

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, MAY 9, 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, May 9, 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: Mrs. Nikki Wheeldon, Vice President
 Mr. Rich Stenner, Secretary
 Mr. Todd Grimes, Member
 Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member
 Mr. Pat Bryant, Member
 Dr. Julie Bilz, Member

Absent: Dr. Jill Shedd, President

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
 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. Michael McIver, School Attorney

REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Stenner provided Reflections.

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

Mrs. Wheeldon, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

WHO/WHY

RECOGNITION:

Governor's Award (Dr. Roberts/Senator Greg Walker)

Indiana State Senator Greg Walker presented the Circle of Corydon Award to the Director of Health Services, Mrs. Kelli Thompson. Senator Walker shared the history of the award, noting it is presented to Hoosiers who have made a remarkable contribution to the betterment of Indiana and its people. He noted Mrs. Thompson has demonstrated inspirational leadership among her peers and thanked her for her contribution to educational excellence. Senator Walker congratulated Mrs. Thompson and declared her a distinguished member of the Circle of Corydon.

Dr. Roberts commended Kelli for her leadership during the COVID-19 challenges and thanked her for managing all the health areas that deeply affect BCSC students and staff.

Academic State Achievement (Mr. Bill Jensen)

Director of Secondary Education, Mr. Jensen introduced CNHS Senior Matthew Liu as the recipient of the 2022 Governor's STEM Team in Mathematics. Mr. Jensen shared that this particular award is one of the most prestigious academic awards given by the Governor of the State of Indiana. Mr. Jensen acknowledged many of the achievements Matthew has accomplished during his four years at CNHS, a few of those being: Valedictorian of the Class of 2022, a Research Assistant at Morehouse School of Medicine, a National Merit Finalist, First Place State Academic Individual Placement in both math and science, Captain of the CNHS Boys Tennis Team plus Academic All-State and the IHSAA Mental Attitude Award, and two-time first place scholarship recipient of the Betty F. Award for Instrumental Excellence in piano. Matthew plans to study chemistry at either Yale University or Brown University. Matthew thanked BCSC for the academic and extracurricular opportunities that were available to him throughout his high school career.

Southside Elementary – Math Bowl State Champion/Large School Division

Principal, Mr. Jeff Backmeyer introduced and thanked Math Bowl Coach, Mrs. Mandy Keele for her time and effort with the students. Mrs. Keele shared that the Southside Math Bowl team was State Champions in the Large School Division Math Bowl. Mrs. Keele noted how the students worked together to learn how to collaborate, support one another, and stay positive and calm under pressure. The following students were recognized for their achievements: Advay Anup, Sriyan Bathula, Meher Dhingra, Adithya Ganesan, Sidhanth Kashyap, Nandini Kondhare, Marco Miller, Vivian Munger, Grace Ning, Zoey Pan, Niranjan Pillai, Sujay Pingale, Vaishnavi Pinna, Sreekar Reddem, Idhika Shetty, Dharnesh Sutharsan, Suthirth Vikram, Luke Wu, Adam Wu, and Alicia Yang. Mrs. Keele shared that together the students answered 31 out of 32 questions correctly.

CSA Lincoln Campus – Math Bowl State Champion/Small School Division

Principal, Mr. Brett Findley congratulated and introduced Math Bowl Coach, Ms. Clarissa Cook, and the CSA Lincoln Math Bowl Team. Ms. Cook noted the hard work the team put into the competition and shared how the students enjoyed working together. The following students are part of the State Champion Team: Ellie Tibbs, Manisha Mohanty, Adelaide Wright, Eden Gover, Sophia Wills, Luke Farrington, Henry Eickmeyer, Kreigh Keffaber, Mason Lewis, Zaid Warsi, Luca Devidze, Jack Netser, Sophia Pushor, Ben Bosley, Sam Kreisant, Gracen Denoyer, Kennedy Reid, and Pato Amuchastegui.

BCSC Retirees (Dr. Pleak)

Dr. Pleak introduced the forty-five BCSC 2022 retirees and acknowledged their years of service within our school corporation. A video highlighting each BCSC retiree was shown in honor of the following employees: Julia Byers, Greg Lewis, David Rodgers, Teresa Weichman, Amy Dixon, Tammie LeClerc, Linda Riley, Sherry Hashman, Debra Holl, Greg Morris, Shannon Tompkins, Kim Chamberlin, Linda Cain, Shari Sanders, Sue Anne Willey, Betsy Cross, Terri Grant, Jacqueline Cain, Phyllis Erdman, Carol Pennington, Cynthia Bolte, Jerrilou Cole, Eva Cagwin, Barbara Huffman, Donald Crum, Roana Huntsman, Christe Kleffman, Mark Schoettmer, Carolyn Shoup, Ellen Whitworth, Sharon Gohn, Betsy Angyal, Lesley Jones, Mary Pratt, Frances Hundley, Steven Spray, John Shireman, Eleanor Rutan, Jerry Buchanan, William Davis, Sharon Horn, Bruce Lasley, Paul Garland, Ronald Hoskins, Monica Sylvia.

PRESENTATIONS:

Clifty Creek Elementary School Best Practice (Dr. Michael Parsons/Mrs. Kellie McIntyre)

Principal Dr. Parsons, Assistant Principal Mrs. Kellie McIntyre, Music Teacher Mrs. Kaila Lifferth, and Art Teacher Mrs. Vanessa Fledderman-Gutierrez presented the Clifty Creek Best Practice Presentation. The presentation centered around the emphasis Clifty Creek places on the music and art programs. Dr. Parsons noted both music and art make a positive impact on the Pre-K through 6th-grade students and give the students opportunities to increase their knowledge and appreciation of a wide range of artistic expressions. He noted research indicates the arts play a part in academic achievement, cultural responsibility, social/emotional learning and provide equitable opportunities for all students.

He shared the importance of separating work and play, noting how separation of work and play allows activation of two different sides of the child's brain. He noted the importance of students experiencing play inside of the school building.

Music teacher Mrs. Kaila Lifferth has been the Clifty Creek music teacher for 6 years. She has actively sought to incorporate music into the lives of students. She shared that the music program is thriving due to the interest of the students in the classroom and the generous community donations. The main goal is to keep the program student-centered and give students the opportunity for choices. Mrs. Lifferth shared that students have the opportunity to compose their lyrics and melody, and then perform in front of students and staff in The Battle of the Bands. One class in each grade level is chosen to perform their song in front of the entire student body. The winning class receives a trophy to display and the opportunity to create an album cover.

Mrs. Vanessa Fledderman-Gutierrez has been the art teacher at Clifty Creek Elementary for eight years. She shared the benefits of art education and how she has utilized art to transform and embrace the climate of the building in order to make it a welcoming environment for all. She noted that students who participate in the arts demonstrate improved academic performance and are more likely to stay in school. She shared the importance of creating a positive environment for the students, keeping them engaged and showcasing their art work. Mrs. Fledderman-Gutierrez shared how displaying the work of students sends several important messages to students providing them the opportunity to take pride in themselves, their work, and their school. Collective learning has been shown to not only develop higher-level thinking skills in students but boost their confidence and self-esteem as well. Assistant Principal, Mrs. Kellie McIntyre noted the importance of embracing music and art at Clifty Creek. Through focusing on the related arts students are prepared to be expert learners through an equitable system of high-quality curriculum, resources, and educators. She noted that Clifty Creek is colorful, bright, and engaging and students are excited to come to school to learn, work and play.

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

Mrs. Lifferth shared that many of the songs played and sang are collected from the Latin American culture.

Mrs. Fledderman-Gutierrez noted Latin American holidays are celebrated in Spanish and English. We do not look at all of them as separate, but embrace what both cultures have to offer.

The students are allowed to choose what instrument they would like to play.

BOARD COMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Grimes gave board commendations to the following: Central Middle School Math Bowl Team – State Champions; CEHS Fine Arts Department – 2nd place finish; and the success of the C4 Career Week.

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer gave commendations to the CNHS and CEHS Unified Track Teams for placing 5th in their conferences. She also thanked the local law enforcement, emergency management, and the individuals who volunteered for Operation Safe Prom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one signed in to speak on a specific meeting agenda topic.

WHAT

1) School Board Member Reports:

Mr. Stenner reported that there will be a District and Facilities Meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

Mr. Grimes reported the success of the BCSF Good, Better, Best 5K Fundraiser. He also shared that BCSF Director, Nicole Cunningham will be distributing scholarships on May 13 and 18 to BCSC students.

2) Cabinet Reports:

Dr. Roberts reviewed the Referendum Metrics. The Goals and Targets set for the 2020 Operating Referendum are as follows:

*Teacher Retention	
Target: 2021-2022 / 89%	Actual: 2021-2022 / 92%
*Mental Health Providers	
Target 2021-2022 / 10	Actual: 2021-2022 / 32
*Social/Emotional Learning	
Target 2021-2022 / 16%	Actual: 2021-2022 / 34%
*Updated Bus Fleet	
Target 2021-2022 / 32 buses	Actual: 2021-2022 / 32 buses
*Bus Driver Positions Filled	
Target 2021-2022 / 8%	Actual: 2021-2022 / 6%
*STEM Labs (2021-2022 / <75%)	
Target 2022-2023 / 100%	Actual: 2022-2023 / TBD

He noted the top three reasons for teacher resignations to be: a certified position elsewhere, relocation, and career change. He shared the mental health provider additions and provided a summary of the mental health services available. The top concerns among students are anxiety, depressive mood, coping skills, and suicide ideation.

Dr. Roberts noted that with the increase of teachers trained in developmental assets and social/emotional learning, additional resources have been provided to staff and students.

Dr. Roberts shared an update on the continuation to replace the school buses that are greater than 12 years old, noting bus driver positions continue to be a challenge to fill. He noted, however, that the percentage of unfilled drivers is down half from the 2019-2020 school year. Additional certified teachers are being added to allow all elementary students to have weekly STEM Lab opportunities. Dr. Roberts noted that the Community Referendum Metrics Update is available to review on the school corporation website at <http://www.bscschools.org/referendum>.

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

There were more retirements in the years prior to the 2020 Referendum. The numbers indicate teachers are making the decision to remain on board a little longer.

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 April 25, 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. NEOLA Policy 4434 Revision (Dr. Roberts)
- g. Internal Complaint Policy (Dr. Roberts)
- h. Resolution for Professional Development Flexibility Waiver (Dr. Pleak)
- i. Fee Increase for High School Art Courses (Mr. Jensen)

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

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

Upon a call for the vote, Items 3) a-i were unanimously approved.

4) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations (Dr. Pleak)

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

Dr. Bilz made a motion to approve the Human Resources Recommendations and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer.

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

BOARD INPUT AND REVIEW:

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer noted it was a great night for recognitions and thanked Principal, Dr. Michael Parsons, and the Clifty Creek staff for their Best Practice Presentation on the Arts.

Mr. Grimes congratulated all those who were recognized: BCSC Retirees, Academic Teams, Matthew Liu, Mrs. Kelli Thompson, and Dr. Parsons and his staff for their Best Practice presentation.

Mrs. Wheeldon thanked her fellow board members for their support this evening.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



Secretary

Attest: 

President