

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, MAY 8, 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, May 8, 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: Mr. Rich Stenner, Vice President
Mr. Todd Grimes, Secretary
Mr. Jason Major, Member
Mr. Dale Nowlin, Member
Mr. Logan Schulz, Member

Absent: Mrs. Nikki Wheeldon, President
Mr. Pat Bryant, Member

Administration: Dr. Jim Roberts, Superintendent
Dr. Gina Pleak, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Mr. 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 Title Services
Dr. George Van Horn, Director of Special Education

Absent: Mr. William Jensen, Director of Secondary Education

Attorney: Mr. Michael McIver, School Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Mr. Stenner, the Vice President, opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

WHO/WHY

PUBLIC HEARING - GO (General Obligation) Bond

Second Preliminary Determination Hearing and Project Hearing (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips reviewed the bond process and noted the \$15M proposed GO Bond is to complete the full renovation project at Schmitt Elementary School and is a tax-neutral bond. Mr. Phillips noted that the Public Hearing covers both the required Project and the Second Preliminary Determination Hearings. The next requested action of the board will take place at the July 17, 2023 board meeting with the final Public Hearing and request of approval to issue the bonds.

There were no comments from the board or the public.

The Public Hearing concluded at 6:32 p.m.

Mr. Stenner called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees to order at 6:33 p.m.

RECOGNITIONS:

Southside Elementary Mathstangs – Math Bowl State Finalist (Mr. Jeff Backmeyer)

Southside Elementary Principal Mr. Jeff Backmeyer thanked the school board for the opportunity to honor and recognize the hard work of the students. He also thanked Math Bowl Coach Mrs. Mandy Keele, the students, and their parents for their commitment and continuous extra efforts. Mrs. Keele shared that the Math Bowl focus for the year was data analysis and probability. She noted that the scores statewide reflected the difficult and intense competition environment the students endured. She shared that the students earned a statewide third-place finish and noted their ability to remain positive, support one another, and increase their overall excitement to learn.

Smith Elementary - Sonic Cyborgs (Dr. Hack/Mrs. Casey Voelz/Ms. Lisa Haines)

Smith Elementary Principal Mrs. Casey Voelz thanked the school board and the community for their support and thanked those individuals who volunteered their time and efforts towards the robotics competition. Before the school board meeting, the Cyborg Team gave a demonstration of their competition challenge. Mrs. Voelz noted that the team scored third place in their division in the state and placed 80th in the nation. STEM teacher, 2023 Smith Elementary Teacher of the Year and Coach Ms. Lisa Haines, had the students introduce themselves and share their roles in the competition.

Central Middle School – Academic Super Bowl State Finalist (Mr. Jay Payne)

Central Middle School Principal Mr. Jay Payne shared that Central Middle School hosted the Indiana Academic Super Bowl event. The team participated in five areas of competition: Math, Science, Social Studies, English, and Intra-Disciplinary. The 7th-grade team was State Champion in Social Studies and Science. Mr. Payne introduced the academic coaches: Social Studies- Mrs. Karla Eudy, Science- Ms. Maddie Klopfenstein, Math- Ms. Beth Flamion, and English- Mrs. Mindy Summers. The students introduced themselves and the team(s) they represented.

2023 BCSC Retirees (Dr. Pleak)

Dr. Pleak thanked the school board for the opportunity to recognize the retirees and their years of service. She shared that a total of 36 employees submitted their intent to retire. Of those employees, 12

of them are certified and 24 are classified with a total of 713 ½ years of experience. Dr. Pleak congratulated the following employees and noted their length of service and commitment to students and the community. Cathy Clubb – 35 years; Mark Coomer – 22 years; Donneal Cottrill – 36 years; Shirley Jefferson – 8 years; Cathleen Melbert – 20 years; Susan Parsons – 24 years; Julie Perkinson – 3 years; Suzanne Phillips – 24 years; Joyce Shireman – 29 years; Pamela Smith – 18 years; Lisa Wheeler – 32 years; Rebecca England – 30 years; Leonard Pogue – 9 years; Debra Pfaffenberger – 3 years; Marc Kovens – 16 years; Cathleen Caldie – 23 years; Bridgette Van Horn – 23 years; Debora Acton – 23 years; Kathryn James – 9 years; Roger Schaefer – 8 years; Deanna Bastian – 11 years; Luann Weinantz – 8 years; Arlene Coffelt – 21 years; Jerry Mihay – 32.5 years; Kim Bockover – 36 years; Bill Jensen – 25 years; Peter Warren – 4 years; Pete Huse – 8 years; Sandy Spall – 15 years; Jeff Metz – 36 years; George Van Horn – 23.5 years; Michelle Blasdel – 27 years; John Green – 25 years; Patrick Pemberton – 11 years; and Betty Richardson – 19.5 years.

PRESENTATIONS:

Northside Middle School Best Practice (Mr. Evan Burton / Mrs. Monica Notestine)

Principal Mr. Evan Burton reviewed the demographics of the building. He shared that Northside Middle School currently has 854 students enrolled, is growing in diversity, and noted that the staff is excited to be celebrating 15 years of the Global Studies Pathway.

Mr. Burton shared that NMS is working to remove barriers to ensure that all Northside students have the opportunity to be involved. He noted the NMS staff wants to provide numerous opportunities for students to be involved in activities that are before or after school as well as built into the school day. The cost to be involved in programs can often be a barrier. He shared that great care is taken to reduce or eliminate as much cost as possible to participate in an activity. Many clubs or athletics have no cost and funds from the athletic department are used to offset or defray costs to families. Mr. Burton noted that the staff doesn't want to exclude students from participation in an extracurricular activity for academic reasons. For the past two years, there has been a free after-school homework help session available to all students.

Ms. Notestine noted the academic team opportunities. She shared that several academic teams have placed in the top ten in competition over the last school year. Many opportunities are provided to students during the school day so that students do not have to stay after school hours. She shared that 25 clubs are sponsored by NMS teachers. Mr. Burton spotlighted the Urban Greenhouse Club by showing a video to highlight the new club and the benefits the club provides for Northside Middle School students and staff.

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

Each year students have the opportunity to introduce and seek approval for ideas they may have for a new club.

Approximately 376 Northside Middle School students participate in extracurricular sports.

BOARD COMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Nowlin gave commendations to both high school theater departments for their spring productions and the following CNHS academic teams for state finals qualifications: Science team of Preetham Yerragudi, Grace Huang, Adrian Perez, Michael Crossman, HP Devaguptapu, and Coach John

Murphy for state placement and the math team of Michael Crossman, Harshil Gandhi, Grace Huang, Ishan Jasuja, Jianing Wang, and Coach Mike Spock for defending their State Champion title.

Mr. Schulz gave commendations to the C4 Culinary team for their national placement and thanked the team for the strong representation of BCSC and all Hoosiers across the state. He also provided commendations to those involved with organizing Operation Safe Prom. He noted that this is the 33rd year for this program. He thanked former school board member Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Columbus Regional Health, Bartholomew County Emergency Management, local law enforcement, and the Bartholomew County Coroner for their time and efforts in the demonstration.

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to all BCSC teachers in recognition of the National Teacher Month.

Mr. Major gave commendations to Principal Mr. Mike Reed and the students from CSA New Tech for the installation of four community bee hives, one of which is on the New Tech campus. The students help provide care and maintenance of the hives and most recently were part of transferring another hive to the established hive on the New Tech campus.

WHAT

1) School Board Member Reports

Mr. Major provided a Health Trust Committee meeting report noting there was much discussion on health benefits and cost. Mr. John Green was recognized for his many years of service to the committee. Mr. Major noted beneficial discussion was held on expanding the committee, future benefits, and changes to the health clinic. He shared costs are steady.

Mr. Grimes provided a Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF) report. He shared that teacher Mr. Darin Johnson was presented with the “Grimes/Wallace Out of the Box Teacher Award” at the 3rd annual 5K fundraiser event. Mr. Grimes provided an ISBA Legislative update, noting he anticipated receiving additional information on detail to the budget, the 2023 legislative session, and court cases that will affect decisions going forward at the ISBA Region 10, May 10 meeting. The “Meeting Agenda” Subcommittee members are preparing to report at the June school board meeting.

Mr. Nowlin provided a Council of Youth Development (CYD) report. He shared that the CYD and the Indiana Youth Institute (IYI) held a joint data session at the Columbus Learning Center on May 4. CYD and the IYI presented the most recent data comparing Bartholomew County to all of the counties within Indiana.

Mr. Stenner noted that there would be a “Public Engagement” Subcommittee Meeting on Monday, May 15.

2) Cabinet Reports

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

Director of Food Services Ms. Nancy Millspaugh provided information on the four different children nutrition programs that are provided within BCSC. She shared that the food service department does not operate out of the Operations Fund. The programs are self-supported from federal cash reimbursements based on meal participation by students, non-federal funds from adult meals, a la carte sales, and catering sales. The reimbursable meals must meet federal nutrition requirements and specific nutrition standards for sodium, calories, fat, vegetable subgroups, whole grains, protein, fruits, and milk. Ms. Millspaugh shared the USDA proposed changes for the 2025-2026 school year. Those changes will limit added sugar, further sodium restrictions, and update the Buy American provision. She noted that from the year 2020 through the middle of 2022 the corporation was under various waivers which

allowed free meals to all students. She provided dates and locations for the summer meal program and noted this is the second year for the school corporation to receive the "USDA Summer Meal Program Award". The award recognizes sponsors who go above and beyond requirements to serve high-quality, appetizing, nutritious meals to students. She shared that BCSC is one of the 9 summer food service providers in Indiana to be recognized. She shared that BCSC is exempt from raising meal prices for 2023-2024 for students and noted the Food Service Department employees of the month.

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

There is a need to provide additional meals to individuals but there are restrictions as to where we offer the meals and how we offer them.

The food sites will be held at the following locations for the summer months: Columbus North High School, Smith Elementary, Central Middle School, Donner Park, Heritage Heights, Candlelight Park, and Ashford Apartments.

The Summer Meal Program is advertised both in English and Spanish on ParentSquare, the BCSC website, The Republic, and local radio stations.

Popstickers remain a positive lunch choice for students.

The Appropriation Act of 2023 allows school lunch prices to remain the same for the 2023-2024 school year.

2020 Referendum Metrics Update (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips provided an update on the Referendum Metrics. He reviewed the expenditures for 2022, noting the increase in teacher salaries, classified employee hourly rates, safety and security, and STEM labs. He shared that this information, as well as the budgets and two years of history for the voter-approved eight-year period, is posted on the school corporation website under the Referendum Tab. Mr. Phillips reviewed the goals and their progress: increase the percentage of teaching staff retained each year; increase the number of mental health providers at each of the school sites to serve more students; increase the percentage of teachers trained in developmental assets and/or social-emotional learning; reduce the number of buses that are greater than 12 years old; decrease the percentage of driver routes unfilled or filled by sub drivers; and ensure that all K-6 students have access to engaging STEM opportunities.

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

After a certified teacher has completed their 5th year in the district, a \$5K salary increase is provided as a retention incentive, after 10 years \$10K, and after 15 years \$15K, up to a maximum salary amount or what is collectively bargained with the Columbus Educators Association (CEA).

The district has mental health providers available for each building. School counselors can place a referral for a student to be seen for an evaluation by one of those providers. The school counselor sees

a student for general needs. A therapist seeks additional detail, may see the student more often and may also work with the family of the student.

The 92% retention goal accounts for both retirements and resignations.

The corporation will work on resetting mental health goals based on need. We work with community groups to determine, understand, and identify the mental health needs of students.

The school corporation will continue to seek out more opportunities for partnerships within the community with STEM and mental health needs.

Tracking of the retention rates will be completed by September 15, 2023, and will be presented at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals provided public comment towards board agenda approval item 3) g - NEOLA Policy Recommendations:

1. Shirley Trapp
2. Julie Abedian
3. Tony Plattner
4. Kathy Oren
5. David Vincent
6. Sara Dunlap
7. Kristin Munn
8. Angie Grimes
9. Lori Thompson
10. Dan Oren
11. Laura Garrett

HOW

3) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of April 24, 2023
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- c. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- d. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
- e. 2023 GO Bond Project Resolutions (Mr. Phillips)
 - Adopt Project Resolution
 - Adopt Preliminary Determination Resolution
 - Adopt Preliminary GO Bond Resolution
 - Adopt Reimbursement Resolution
- f. Permission to declare classroom furniture obsolete (Dr. Boezeman)
- g. NEOLA Policy Recommendations (Dr. Roberts)

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

Mr. Shultz asked to pull approval item 3) g from the vote.

Mr. Schulz made a motion to approve items 3) a-f and the motion was seconded by Mr. Major.

Upon a call of the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Nowlin made a motion to amend the previous motion to approve item 3) g. He proposed an amendment to Policy 9150 and the motion was seconded by Mr. Grimes.

Upon to call to vote the motion passed unanimously.

After additional discussion and recommendations were reviewed, the amended original motion (approval of the policies as presented with the adjustment of po 9150) was approved 3-2. Mr. Stenner, Mr. Grimes, and Mr. Nowlin voted "aye" and Mr. Schulz and Mr. Major voted "nay".

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. Schulz

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

BOARD INPUT AND REVIEW

Mr. Grimes thanked the community members and stakeholders for their comments regarding policy changes, Mr. Burton and Mrs. Notestine for their Best Practice presentation and congratulated the students for their academic achievements.

Mr. Schulz congratulated all BCSC retirees. He noted he continues to strive to look through the lens of all parents and noted that often eating lunch at school is the only opportunity a parent working second shift has with their child.

Mr. Nowlin noted his appreciation for the emails he received regarding policy recommendations and thanked those individuals that came to speak on the policy changes.

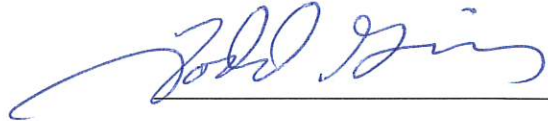
NEXT BOARD MEETING

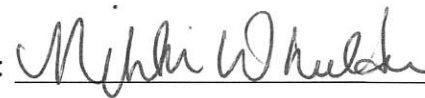
Board Subcommittee Meeting - Public Engagement, May 15, 6:00 p.m.
Administration Building, Terrace Room

Executive Session of the Board, May 16, 5:30 p.m.
Administration Building, Boardroom

Regular Board Meeting, June 12, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Administration Building, Terrace Room

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.


Secretary

Attest: 
President