BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024

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, May 13, 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: Mr. Rich Stenner, Vice President
         Mr. Pat Bryant, Member
         Mr. Dale Nowlin, Member
         Mr. Jason Major, Member
         Mr. Logan Schulz, Member
         Mr. Todd Grimes, Secretary

Absent: Mrs. Nikki Wheeldon, President

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.

Mr. Stenner, the Vice President, opened the board meeting at 6:30 p.m.
PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING PERSONNEL APPROVALS

No one signed in or asked to provide public comment regarding the personnel approvals.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

● Dr. Pleak requested approval to appoint Dr. Brett Boezeman as the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations for the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation.

  Mr. Bryant made a motion to appoint Dr. Boezeman, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Schulz.

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

  Dr. Phillips noted that this was a change in title for Dr. Boezeman. He shared that Dr. Boezeman has served in several roles throughout the district. He is the current Director of Operations, has been the Principal at Schmitt Elementary, Assistant Principal at Northside Middle School and taught in both Danville Community and Indianapolis Public Schools.

  Dr. Boezeman expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the support and noted he looks forward to continuing to give forward to BCSC.

● Dr. Pleak requested approval to appoint Dr. Erin Stalbaum as the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources for the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation.

  Mr. Grimes made a motion to appoint Dr. Stalbaum, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

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

  Dr. Phillips introduced Dr. Stalbaum and noted that her most recent role has been with the Monroe County Community School district as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Professional Learning. Her prior experience includes work as Director of the Transformation Zone and Systems Improvement at Kokomo School Corporation, Senior School Improvement Specialist for the Indiana Department of Education and for nearly a decade a teacher at Greenwood Community Schools.

  Dr. Stalbaum thanked the district for the opportunity and noted she is honored to join the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation in a position that focuses on the faculty and staff who shape students' lives and have an immense impact on the community.

● Dr. Pleak requested approval to appoint Mr. Josh Giebel as the Principal of CSA New Tech High School.

  Mr. Nowlin made a motion to appoint Mr. Giebel, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Major.
Upon a call to vote, the motion was carried unanimously 6-0.

Dr. Phillips noted that Mr. Giebel has been the director of Columbus Virtual Pathway for the past three years. He now returns to CSA New Tech High School where he started his BCSC career as a math teacher for eight years and guidance counselor for three.

Mr. Giebel thanked those who he has worked with for their guidance and support and shared that he is thrilled to return to CSA New Tech and build on the incredible legacy left by the students, staff and leaders.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**Southside Elementary Mathstangs - Math Bowl State Finalists**

Principal Mr. Jeff Backmeyer introduced and recognized academic coach and teacher Mrs. Mandy Keele and congratulated the team on their achievement. Mrs. Keele noted that this year's focus for the Math Bowl competition was algebra. She shared that the students collaborated well, remained calm, focused and confident while solving and analyzing difficult problems under pressure. Those students receiving the state title in the Blue Class Elementary Math Bowl competition are as follows: Advay Anup, Amay Anup, Siddarth Bathula, Ruhana Goyal, Advait Jain, Boden Keele, Niharika Kota, Tymur Kukharskyi, Shreyan Kulkarni, Sicen Liu, Natalie Munger, Ritvik Prithivi Raj, Sreekar Reddem, Advait Shende, Stavyah Suresh, Avni Tayal, Hamsika Vennamaneni, Luke Wu, Catherine Yang and Xavier Zhang.

**School Board Members EGA Award**

Dr. Roberts noted the Indiana School Board Association (ISBA) recently recognized the BCSC School Board for their various professional development activities. Dr. Roberts presented the Exemplary Governance Award to Vice President of the School Board Mr. Rich Stenner.

**2024 BCSC Retirees**

Dr. Pleak introduced the 2024 retirees, noting their cumulative 748 years of service to BCSC students within the community. Those employees are as follows: Karen Allen, Kelly Boes, Laura Burbrink, Tanya Butler, Adele Cordes, Kathy Denniston, Waltraud Denton, Melody Gess, Anita Grider, Karen Hollowell, Anna Jacobson, Ronald Joy, Robin Kiel, Gail Koors, Andrew Larson, Tracy Lykins, Diana Mann, Karen Misner, Anne O’Neill, Michael Reed, Susan Riddle, James Roberts, Suzanne Romanski, Mary-Jane Shireman, Kelly Stultz, Dana Thompson, Jana Thompson, and Bobbie Watts.

**Academic Bowl - State Finalists**

Columbus North High School Principal Mr. David Clark commended the students and the coaching efforts of academic coach Mr. Bryan Campbell. Mr. Campbell thanked those who have supported the academic teams. He introduced the academic coaching staff and acknowledged the state championship placements. The academic bowl team members are as follows: Addison Hobbs, Argun Pattel, Harshil Gandhi and Michael Cross.

Northside Middle School Principal Mr. Evan Burton thanked the coaching staff and introduced the following Northside Middle School academic team state champions: Arjun,
Vajapeyazula, Anand Neela, Krishna Seethanaboina, Aaron Lecher, Niranjan Pillai, Juan Perez, Alisha Singh, Arsema Tewolde, Nitya Hurli, Isabelle Bailey.

Central Middle School Principal Mr. Jay Payne introduced academic coach and teacher Mrs. Karla Eudy. She recognized the achievements of the following students: Sarthank Kamble, Dharnesh Sutharsan, Sujay Pingale, Ronit Mengale, Shree Mudigonda.

**Governor’s Work Ethic Certificates**
C4 Director Dr. Gene Hack reviewed the qualifications of the Governor’s Work Ethic certificate and recognized the following students: Molly Bray, Greta Brown, Austin Clark, Victoria Cuhadar, Zhumi Ferrer, Carter Gant, Hannah Gladden, Valeria Gomez Pedral, Greta Hemmerlein, Antoinette Hughes, Jerry Hughes, Alivia Jordan, Elaina Major, Brilynn Martin, Frankie Polyak, Riley Posey, Caylynn Pruitt, Jacob Stansbury, Adyson States, Grace Wheatley, Delaney Williams, Jasmine Yang.

**Smith Elementary Sonic Cyborgs - World Championships**
Smith Elementary Principal Mrs. Casey Voelz thanked the coaches and noted their commitment and partnership with the robotics team. She commended the following students for a great season: Colin Swartzbaugh, Dawson Payne, Evan Bush and Owen Johns.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**School Spotlight - Clifty Creek**
Clifty Creek Principal Mr. Patrick Mahaffey introduced music teacher Ms. Kaila Lifferth. Ms. Lifferth noted studies and provided references that continue to show that when students participate in music programs they will often do better in school, have higher GPAs, higher reading and math scores and better cognitive/motor capabilities. She shared that in addition to weekly music classes, Clifty Creek students can participate in choir, strings, traditional band and rock band. Ms. Lifferth noted that the increased interest students had for pop and rock music led her to use her school budget to purchase acoustic guitars, learn how to play the guitar herself and seek donations for additional instruments. She now teaches ukulele and keyboard to first grade students and guitar and drums to the fourth graders.

She shared that the Clifty Creek students just finished their third year of Battle of the Bands. The students wrote nineteen original songs and five were selected to be played for the Battle of the Bands event. Ms. Lifferth noted the importance of having students be part of dreaming, planning and accomplishing. She thanked the many community partners who helped to support and make the event a success.

**WHAT**

1) **School Board Member Reports**
Mr. Schulz provided a CCIC meeting update noting that much of the discussion centered around senior projects and recommendations for professional development days for staff.

Mr. Grimes provided a BCSF update noting school scholarship recipients. He shared that Mr. Nowlin continues his efforts to raise donations to purchase eyeglasses for students and fund
dual credit courses for students. He noted that the annual BCSF campaign has begun and donation information can be found on the website www.bcsfstars.org.

2) Cabinet Reports

Food Service Update (Dr. Boezeman/Ms. Nancy Millspaugh)

Dr. Boezeman introduced and thanked Ms. Millspaugh and her team. Ms. Millspaugh provided an annual update of the Food Service program, noting an increase in school meal participation. She shared the new food options available to students and staff including farm produce and reviewed the federal meal requirements. In June the district will be hosting a culinary workshop for food service staff. The knowledge learned will provide food service the opportunity to feature additional choices on the upcoming fall menu. She reviewed the USDA final rule requirements and provided information regarding the summer feeding program. She shared that the Indiana Sun Bucks program enrollment is now open for students. This program is a permanent summer meal program replacing the Pandemic EBT.

Ms. Millspaugh reviewed the The Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, the national paid lunch price averages and noted the need for a proposed $0.10 increase for the 2024-2025 school year in order to provide higher quality and additional meal choices for students.

High School Cohort Update (Mr. Edwards)

Mr. Edwards thanked both of the high school cohort teams for their work in implementing the high school team model. He noted the information in his presentation covers the first through the third quarters of the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Edwards outlined the team structure and shared that in order to impact team success the cohort stays engaged with the student through weekly and quarterly team meetings, consistent review, and identifying and implementing strategies. The students have become familiar with their team and what cohort to reach out to for assistance.

He reviewed enrollment numbers and noted that even if a student attends CVP, McDowell or CSA they are still tied to their home school of either CEHS or CNHS. The teams are constantly looking at grades, monitoring and partnering with teachers to receive feedback and using strategies to help students move forward.

The change in the ADM count prior to the cohort model implementation shows that the district is doing a better job of retaining BCSC students.

One of the goals of the cohort model is to increase the family contact rate. The rate through the third quarter was 80.03% of families contacted, with the goal of contacting 100% of families by the end of the school year.

He reviewed the attendance rate and noted that there has not been much change. The district is out pacing the state rate. The graduation rate through quarter three is projected to be 87%. The graduation diploma types were reviewed by the numbers. Mr. Edwards shared that under a new law in Indiana, waivers can account for no more than 9% of reported graduates starting with the 2023-2024 cohort. In 2024-2025 the maximum allowable percentage slides to
6%, and it becomes 3% each year thereafter. The law doesn’t restrict the number of waivers a district can grant, but it impacts what districts can report as part of their graduation rates. The numbers above the limits are considered as not graduating for reporting purposes, however, students can still receive a diploma and graduate. The discipline data shows improvement and appears to be moving in the right direction.

Mr. Edwards noted that feedback will soon be gathered from teachers through a survey and shared with the board through Friday Notes.

The following information was shared from questions from the board:

The general diploma is an option. Parents have to sign off indicating that they understand and are aware that their student will be receiving a general diploma.

The waiver is the pathway portion of the requirement and the student would receive a Core 40 diploma.

The students will now have the opportunity to be in summer school to make up for lost proficiency and earn credit.

Defined benchmarks for projected future graduation rates can be made available after the conclusion of the school year.

The collaboration is high among high school principals.

ADM Net decline is due to students graduating early, moving out of the district or dropping out of school.

**HOW**

**Public Comments:** No one signed in to provide Public Comments.

3) **Request for Approval – Old Business**

a. Minutes of the Regular Scheduled School Board Meeting of April 29, 2024.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve 3)a, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Schulz.

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

4) **Requests for Approval - New Business**

b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)

c. Field Trips and Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
d. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
e. Claims and Payroll (Dr. Phillips)
f. Permission to declare C4 equipment as surplus (Dr. Boezeman/Dr. Gene Hack)
g. Permission to set school meal prices 2024-2025 (Dr. Boezeman)
h. Permission to approve contract for Construction Manager as Constructor for the New Elementary (Dr. Boezeman)
i. Permission to approve contract for Construction Manager as Constructor for Smith Elementary School and East High School (Dr. Boezeman)
j. Permission to approve High Ability Application and Budget (Mrs. Shaff)

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

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve 4)b-g and i-j, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion to approve 4)b-g and i-j carried 6-0.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve 4)h and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion to approve 4)h carried 4-2.

5) Human Resources Recommendations (Dr. Pleak)

Mr. Schulz 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 carried unanimously 6-0.

6) Additional Human Resources (Dr. Pleak)

There are no additional Human Resources for board approval.

BOARD INPUT REVIEW

Mr. Nowlin shared his appreciation to celebrate teachers, coaches and students. He thanked Ms. Millspaugh for the Food Services report and Mr. Edwards for the high school cohort update.

Mr. Schulz congratulated and thanked the BCSC retirees. He shared his appreciation for Mr. Edwards’ high school teams update.

Mr. Grimes thanked Mr. Edwards on his efforts with the cohort update, Ms. Millspaugh for her Food Service report, the Clifty Creek team on the importance of music, and congratulated the 28 BCSC retirees.

Mr. Stenner thanked the community and parent support for all of the students that were recognized.
Mr. Major thanked the foundation who provided the senior scholarships to students and congratulated the C4 students who received awards from the Indiana High School Architecture Design competition.

Mr. Bryant congratulated the newly appointed administrators and each of the schools for their academic achievements.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**
Regular Board Meeting, June 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Administration Building, Terrace Room

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

___________________________ Secretary

Attest: ___________________________ President