

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held in the cafeteria at Columbus North High School, Columbus, Indiana, on Monday, April 24, 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

Absent: 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, opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

WHO/WHY

PUBLIC HEARING:

GO (General Obligation) Bond - First Preliminary Determination Hearing (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips reviewed the bond process and noted the GO Bond is to complete the full renovation project at Schmitt Elementary School and is a tax-neutral bond.

Mr. Phillips shared that this is the first preliminary determination public hearing. There will be two public hearings in May; the second preliminary public hearing followed by a project public hearing. There will be steps at further school board meetings to approve final resolutions. This is the same process the district followed for the Parkside Elementary School project renovation.

There were no comments from the board or the public.

The Public Hearing concluded at 6:35 p.m.

Mrs. Wheeldon called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees to order at 6:35 p.m.

SPECIAL APPROVALS:

Human Resources Administrator Approvals (Dr. Roberts/Dr. Pleak)

- **Clifty Creek Principal**

Dr. Roberts made a recommendation to hire the current Clifty Creek Elementary Assistant Principal Mr. Patrick Mahaffey as the Principal of Clifty Creek Elementary. Dr. Roberts noted that an interview committee of 12 individuals provided feedback regarding Mr. Mahaffey. The committee noted he is approachable, has a sense of humor, values parents, communicates effectively, and can continue the great momentum that exists within the Clifty Creek community. Dr. Roberts shared Mr. Mahaffey's educational background and experience and noted Mr. Mahaffey was on the original BCSC leadership team for Legado and is both bilingual and bi-literate in Spanish.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the recommendation to hire Mr. Patrick Mahaffey as principal of Clifty Creek Elementary, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried 5-0. Mr. Major abstained.

Mr. Mahaffey thanked Dr. Roberts and the board for entrusting him with this position, and Dr. Pleak and Dr. Hack for their support during the process and throughout his time with BCSC. He noted he is excited to lead the charge in supporting the growth of staff and the programs at Clifty Creek.

- **Director of ELL**

Dr. Roberts made a recommendation to approve Ms. Nicole Leach as the Director of ELL. Dr. Roberts shared that Ms. Leach is a teacher of record in the Clark Pleasant Community School Corporation. Dr. Roberts reviewed her educational background and experience. He shared that she presents across the state and the nation on topics relating to ELL students. She collaborated with BCSC during the planning process and launch of the Legado Spanish Immersion Academy. She also provided site visits and feedback to BCSC and the Clifty Creek leadership.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the recommendation to hire Ms. Nicole Leach as the Director of ELL, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Major.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried 6-0.

Ms. Leach noted that she has admired the work in the BCSC district and at Clifty Creek and shared she is very excited to get started working with the team.

- **Director of Special Education**

Dr. Roberts made a recommendation to hire the current Assistant Director of Special Education Mrs. Jessica Vogel as the Director of Special Education. He noted that all of her professional years as an educator have been with BCSC. Dr. Roberts shared her educational background and experience and noted that Mrs. Vogel is a proud product of BCSC personally and professionally.

Mr. Nowlin made a motion to approve the recommendation to hire Mrs. Jessica Vogel as the Director of Special Education, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Grimes.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried 5-0. Mr. Major abstained.

Mrs. Vogel thanked Dr. Roberts and the school board for the opportunity to serve in this role. She thanked her mentors and her family for their support. She shared that she is excited to get started in this new role and continue the work BCSC is doing to create inclusive environments for all students.

RECOGNITIONS:

BCSC Classified Staff (Dr. Pleak)

Dr. Pleak introduced the 2023 Classified Employees of the Year for BCSC. She shared that this was the first year for this recognition. The winners were nominated and voted on by their peers and one winner from each of the 21 buildings throughout the school district was determined. A video showcasing each building winner was shown. The 2023 winners are as follows: Sonny Mitchell – Administration Building; Jerilyn Brewer – Clifty Creek; Priethaa Viswanathan – CSA Fodrea; Jenny Goggin – CSA Lincoln; Cindy Thompson – Mt. Healthy; Kristina Ebersold – Parkside; Pennie Snider - Richards; Erin Engellau - Rockcreek; Twanette Miller – Schmitt; Madhusmita Panda – Smith; Lilly Parker – Southside; Theresa Shelley – Taylorsville; Dave Shroyer – Central; Beth Burbrink – Northside; Patriece Fountain – East; Cheryl Brosey – North; Cathy Caldie – CSA New Tech; Daphne Mace – Johnson Early Education Center; Anastasia Martindale – CVP/CBS/McDowell; Lynn Thexton – ISC; Mike Shuff – T & M. Dr. Pleak noted that out of the approximately 2,000 BCSC employees, 1,100 are classified employees. She shared that these employees represent approximately 260 years of service for the school corporation.

Top 10 Columbus East High School Seniors (Dr. Roberts/Mr. Mark Newell/Mr. Brian Hansen)

Mr. Hansen recognized the seniors and noted the positive impact these students have had on their teachers and the students at CEHS. A video was shown showcasing each student and their post-high school plans and intended college major. The Top Ten students from Columbus East High School are as follows: Caitlyn Smith; Anna Ruth Liimatta; Isabella Westerfeld; Hallie Randle; Sadhna Srikanth; Neil Smith; Alexis Spurgeon; Yutika Sawant; Chloe Krueger; and Elizabeth Deckard.

Top 10 Columbus North High School Seniors (Dr. Roberts/Mr. David Clark/Mr. Pat Pemberton)

Mr. Pemberton thanked the school board for the opportunity to acknowledge the talent that BCSC has at both of the district high schools. He introduced the following Top Ten students from Columbus North High School: Jessica Meza Sanchez; Flynn Keele; Emma Long; Ishna Kesti; Esha Aras; Ananya Ramanujapuram; Bhuvi Kadakia; Jayden Cross; Fareeha Parvin; and Ananya Adur. A video was shown to showcase each student and their post-high school education plans and intended fields of study.

PRESENTATIONS:

C4 – Culinary Arts State Finalist (Dr. Gene Hack/Chef Carrie Douglas)

Dr. Gene Hack presented the demographics, mission, and vision, of the C4 program. He shared the role of the student ambassadors and the different ways they connect within BCSC and with students outside of the district. Dr. Hack acknowledged the many pathway recognitions, club awards, and certifications the C4 students have received and noted several of those students will be participating in a national competition within the next week.

Dr. Hack recognized and introduced Chef Carrie Douglas. Chef Douglas introduced her team of students who won the Indiana ProStart Invitational. This team of seniors will be representing Indiana in the national competition the first week of May in Washington D.C. Chef Douglas noted the competition has helped the students develop strong communication, planning, and teamwork skills.

BOARD COMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Nowlin gave commendations to CNHS teachers Ms. Rachel McIver, Mr. Roth Lovins, and the journalism students. The twelve students traveled to San Francisco, California for the annual high school journalism convention. The following students earned awards at the national level: Claire Davis – Honorable Mention for video editing; Annie Green – Honorable Mention (First Year Photo); Izzy Munn – Honorable Mention (Sports Writing); The Triangle - 9th in best of show. He also provided commendations to Mr. Brad Branham Math Department Chair at CNHS and the CNHS Math League for finishing 2nd in the state. He shared that many of the team's 9 students are freshmen and sophomores.

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to CSA New Tech Principal Mike Reed and students for their recent success in the Boiler Tech Challenge; Dr. Pleak and the Human Resources staff for continuing to seek staff input through surveys and for expanding staff recognitions both to certified and classified employees. He also provided commendations to Superintendent Dr. Roberts who was recently awarded the CoSN Digital Superintendent of the Year Award. Dr. Roberts was presented the award at the CoSN Annual Conference in Austin, Texas.

Mrs. Wheeldon gave commendations to the anonymous food service employee who shared an encouraging word via email to all food service workers.

Mr. Stenner commended all of the students, staff, and parents for their efforts with the Construction Event and wished the best to the Smith Sonics Cyborgs. They will be representing BCSC in Dallas, Texas the first week of May for the National Robotics Championship.

Mr. Major gave commendations to Central Middle School 7th-grade student Nandini Kondhare who received "Best of Show" for her painting in a recent contest; the CSA Lincoln academic teams for their recent achievements, and the CSA Lincoln "2023 Classified Staff Member of the Year" Jenny Goggin.

WHAT

1) School Board Member Reports

Mr. Nowlin reported that on Saturday, April 29 the Council for Youth Development (CYD) will host a Global Youth Service Day. Students who volunteer will spend the day weeding and planting along the People Trail from Parkside Elementary to Middle Road. The next meeting will be on June 7. Mr. Nowlin also reported that the IUPUC Advisory Council met on April 12. He shared the discussion around the advantages and disadvantages of the college Common App, noting that students applying to Indiana University using the Common App can include IUPUC at no cost.

Mr. Grimes attended the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF) South Asian Gala. He shared BCSF received part of the proceeds from live and silent auctions held throughout the evening. The Good, Better, Best 5K will be held on Saturday, April 29. The Grimes/Wallace "Out of the Box" Teaching Award will be presented to BCSC teacher Darin Johnson. He provided a Legislative Report, noting the revenue forecast for the state looks favorable for education K-12. Mr. Grimes provided a report from the Meeting Agenda Subcommittee and shared that the committee plans to present a proposal at the next school board meeting.

Mr. Stenner provided a Business Advisory report. He noted that at the last meeting the committee heard presentations from CSA New Tech seniors on the benefits of PBL (Project Based Learning) in their education. The students also shared their Boiler Tech Challenge experience.

Mr. Stenner gave an update on the citizen request to reevaluate the school district borders in the Shadow Creek subdivision. He noted that Dr. Boezeman will address this request at the next Districting & Facilities meeting and provide feedback to the school board. Mr. Stenner shared that the Public Engagement Subcommittee continues to discuss a policy around public engagement during school board meetings.

Mr. Major reported that the City of Columbus Redevelopment Commission met on April 17. The discussions continue around the hotel conference center and the urban grocer.

2) Cabinet Reports

Q1 Financial Report (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips reported that the Education Fund revenues are up 6.3% from 2022 and he noted that this was expected with the increase in state tuition support. He shared that the Operations Fund revenues are relatively flat but noted the district will receive the first property tax draw in May or June. The Referendum Funds will also be distributed in May or June. Both the Education Fund salaries and benefits are up between 5.6% and 5.9% over 2022 but in line with the budget and the salary increases for the 2022-2023 school year. All other expenditures are in line with the 2022 spending and 2023 budgets.

The Operations Fund salaries and benefits are up 17% from the 2022 levels but in line with budgeted expectations. Mr. Phillips noted that this is a direct result of the changes the School Board approved in June 2022 to establish a minimum salary of \$15/hour (including referendum) and to update hourly rates for several positions. He noted additional increases in the Operations Fund were due to a rise in costs for utilities and fuel and the purchase of new bus routing software and shared all are within the budget. The Operating Referendum expenditures are as expected and within budget.

Mr. Phillips reported the current cash balances including Tax Anticipation Warrants (TAW) as follows: The Education Fund is down \$411K compared to 2022; the district borrowed about \$1.5M less in TAW, so the real balance is up just over \$1M. We do have a 3-pay period month in June this year, so some of the large balances will be corrected next quarter. The Operations Fund is up \$4.5M over YTD

2022, but TAW was \$5.5M more, so net we are down about \$1M as expected with increased investment in people and facilities. The health/dental fund balance is up \$175k and remains well below our target of \$6-6.5M. The Debt Service balance is also down about \$1.2M from 2022, but he noted that the district expected to draw down the cash balance in 2022 due to the changes in the percentage we are allowed to carry by law.

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

If the increase from the state for this calendar year ends up being more than what the district budgeted the school board would be requested to approve an additional appropriation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following Columbus, Indiana residents provided public comment in regards to policy changes (agenda item 3-g): Sarah Leggins; Amy Menefee; Megan Johnson; Misty Hunter; Kelly Wheeler; Anita Brown; Erik Ferrill.

HOW

3) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of April 3, 2023
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- d. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
- e. Secondary Math Resource Adoption
(Mr. Brad Branham/Mr. Ed Vogel/Mrs. Corie Williams/Mrs. Laura Ousley)
- f. 2023-2024 Calendar Change (Dr. Pleak)
- g. NEOLA Policy Recommendations (Dr. Roberts)
- h. 2023- 2024 Student Handbooks (Dr. Roberts)
- i. School Meal Prices (Dr. Boezeman/Ms. Nancy Millsbaugh)

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

Mr. Nowlin asked to pull 3) g from the vote and Mr. Major asked to pull 3) h from the vote.

Mr. Major made a motion to approve items 3) a-f and item 3) i, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

Upon a call of vote the motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Major made a motion to postpone the vote on item 3) g and the motion was seconded by Mr. Grimes.

Upon a call to vote the motion passed 4-2.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve 3)h and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

Upon a call to vote the motion passed 5-1.

4) Human Resources Recommendations (Dr. Pleak)

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

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 was carried 4 to 2.

BOARD INPUT AND REVIEW

Mr. Nowlin noted he is excited that the new team approach for the secondary level will concentrate on helping students with attendance, behavior, and homework. He noted his concern that the reconfiguration plan for CEHS might not have the administrator coverage needed for their student population. He shared that he and Mr. Stenner visited Smith Elementary and CSA Fodrea and noted how great it was to see and hear the learning going on within the classrooms.

Mr. Grimes thanked the community for their input, Dr. Hack and the C4 Culinary team for their presentations, and the many students and staff for their achievements and their positive contributions to the community.

Mrs. Wheeldon recognized the achievements of the Top Ten students from both CEHS and CNHS.


Mr. Stenner thanked both the parents and citizens for the discussion regarding public engagement.

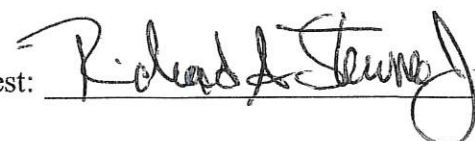
Mr. Major thanked the staff of CNHS for their efforts in the preparation and hosting of the school board meeting.

Mr. Bryant thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for engaging in public comments.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.


Secretary

Attest: 
President

