BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held in the cafeteria of Columbus North High School, Columbus, Indiana, on Monday, April 15, 2024, 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. Pat Bryant, Member
          Mr. Dale Nowlin, Member
          Mr. Jason Major, Member
          Mr. Logan Schulz, Member

Absent:   Mr. Todd Grimes, Secretary

Administration: Dr. Jim Roberts, Superintendent
                Dr. Gina Pleak, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
                Dr. 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 Secondary Education
                Mrs. Megan Shaff, Director of Title Services
                Mrs. Jessica Vogel, 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, opened the board meeting at 6:30 p.m.
RECOGNITIONS:

CNHS Gymnastics Team - State Finalists
(Mr. David Clark/Coach Bob Arthur/Coach Sandy Freshour)

Mr. Clark thanked the board for the opportunity to recognize the remarkable group of CNHS student athletes. He introduced Coach Arthur and Coach Freshour and thanked them for their many years of service to the program. Coach Arthur thanked the School Board for the time to be recognized and acknowledged the many individuals who contributed to the team. He introduced each team member's accomplishments and contributions, reviewed team stats and shared that they finished the year strong, placing 4th at state.

2024 Edna V. Folger Award (Dr. Pleak/Mr. John Sadtler)

Dr. Pleak introduced SIHO President and CEO, Mr. John Sadtler. Mr. Sadtler shared the background of the award and noted the award is designed to recognize the impact teachers have inside and outside of the classroom and to celebrate dedication and innovation. The award is funded by SIHO Insurance Services, Columbus Education Coalition, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, and the IUPUC Center for Teaching and Learning. Mr. Sadtler presented the Edna V. Folger Award to Central Middle School English teacher, Mrs. Mindy Summers. He shared that Mrs. Summers is a dedicated and talented educator that goes above and beyond meeting her students where they are, and designing a safe, rigorous environment with obtainable expectations to help students become expert learners.

2024 Teacher of the Year Nominations (Dr. Pleak)

Dr. Pleak shared the qualifications a teacher must hold and the process used for submitting a nomination. She noted that 570 nominations were received for this year’s award and this is a record to date. Dr. Pleak introduced the nominees for Teacher of the Year as follows: Clifty Creek - Suzanne Diehn; CSA Fodrea - Deepika Kapoor; CSA Lincoln - Stephen Shipley; Mt. Healthy - Emily Harris; Parkside - Scott Rayburn; Richards - Arien Lucas; Rockcreek - Casey Elsbury; Schmitt - Kathy Denniston; Smith - Cyndi Larson; Southside - Caroline Arbuckle; Taylorsville - Jenny Meade; Central - Sara Rapp; Northside - Crystal Stewart; East - Derek Chastain; North - Brett White; CSA New Tech - Jen Morrill; C4 - Derik Gratz; Pre-K/Early Childhood - Ebony Okuleye-Ash; Administration Building - Gail Koors. Dr. Pleak noted that there is no greater impact on the students than the quality of the teacher and it is these exceptional teachers that make BCSC THE Choice. She thanked the teachers for continuing to show up each and every day and for providing students with an excellent education.

2024 Top Ten CEHS (Dr. Roberts/Mr. Michael Parsons)

A video was shown showcasing each student, their parents, their post-high school plans, intended college major and their favorite teacher. The Top Ten students from Columbus East High School are as follows: Greta Hemmerlein; Erin Walters; Riley Posey; Janelly Villalobos; Ben Blanz; Katelyn Stetter, Carly Otte; Jami Porter; Melia Hubbard and Kihrun Scott.

2024 Top Ten CNHS (Dr. Roberts/Mr. David Clark)
A video was shown showing each student, their parents, their post-high school plans, intended college major and their favorite teacher. The Top Ten students from Columbus North High School are as follows: Alexandra Osburn; Mackenzie Meyer, Austin Clark; Frankie Polyak; Alexander Cognata; Kenzie Pendleton; Kings Burbrink; Keegan Harris, Kaitlin White and Ajay Singireddy.

**WHAT**

1) **School Board Member Reports**

Mr. Nowlin reported that the Council for Youth Development met on April 10. He highlighted the upcoming Youth Empowerment Summit at the Columbus Learning Center. Mr. Chad Russell, Columbus North High School Social Studies teacher, will be the keystone speaker and the students will rotate through a series of workshops. The topics and presenters were planned by the student leaders. He noted that the summit has 100 available slots for participants and 160 students applied. He also shared that applications are currently being taken for Youth Ambassadors for the 2024-2025 school year. The school counselors and others work with CYD to identify students with leadership potential.

Mr. Schulz shared that there were no updates to report for his committees.

Mrs. Wheeldon provided an update on the Superintendent search process. She shared that a Public Hearing has been held regarding the contract, and a vote for approval of the new superintendent will be held at the Monday, April 29, 2024 school board meeting.

Mr. Stenner shared a BCSF update in Mr. Grimes' absence. He noted registration information for the Good, Better, Best 5K. The funds raised for the event support the Grimes/Wallace “Out of the Box Award” for teachers. The two teachers receiving this year's award are Krea Hill from Rockcreek Elementary and Krista Bartosz from Smith Elementary.

Mr. Stenner provided a D&F update and noted those who have been part of the decision process in choosing a design architect and construction manager for the upcoming construction and renovation projects. He provided a Business Advisory update noting a presentation on C4 Week and the valuable experiences those programs offer to students.

Mr. Major noted that the recent City Redevelopment Commission meeting involved discussion around a new state process for public buildings to design, build and operate. A discussion was also held regarding the downtown entrance plaza renovation.

2) **Cabinet Reports**

- **Envision 2030 Update (Dr. Phillips/Dr. Boezeman)**

Dr. Boezeman reviewed the agenda items presented to the board for approval and noted the timeline for the Phase 1 projects. He shared that the district received ten construction firm proposals for the Construction Manager as Constructor. The team of six selection committee
members reviewed five different proposals. He acknowledged the selection of Meyer Najem for the Northside/North Project, Taylor Bros./Pepper for the new elementary and Maxwell Construction for the Smith Elementary/CEHS Project. He noted that the selection is based on presentation material, interviews, references and past performance. He shared that BCSC considers cost an important factor, but is not required to select the lowest bid.

Dr. Boezeman reviewed the recommendation process for a design architect for the new elementary school. He acknowledged the Cummins Architectural Foundation provided the district with four qualified firms. The four firms were invited to submit RFPs and the 16-member committee was provided those responses to contribute their feedback. The four firms provided presentations to the committee and community stakeholders. He noted the committee members that served consisted of teachers, students, a representative from CSO Architects, parents, community members, BCSC administrators and a BCSC board member. The design architect recommended to the board is Howeler + Yoon, of Boston, Massachusetts.

- **Q1 Financial Report (Dr. Phillips)**

  Dr. Phillips shared the Tax Rate History comparison for school districts throughout the state of Indiana. The BCSC property tax rate remains below that of the state average and comparison districts. The rate has declined each of the past three years.

  The Education Fund revenues are up 8% over 2023. Most of this increase was expected, but the timing of C4 transfer tuition payments and higher than expected interest earned pushed revenues even higher. There are no significant revenues for property tax supported funds until Q2. The Education Fund salaries and benefits are up 10% over 2023. This is a result of the pay increases for all employee groups following the collective bargaining agreement last fall, the addition of high school administrators for cohorts, and continued success in filling positions. Dr. Phillips reminded the board that there will be a need for an additional appropriation later this year to account for the increased spend for salaries and benefits and noted that the expected revenues support this appropriation.

  The Operations Fund salaries and benefits are up 3% over 2023. Other expenditures are as expected, but the property and liability insurance transfer was completed in Q1 of 2024 and that bill continues to increase. All Operating Referendum Expenditures are as expected.

  He shared that all Cash Balances are up compared to Q1 of 2023. The higher than expected revenues since last Q1 are driving the increase in the Education Fund, but expect the higher salary and benefits to bring that number back down. The interest earned revenues may continue to artificially inflate this number for the rest of 2024. The Operating Referendum Fund balance is also up, as expected. The Health and Dental balances are continuing a positive trend, although there were much higher prescription claims in Q1. The Debt Service Fund will continue to decline slightly as we retire old debt over the next year.

**HOW**

**Public Comments:** No one signed in for Public Comments

3) **Request for Approval – Old Business**
a. Minutes of the Executive Session of March 3, 2024, Regular School Board Meeting of March 4, 2024, Minutes of the Executive Session of March 18, 2024, Minutes of the Executive Session of March 19, 2024, Minutes of the Executive Session of March 23, 2024, and Minutes of the Executive Session of March 28, 2024.

b. Approval of Policy 5830 Revision - Student Fundraisers (Dr. Roberts)

Mr. Schulz made a motion and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

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

4) Requests for Approval - New Business

c. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
d. Field Trips and Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
e. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
f. Claims and Payroll (Dr. Phillips)
g. Permission for proper Disposal of Laptops and Desktops (Dr. Boezeman/Mr. Nick Williams)
h. MOU with Indiana University - Columbus re: Admission of BCSC Students (Mr. Edwards)
i. Permission to receive bids on Johnson Early Education Renovation Phase 1 (Dr. Boezeman)
j. Permission to award Design Architect for new elementary school (Dr. Boezeman)
k. Permission to award Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) for Phase 1 of Envision 2030 projects (Dr. Boezeman)
l. Permission to establish Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Schmitt Renovation (Dr. Boezeman)

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

Mr. Nowlin made a motion to approve 4)c- 1, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried 5-1. Mr. Major opposed.

5) Human Resources Recommendations (Dr. Pleak)

Mr. Nowlin 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 carried 6-0.
BOARD INPUT REVIEW

Mr. Bryant thanked Dr. Boezeman and Central Middle School for use of the BCSC facilities for a recent Bartholomew County Public Library community event.

Mr. Nowlin gave commendations to the CNHS Indiana Math League Team who finished 2nd place in the statewide contest. He shared that six of the top 20 finishers were from CNHS. He thanked CNHS and the custodial staff for their efforts in hosting the school board meeting.

Mr. Major congratulated the “Teachers of the Year Award” recipients and thanked them for their support they provide to the students and the Top Ten students for their hard work.

Mr. Stenner congratulated Mrs. Mindy Summers as the Edna Folger Award winner.

He shared input in Mr. Grimes' absence, noting Mr. Grimes hates to miss board meetings but wanted to congratulate all of the individuals that were recognized this evening.

Mrs. Wheeldon noted that April 23 is National School Bus Driver Day and encouraged parents and students to acknowledge their school bus drivers and the work that they do everyday.

Mr. Schulz thanked and acknowledged the efforts of all who helped with the Superintendent search. He thanked Dr. Boezeman and Dr. Phillips for hosting the Design Architect presentations. He noted that he is looking forward to working with others to address the Senate Bill 1 needs of the district.

Next School Board Meeting:
Regular Board Meeting, April 29, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Columbus North High School, Cafeteria

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

[Signature]
Secretary

Attest: [Signature]
President