2021. He reported the benefit expenditures to be as expected. There was an additional increase in expenditures as the 2020 technology purchases were made with a GO bond, but returned to the Education Fund in 2021. Education Fund transfers to Operations were down slightly compared to 2020.

Mr. Phillips reported that most of the non-certified staff are paid from the Operations Fund so the 14% increase in salary expenditures reflects the 9% increase. It was also a year in which the corporation was back to more of a normal staffing level compared to 2020. He noted that other expenditures were also up in 2021 as more was spent on fuel and utilities. Buses in 2020 were purchased from the GO Bond and much of those expenditures came back to the Operations Fund in 2021. Mr. Phillips reported the teacher referendum increases were just below budget while support staff referendum pay was just over budget. The unexpended teacher salaries carry forward each year and are allocated through the collective bargaining process. The benefits, safety, and security expenditures were less than budget as many of the expected staff adds were delayed as the Counseling Counts grant was extended for a year. Mr. Phillips reported that after repaying the tax anticipation warrants in December, year-end cash balances were up in both the Education and Operations Funds. Our self-funded health and dental cash balances were up slightly from 2020 but ended the year very close to where we started. We have to remain diligent about making sure revenues support the rising costs of the current plan design. This means continued premium increases if we don't make modifications to our plan. Debt service expenditures were as expected and the cash balance was up as the interest on tax anticipation warrants was incredibly low with current interest rates. We made our last pension bond payment in 2021. The 2021 year-end balances were up, for the most part. The increases are warranted as our bi-weekly payrolls increase. Mr. Phillips concluded by saying the corporation remains healthy from a financial standpoint.

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

Every two years the Indiana State Board of Accounts conducts an internal audit.

The 2020-2021 expenditures indicate a normal year. Mr. Phillips noted he uses two years of data when building the budget.

## **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 24, 2022
- 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. 2022 Additional Appropriation (Mr. Phillips)
- g. Resolution to approve a joint lawsuit against JUUL (Dr. Roberts)

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

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

Upon a call for the vote, Items 3) a-g 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 congratulated both the CSA Fodrea and Parkside Elementary basketball teams for their first-place finishes in the Elementary Basketball League Super Saturday Tournament. He thanked Mr. Sprong and the Richards Elementary staff for their Best Practice Presentation and acknowledged Dr. DeClue for her 23 years of service to BCSC.

Dr. Bilz thanked Dr. DeClue for the years of service she provided to the school corporation and the community.

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer thanked Dr. DeClue for her length of service to the school corporation.

Ms. Wheeldon thanked the BCSC support staff for their daily efforts and particularly acknowledged the bus drivers for going above and beyond their daily responsibilities.

Mr. Stenner thanked those who provided presentations for the evening, noting the presentations were the highlight of the evening.

Dr. Shedd thanked Dr. DeClue and her entire family for the work they do in the local community.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, March 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 8:45 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ President

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary