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, August 21, 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. Logan Schulz, Member  
Mr. Pat Bryant, Member

Absent:  
Mr. Dale Nowlin, Member

Administration:  
Dr. Jim Roberts, Superintendent  
Dr. Chad Phillips, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services  
Dr. Gina Pleak, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Dr. Brett Boezeman, Director of Operations  
Dr. Laura Hack, Director of Elementary Education  
Mr. Charles Edwards, Director of Secondary Education  
Mrs. Jessica Vogel, Director of Special Education  
Mrs. Megan Shaff, Director of Title Services

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.
RECOGNITIONS:

**BCSC Teacher of the Year (Dr. Pleak)**

Dr. Pleak introduced Mrs. Molly Fountain as the 2023 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Fountain joined BCSC in 2009 as a teacher at Northside Middle School. She has taught 7th-grade World History and 8th-grade US History. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies with minors in Political Science and Economics in 2009 from Purdue University. She has served as a cadet teacher mentor, social studies budget coordinator, new teacher mentor, professional development facilitator, transition to teaching cooperating teacher, BCSC UDL Summer Institute presenter, spell bowl coach, PBIS committee member, CIC member, and participated in the James Madison Legacy Project and CAST Summer Institute. She has been an Indiana Academic Coach of the Year finalist and has received the Ross Wallace Innovation Award. Dr. Pleak shared a summary of the statements from the nomination letters received for Mrs. Fountain.

Mrs. Fountain shared how humbled and grateful she is to be chosen as the 2023 BCSC Teacher of the Year. She noted how much she loves to work with students who are at such an interesting in-between point in their lives. She noted that middle school students are intimidating to some but to her they are the greatest. She shared that getting students excited about learning is one of the favorites of her job. She thanked the BCSC administration, her teaching team, her husband, and family, and her students for their support.

Dr. Pleak shared an update on the 2022 Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Veronica Buckler. Mrs. Buckler was recently selected as part of the IDOE Top 10 Teacher of the Year candidates and will be moving on in the process of identifying the IDOE Teacher of the Year.

On behalf of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF) and staff, Mrs. Nicole Cunningham, Executive Director, presented Mrs. Fountain with a $500 check.

**WHAT**

1) **School Board Member Reports**

Mr. Major provided a City of Columbus Redevelopment Commission meeting update. He shared discussion was held on the following: potential tenants for the Bucceto’s space, the City Recycling Survey, the leasing of the newly constructed Taylor Apartments, and the Riverfront project. Mr. Major also noted that the BCSC Health Trust committee will meet on Wednesday, August 23.

2) **Cabinet Reports**

There were no reports for this board meeting.

3) **Policy Updates (Dr. Roberts)**

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following policies

- po 5420 – Reporting Student Progress
- po 5610 – Suspension and Expulsion of Students
- po 8400 – School Safety
- po 8510 – Wellness

Dr. Roberts noted that the Wellness Committee will continue to review policy 8510 and bring recommendations to the board at the next school board meeting.
Mrs. Wheeldon shared that the board will hold a Public Work Session before the regularly scheduled Monday, September 11, 2023 school board meeting. This work session will allow the board to work as a team to review current policies and have discussion around the establishing of new policies. She noted that policy around library books will be reviewed and discussed. The Public Work Session will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Twenty-six individuals signed in to speak. Of these 26, 16 were able to speak before the 45-minute time limit. Mrs. Wheeldon recognized the 10 individuals who were not called for Public Comment and thanked them for their time. The following individuals provided comments on topics other than an agenda item: John Edwards, Cindy Frye, Beth Stroh, Mary Mills, Barbara Handt, David Spencer, Lori Thompson, Amy Menefee, Dakota Hall, Barbara Day, Decker Cavosie, Mark Niemoeller, Cheryl Noblitt, Chuck Doup, Amy Artis, and Jalon Hobbeheydar.

Mrs. Wheeldon read a petition submitted by School Board Member, Logan Schulz. The petition has been signed by 500 individuals who request the BCSC School Board implement standards on profanity and vulgarity for library books.

4) Requests for Approval - Old Business (Dr. Roberts)
   a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 7, 2023 (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts requested approval of item 4) a.

Mr. Major made a motion to approve Old Business items 4) a, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

Upon a call to vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5) Requests for Approval - New Business (Dr. Roberts)
   b. Field Trips and Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
   c. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Phillips)
   d. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Edwards)
   e. Claims and Payroll (Dr. Phillips)
   f. Title I, Part A Grant (Mrs. Shaff)
   g. Title I, Part D Grant (Mrs. Shaff)
   h. Title II, Part A Grant (Mrs. Shaff)
   i. Title III, Part A Grant (Mrs. Shaff)
   j. Title IV, Part A Grant (Mrs. Shaff)
   k. Permission to Process Change Order to Roofing Contract (Dr. Boezeman)

Dr. Roberts and Mrs. Shaff shared additional information on the reviewed items. Dr. Roberts requested approval of items 5) b-k.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve New Business items 5) b-k and the motion was seconded by Mr. Stenner.
Upon a call to vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6) 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 thanked the custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, maintenance crews, and ground crews for the hard work they put in behind the scenes. He thanked Lori Thompson for using public comments to focus on many BCSC accomplishments.

Mr. Stenner thanked Mr. Chris Smith from Parkside Elementary and Dr. Michael Parsons from CEHS and their staff for building tours, the high school staff for enforcing the rules regarding the new lanyards and those who signed in to provide public comment.

Mrs. Wheeldon thanked the entire BCSC staff for helping keep students healthy, happy, and safe.

Mr. Grimes thanked those individuals who sent emails and took the time to come and share public input. He congratulated both Mrs. Buckler and Mrs. Fountain and thanked Mr. Edwards for the AP (Advanced Placement) data shared in Friday Notes, and Mr. Burnett for the “Communication Connections” newsletter. He wished all high school teams their best in the upcoming cross country, tennis, soccer, and football “Rivalry Week” competitions.

Mr. Schulz thanked those who have provided their time to submit emails and provide public comments.

Dr. Roberts noted a letter presented to the board by fourteen BCSC librarians and library assistants. The letter expressed their concerns in developing standards, given that processes were already in place for both the selection and removal of library books.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Regular Board Meeting, September 11, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Administration Building, Terrace Room

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

______________________________________Secretary

Attest: __________________________________President