

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY AUGUST 8, 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, August 8, 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:                   Dr. Jill Shedd, President  
                              Mrs. Nikki Wheeldon, Vice President  
                              Mr. Rich Stenner, Secretary  
                              Mr. Pat Bryant, Member  
                              Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member  
                              Mr. Todd Grimes, Member  
                              Dr. Julie Bilz, 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  
                              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. Bryant provided Reflections.

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

Dr. Shedd, President, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. She opened the meeting recognizing the "Ready Like" back-to-school video. She gave commendations to Dr. Roberts, Mr. Stephen Shipley, Grade 6 Teacher at CSA Lincoln, and Mr. Josh Burnett, Communications Coordinator, for writing and producing the video.

## WHO/WHY

### **SPECIAL APPROVAL(S):**

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

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

Mr. Bryant 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.

Dr. Roberts recognized the administrative appointments: Mr. Shane Yates, Assistant Director, C4-Columbus Area Career Connection; Mrs. Kellie McIntyre, Pre-K Director, Richard L. Johnson Center; and Mrs. Nikki Ruble, Assistant Principal, Taylorsville Elementary.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Empower Program**

**(Dr. Van Horn/Ms. Mary Hamlin, BCSC Transition Coordinator/ Dr. Jennifer Englert-Copeland, Ivy-Tech, Vice Chancellor for Student Success/ Dr. Joan Poulsen, IUPUC, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs)**

Dr. Van Horn provided a brief overview of the new Empower Program. He noted the program has been designed to benefit students between the ages of 18 and 22 who have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan).

The Empower Program is a 1-2-year transition program on the local AirPark campus, with opportunities for a student to navigate adulthood and gain life-changing skills. Ms. Hamlin, Dr. Englert-Copeland, and Dr. Poulsen outlined the program, noting the collaboration among the team, levels of support within the community, and the end goals for students enrolled in the program.

The BCSC teacher of record, Ms. Violet Toland will manage each IEP, including modifications and accommodations, in collaboration with Ivy Tech's Director of Disability and Support Services, Ms. Sarah Martin. Ms. Toland will collaborate with the student, family, Ivy Tech, and IUPUC mentors to help facilitate the desired life choice of the student.

Dr. Englert-Copeland noted the students in the Empower Program will become Ivy Tech students with college student benefits. She shared that Ivy Tech is a community college with a mission on access and student success and a focus on diversity, equity, and belonging. The students will have an opportunity to experience student life with access to the Bridge and Landing spaces within the Columbus Learning Center. The fees and tuitions will be waived for students in the Empower Program. The projected start date for the program will be in October with the first course geared toward college success.

Dr. Poulsen shared her excitement to see the IUPUC students mentoring the Empower Program students. The peer mentors for the Empower Program will help students navigate the campus, develop

friendships, and provide classroom support. She shared that the Empower Program will allow IUPUC students to see what is possible and available for their students as they prepare as educators in the community.

Ms. Hamlin shared that the work with the faculty members from both Ivy Tech and IUPUC has been enjoyable. She noted the end goal for the program is for BCSC, Ivy Tech, and IUPUC to assure that BCSC students with an IEP are independent adults living, working, playing, and belonging within the community.

Dr. Van Horn noted the community is learning together, and the work continues in order to create new and multiple pathways for students with disabilities. He thanked the City of Columbus for the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dollars to help fund the transitional program, and IUPUC and Ivy Tech for working together to make these opportunities available for students.

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

The times will be the same as a typical school day. The student will utilize public transportation to class.

Students will have a specific time to meet with both IUPUC and Ivy Tech staff members and mentors.

The Empower Program will begin with 2-4 students.

Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer thanked the school corporation for creating an independent living environment for students with disabilities.

The public transportation needs throughout the county are a barrier. The conversation continues with city and county officials to help determine transportation options.

#### **BOARD COMMENDATIONS:**

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to the following: those involved with the "Ready Like" video production and the "Back to School Guide" publication. He commended both CEHS and CNHS students who took AP (Advanced Placement) courses. The mean scores for BCSC students exceeded scores throughout Indiana in 17 out of 27 AP course exams. He noted that BCSC offers AP course access for all students.

Ms. Wheeldon thanked the corporation for providing efficient back-to-school open houses and commended the bus drivers in the corporation.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Eric Grow requested the school board members partner with the community for open public discussion.

#### **WHAT**

##### **1) School Board Member Reports:**

Mr. Grimes provided an update on the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF).

He noted the campaign “Giving Hearts for Growing Minds” is underway and has received several sponsorships.

A 5K Fundraiser, “Bright Futures for All”, will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022. The event will be held at the BCSC Soccer Complex at 8:30 a.m. Registration for the event will take place on the website [www.bcsfstars.org](http://www.bcsfstars.org).

## **2) Cabinet Reports:**

### **Teacher Performance Evaluations (Dr. Pleak)**

Dr. Pleak presented the Annual Certified Staff Performance Evaluations. The required presentation is based on this past school year’s (2021-2022) evaluation results. She shared the averages from 2013-2014 through the 2021-2022 school year and noted the averages stayed consistent throughout the five domains of UDL (Universal Design for Learning), the behavior framework of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports), Academic Citizenship, Academic Success, and Learning Outcomes. She gave a brief synopsis of where BCSC teachers attended and graduated college and how those graduates performed within the five domains.

She shared the total years of BCSC experience versus the years of experience within their profession. More years of service yielded higher evaluation scores.

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

Professional Development continues in the instructional framework of UDL and the behavior framework of PBIS.

Each school identifies the areas they need to develop and then plans professional development accordingly.

The evaluations serve as a guide for improvement.

## **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 July 18, 2022
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- c. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- d. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
- e. Teacher Appreciation Grant Policy (Dr. Pleak)

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

Dr. Bilz made a motion to approve the reviewed items and seconded the motion. Upon a call for the vote, Items 3) a-e were unanimously approved.

**BOARD INPUT AND REVIEW**

Mr. Grimes thanked Dr. Van Horn, Ms. Hamlin, and the partners at Ivy Tech and IUPUC for their collaboration in creating the Empower Program.

Mr. Stenner noted the challenges of student transportation and thanked all of the employees involved in getting students to and from school. He also noted the efforts of Mr. Nick Williams and the Technology Department for the initiation of the ParentSquare platform.

Dr. Shedd thanked everyone involved in the start of the school year and noted the seemingly smooth start to the new year.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, August 22, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

  
Secretary

Attest:  President

