

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building, Columbus, Indiana, on Monday, July 17, 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. Jason Major, Member
 Mr. Dale Nowlin, Member
 Mr. Logan Schulz, Member

Absent: Mr. Pat Bryant, Member

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
 Mr. Charles Edwards, Director of Secondary Education
 Mrs. Megan Shaff, Director of Title Services
 Mrs. Jessica Vogel, Director of Special Education

Absent: Dr. Brett Boezeman, Director of Operations

Attorney: Mr. Michael McIver, School Attorney

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.

PUBLIC HEARING

GO (General Obligation) Bond - Additional Appropriation Hearing (Dr. Phillips)

Dr. Phillips reviewed the purpose of the Public Hearing. He noted that he did not anticipate the need for additional appropriations during this calendar year.

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

This is the \$15.3M GO Bond to complete the renovation at Schmitt Elementary School.

There were no comments heard from the public. The Public Hearing concluded at 6:33 p.m.

BOARD COMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Major provided commendations to the BCSC teachers and staff for their continuous efforts to learn and grow over the summer months.

Mrs. Wheeldon provided commendations to CEHS Girls Cross Country Coach Jesse Shoaf for his efforts with the team during summer camp.

Mr. Grimes provided commendations to the Indiana State Board of Education for recently streamlining the Indiana State Standards; Columbus East Principal Dr. Michael Parsons for the production of the recent back-to-school video, including the high school teaming concept; all elementary schools that have applied for Purple Star designation; the Wellness Committee for providing the Stress Cycle Workshop; the efforts of the individuals working to establish the BCSC Elementary Cross Country program; and to Dr. Phillips for providing very clear and precise financial updates as well as recently receiving his doctorate.

Mr. Schulz gave commendations to the BCSC Food Service Department for their efforts to provide meals as well as offer a food pantry to students and their families for the summer months.

Mr. Nowlin provided commendations to UDL (Universal Design for Learning) Coordinator Mrs. Rhonda Laswell and those individuals who will be presenting at the UDL Institute, and to Dr. Phillips for serving on a panel for the ISBA (Indiana School Boards Association) Workshop.

WHAT

1) School Board Member Reports

Public Engagement Subcommittee (Mr. Stenner)

Mr. Stenner thanked Mr. Nowlin and Mr. Schulz for their continued work on the committee. The next planned session will be held on Monday, July 31 at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building. This meeting will be open to the public.

Mr. Major provided a City of Columbus Redevelopment Commission update. He noted that at the last meeting the discussion was held regarding TIF (Tax Increment Financing) funding, restructuring, and the distribution of a housing survey in early spring.

2) Cabinet Reports

High School Restructuring (Mr. Edwards)

Mr. Edwards provided an update on the high school restructuring work. He gave details of the May 30 team training day noting that a key step to the day was working with technology to query data out of the student information system. He shared that being able to pull critical information about each student will give each BCSC High School Cohort real-time intervention to keep each student moving forward. The tech team took the questions from the administrators and reached out to Brownsburg Community School Corporation, which has the same student system as BCSC. Their assistance with pulling the needed data has been very beneficial in the training. There will be a total of four opportunities for the staff to train on retrieving data. Mr. Edwards shared that each high school has reconfigured the school office to accommodate the teaming concept and the phone systems and websites have been updated to reflect the teams. The next steps will be setting up a regularly scheduled meeting to keep a regular cadence of accountability.

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

Mr. Edwards' response to how the board can help with the progression is to be patient as each team works through the challenges. He noted that considerable time has been spent considering ways to be prepared and approach the new teaming challenges. He shared that the teams will continue to change direction until each cohort is on course.

With this teaming approach the teachers will have a built-in support system. The teachers will be allowed to remain in the art of teaching as the academic coach manages other aspects of the academic requirements.

We will know more mid-semester and will prepare to update the board at that time.

Q2 Financial Report (Dr. Phillips)

Dr. Phillips provided a Q2 Financial update. The Q2 revenues are up 6.3% (\$2.6M) from the 2022 calendar year. This is the second consecutive year for Education Fund growth at more than 6% through June. He noted that the increase is due to state support and the improving student enrollment numbers. The Operation Fund is up 2.9% (\$477K) and the Operating Referendum is up 8.4% (\$423K) due to the assessed value increases on the rate that was levied.

The Education Fund Expenditures are up due to the shift of an additional payroll in the first part of the year as opposed to the previous calendar year. He shared that in 2022 there were only 12 payrolls through June and this calendar year there are 13 payrolls between January and June. This change has resulted in an 11.7% increase over the 2022 calendar year. He noted that other transfers and expenditures are as expected for this financial quarter.

The Operations Fund Expenditures are up 18% over the 2022 calendar year due to the shift in the payroll schedule for the year and that buses were purchased earlier this year compared to last calendar year. Dr. Phillips noted that each fund is within budget for the 2023 calendar year.

The expenditures for the Operating Referendum Fund are as expected with no notable variances. The teacher salaries are up due to a larger number who qualify for the Referendum retention pay increase. Dr. Phillips noted that the current cash balances (including tax anticipation warrants) are as follows: The Education Fund is down \$2.3M compared to 2022. This is due to the payroll that shifted back to the first half of the year and \$ 1.5M less was borrowed in the Education Fund in 2023. The

Operations Fund is up \$3M compared to 2022, due to \$5.5M that was borrowed in the Operations Fund in 2023 compared to \$0 in 2022.

The Operating Referendum Fund borrowed about \$900k less in 2023 compared to 2022 and the balance is down about \$600k. Dr. Phillips noted that the other \$300k reduction is the shift of the payroll to the first half of the year. He also noted that the Health and Dental Trust balances are up \$1.5M due to the payroll shift and slightly lower claims. The debt service is also down about \$1.1M, which is a result of newer debt replacing older debt.

The Cash balances without TAWs (Tax Anticipation Warrants) are down for the Education Fund and Operation Fund and up for Health and Dental Trust due to the shift in payroll.

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

The Board approves the transfer from Education to Operation Fund in the budget which is a result of a change in the state law. That transfer is made each month and at the end of the year. The final request to transfer is made once the final amount has been calculated. The expenditures in that transfer include custodial, utilities, property liability insurance, and the budgets of Dr. Pleak, Dr. Roberts, and Dr. Phillips.

The impact of the state per pupil amount has just been received and will take effect this next quarter. The textbook allowance from the state will be applied to the new math adoption costs.

A third-party administrator advisor evaluates Health and Dental Trust options often.

3) Policy Updates

Mrs. Wheeldon provided an update on the Public Work Session that occurred before the evening's regular scheduled meeting and noted the policies that were discussed and reviewed.

First Reading – Revision to Policy 6320

Dr. Roberts reviewed the policy changes and noted that there would not be a vote for approval at this meeting. Dr. Phillips noted that the state legislative changes have determined the change that is needed to the policy. This policy revision will allow us to meet the needs of our facilities more efficiently.

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

The State Board of Accounts requires that with each building project that an effort be made to obtain three quotes.

First Reading – Revision to Policy 3220

Dr. Pleak noted that the requested revision allows additional flexibility to the policy and the monies from the grant to be used towards teachers. This is tied to the staff performance from the previous school year. The revision reads as follows: "A cash stipend in an amount of up to 10% of the grant funds to provide a supplemental award to teachers who serve as mentors to teachers who have less than two (2) years of service. The supplemental awards are in addition to the awards made from the part of the grant that is allocated to all eligible teachers."

Second Reading of NEOLA Policy Recommendations – Volume 35 No. 1

Dr. Roberts reviewed the policies and noted the revisions that have been recommended to the board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mr. Mark Niemoeller – Columbus, IN
Mr. Niemoeller provided Public Comments regarding Policy 2464 and Policy 1662.

HOW

4) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of June 12, 2023, and of the Executive Session of July 10, 2023
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
- c. Claims and Payroll (Dr. Phillips)
- d. Approval of the 3-Year Calendar for 2024-2027 (Dr. Pleak)
- e. Resolution for Indiana Purple Star School Designations (Dr. Roberts)
- f. Adopt Final Bond Resolution (Dr. Phillips)
- g. Adopt Recommendations of School Board Agenda Subcommittee (Mr. Grimes)
- h. Approval of an HVAC Project Change-Order (Dr. Boezeman)
- i. Permission to Expend Donations(s) received for Columbus North Athletic Programs (Dr. Phillips)
- j. Permission to Dispose of Laptops and Desktops (Dr. Boezeman/Mr. Nick Williams)

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

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

Upon a call to vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5) 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. Major.

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

BOARD INPUT AND REVIEW

Mr. Major noted the importance of acknowledging the veterans of our community with the approval of the Resolution for the Indiana Purple Star School Designations.

Mr. Stenner shared his appreciation to the Board and Cabinet Members for their work and discussion around policy review during the Public Work Session.

Mr. Grimes thanked the members of the community for attending the Public Work Session.

Mr. Schulz thanked the Board for making strides with policy approvals and the BCSC Administration team for hosting the Public Works Session.

Mr. Nowlin thanked the Board for their valuable time and conversation during the Public Works Session. He noted that the CYD (Council for Youth Development) will host a free, open-to-the-public Developmental Workshop at the Columbus Learning Center from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Strategic Planning Session, July 28, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Administration Building, Boardroom

Public Engagement Subcommittee July 31, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Administration Building, Terrace Room

Regular Board Meeting, August 7, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Administration Building, Terrace Room

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

 Secretary

Attest:  President