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, IN 47201, on Monday, September 14, 2020 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.

The members of the Board were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: 
Mr. Jeff Caldwell, President  
Dr. Jill Shedd, Vice President  
Mr. Rich Stenner, Member  
Mr. James Persinger, Member  
Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member  
Dr. Julie Bilz, Member

Absent: 
Mr. Pat Bryant

Administration: 
Dr. Jim Roberts, Superintendent  
Ms. Teresa Heiny, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Mr. Chad Phillips, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services  
Dr. Laura Hack, Director of Elementary Education  
Mr. William Jensen, Director of Secondary Education  
Dr. Gina Pleak, Director of Title Services  
Dr. Brett Boezeman, Director of Operations  
Dr. George Van Horn, Director of Special Education

School Attorney:  
Mr. Chris Monroe

**REGULAR SESSION**

Dr. Bilz shared reflections.

Following the pledge of allegiance and determination of quorum the meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Mr. Caldwell referenced the Mission and Vision statements as well as noted the high expectation objectives.
WHO/WHY

Presentation of TIFS for Education (Dr. Roberts/Mayor Lienhoop/Mr. Jensen/Mr. Phillips)

Dr. Roberts introduced and thanked the Mayor, Mr. Jim Lienhoop, as well as the City of Columbus, for graciously working alongside BCSC with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dollars. Mayor Lienhoop thanked BCSC for the continued partnership and presented the school corporation with a $750,000 check. The Mayor shared how impressed the Redevelopment Commission and the City Council were with how the TIF dollars were used throughout the corporation. He stated this is the fifth year the City of Columbus and BCSC has partnered together to provide programs related to STEM – science, technology, engineering and math, i-Grad, and transition training for those students with special needs. The Mayor expressed how important the continued partnership is to the City of Columbus as well as himself and shared appreciation for the efforts into these three programs.

Update: Reopening Plan for 2020-2021 (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts noted the start of week six for students and also made note to Friday, September 18 as the official ADM count day. He emphasized the date is very valuable and noted the more students enrolled on that particular date the more funding the school corporation will receive to provide resources for instruction. He also noted updated enrollment will be provided at the next board meeting on Monday, September 28.

He shared the percentages of mask compliance, both on the elementary and secondary level over the last two weeks.

- Elementary = 95.4%
- Secondary = 95.0%
- Overall = 95.2%

He noted most of the non-compliance observations are based on masks being worn below the nose and in some cases this occurs due to the masks being too big for the smaller children.

Dr. Roberts shared that the physical distancing concerns continue to be one of the biggest challenges with mitigation. He noted school building visits have been made and conversations with building teachers and administrators held in order to determine options for physical distancing. He did acknowledge that as students return back to the classroom, from the Bridge program, the challenges of physical distancing will continue to rise.

He shared the current daily indicators and explained how those numbers are determined. He noted the daily numbers continue to decrease and look good compared to the first week of school. Dr. Roberts commended the community for their continuation with mitigation efforts. He also shared details of the new Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Measurement
Chart. Dr. Roberts emphasized the data is not coming from BCSC, but from local, county and state health officials and the chart is just one more piece to help track and make a determination in regards to learning options.

Dr. Roberts explained the rolling 7-day per capita rate, how that calculation is determined, and the time frame the data is released to the public. He also shared the positive test numbers and explained the guidelines for determining who would be considered a close contact. He noted, again, that physical distancing has been the biggest challenge of the five mitigation strategies.

He shared the collaborative work that is occurring with CEA to address the challenges teachers are currently facing. One of those challenges is to recognize those individuals who are contributing instruction between two different learning options with some form of a stipend. Another area discussed was in regards to reducing flexibility for student transition between learning options. Dr. Roberts shared the need to look at how best to address the needs of students, but at the same time help limit the amount of extra responsibilities to teachers who are contributing to at least two options. He also added discussion is ongoing in regards to other creative instructional models, so that if another instructional model is needed, BCSC will be ready.

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

There is a small percentage of elementary teachers teaching both the Bridge Program as well as being responsible for an in-person classroom. Dr. Roberts noted the secondary levels are very close to having all teachers contributing in two learning options. One of the biggest teacher and staff challenges are in regards to meeting the individual needs of special education students as well as ELL students. Nick Williams and Brenny Kummer have provided recorded professional development sessions to assist the teaching staff with these challenges.

Twenty-five total days have been completed since the first day of school on August 10.

Discussion continues in regards to mitigation through physical distancing, analyzing the best use of space that is available and continued committee review of a hybrid model if needed.

Ms. Kelli Thompson, Director of Health Services, responded to COVID-19 testing questions in regards to turn-around time. She noted that the health department will be opening additional testing sites throughout the county.

**Public Comments:** No one signed in to speak.
WHAT

1) New Title IX Policy (Dr. Roberts)
Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities.

Dr. Roberts stated the reason for the new policy, explained the length of detail of the policy as well as the time frame a claim could possibly take to process. Mr. Monroe, school board attorney, expanded on the definitions in the new policy and explained the Federal Law in regards to criminal acts versus the Indiana Law.

Dr. Roberts noted the board was given a copy of the first reading of the policy. He also noted Mr. Monroe’s suggestions and that those suggestions would be built into the definitions of the policy to align BCSC with the federal guidelines as well as Indiana code.

2) Board Commendations

Mr. Stenner gave commendations to everyone who is making efforts to keep the staff and students within the school corporation safe.

Dr. Roberts recognized the Council for Youth Development and acknowledged their Youth Empowerment Summit. He thanked Heather Carson, Director, and her team for their efforts in providing material, as well as activities to help develop appropriate social and emotional wellness habits for students.

3) School Board Member Reports

Dr. Bilz shared an update from the IUPUC Board of Trustees Meeting. She noted the continuing collaboration between Purdue University, IUPUC and Ivy Tech and the new opportunities that are available. Two of those options being a MBA program as well as several duel credit opportunities. She also shared highlights of the recently released Three Year Academic Master Plan as well as provided updates on the Community Education Coalition. Dr. Bilz noted Kathy Oren, with the Coalition, shared details on the newly developed website and talked about the various partnerships among the campuses, as well as community members.

4) Cabinet Reports

Dr. Boezeman shared an update on the USDA Meal Waiver. BCSC families now have the opportunity to continue the free meal plan that was made available in the late spring and continued through late summer. The program did expire in August, but the government has now extended that program for all students under the age of eighteen who would not otherwise qualify for free and reduced meals. Dr. Boezeman noted that the school corporation will be reimbursed at the Student Nutrition Program Rate of $4.15 per meal compared to $0.40 per meal. Any fees that occurred since September 1 will be returned to families. Dr. Boezeman thanked The Republic for publicizing the update and to Josh Burnett for the social media postings.
Dr. Hack noted a social and emotional learning opportunity that BCSC has with Indiana University. This particular opportunity will be available to building leaders on September 30. Dr. Sandy Washburn and Ms. Deanna Nibarger from Indiana University will be here to work with BCSC leaders. The title of the workshop is “Taking care of you to take care of others”. Counseling counts and CARES dollars will fund this opportunity.

2021 Budget Work Session

Mr. Phillips noted that this was an informal budget work session, and at the next regular scheduled board meeting there would be a public hearing for the 2021 budget. The board will be asked to approve the budget at the regularly scheduled October school board meeting. Mr. Phillips shared a budget summary and noted the Referendum Operating Fund will be an annual budget adoption item in the future. He shared the Health Trust Fund is doing relatively well and that this fund usually sets the tone for how the other budgets are affected. The Health Trust Fund is the second largest expense next to salaries, but due to COVID-19 there has been a decrease in plan usage.

He shared the Education Fund is the largest part of the budget. He noted his concerns with the fund, as the state support BCSC receives comes entirely from the State of Indiana General Fund and that particular fund relies on taxes. There is also concerns as to what the legislature will do in the spring with funding. He noted the possibility of ADM implications, but feels the decline with students in BCSC will be relatively small. He also expressed concerns with the upcoming budget session and how the legislature will address complexity funding and funding for students attending school virtually.

Mr. Phillips explained how the funding is calculated for ADM estimates as well as detail for how virtual students are funded. Education Fund revenue as well as expenditure assumptions were presented, indicating a 5% increase in health premiums and a 14.5% increase in substitute teacher costs due to COVID-19.

Mr. Phillips shared the total assumed revenues for the Education Fund to be $80,165,487 and the total assumed expenditures including transfers to be $80,148,186. Salary and benefits equal 97% of the expenditures of the budget. On the expenditure side the categories have remained flat. The overall budget is up less than one half of 1% in the Education Fund.

Mr. Phillips shared the Operations Fund is primarily supported by property taxes and consists of capital projects, maintenance, technology and transportation. The assessed value is expected to increase 3.8%. The actual 2020 tax cap loss is ~$1 million and the estimated 2021 tax cap loss will be $2.2 million. He noted this is the first year tax cap losses have declined in several years.

The Capital Projects Fund (CPF) budget is part of the Operations Fund. It is up significantly this year and that is entirely due to the fact that the corporation is now able to invest
back into BCSC facilities. This comes after two years of not having any capital projects in the Operations Fund budget. The school corporation will be spending $2.1 million on all BCSC buildings this year, with the exception of the Transportation and Maintenance facility which just recently completed a renovation project.

He noted before the budget hearing on Monday September 28 a budget book would be made available to the board. This will include a detailed list of the line items in the proposed budget.

Mr. Phillips noted the differences in the transportation portion of the Operations Fund. He explained all line items are much the same except for Property/Equipment. Buses were removed from this portion of the budget due to buying eight buses from the 2020 GO Bond and three from the Operating Referendum Fund. All utilities have been paid from the Education Fund in the past.

Mr. Phillips shared a 2021 Budget Summary, noting an 11% increase over 2020. He also noted there to be a larger cash balance than what was anticipated because tax cap losses were lower than expected, and the bus purchases were moved to other funds. This will allow the 11% increase to not have an impact on the tax rate.

He gave the following overview of the Transfers from the Operations Fund to the Education Fund.

Expenditures moving from Operations are as follows:

- Utilities and insurance
- Custodial Services
- School Resource Officers
- Some administration Costs

Expenditures moved to Education:

- Technology directly related to student learning
- Tech employees, software, hardware, AV equipment

Mr. Phillips noted the net transfer of expenses from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund is $6,462,541 or 8.1% of the Education Fund Budget.

Mr. Phillips noted that the Bus Replacement Plan will not be funded from the Operations Fund next year. The plan is to purchase eight buses using the recently approved 2020 GO Bonds and three from the recently approved Operating Referendum Fund, at an approximate cost of $1,414,749.

He shared the Debt Service Fund budget for 2021 to be $13,274,005. The Debt Service Fund is protected from tax cap losses.
The Pension Bond Debt Fund was reported to be $312,438 for 2020. The final payment will be made in 2021. The Referendum Debt Fund budget was reported to be $6,281,100. This debt was refinanced in 2018, which allowed the East High School auditorium to be renovated and the soccer complex to be constructed.

Mr. Phillips shared the rough estimates of year-end reserves for 2020 to be: Education Fund $2,119,172; Rainy Day fund $4,874,348; Operations Fund $56,663,702. He also indicated that those estimates will be updated for the budget approval meeting in October.

The proposed Referendum Operating Fund for 2021 reflects the priorities that were outlined during the referendum campaign. This includes salary increases for both certified teachers and non-certified staff, as well as the safety and security and mental health initiatives.

Mr. Phillips concluded by noting a formal budget hearing will be held at the next school board meeting, Monday, September 28, and the Budget Adoption will be held at the Monday, October 19 school board meeting.

**HOW**

5) Requests for Approval: (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 24, 2020  
b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)  
c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen) - No field trip requests  
d. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)  
e. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)  
f. Non-English Speaking Program (NESP) Grant (Dr. Pleak)  
g. Title I, Part D Grant (Dr. Pleak)  
h. MOA re: Stipend for Teacher Coverage (Ms. Heiny)  
i. Resolution Authorizing Performance Based Accreditation Waiver (Dr. Roberts)

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

Ms. Dayhoff-Dwyer made a motion to approve the reviewed items and Mr. Persinger seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, Items 5) a-i were unanimously approved.

6) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations:

Ms. Heiny requested approval for the Human Resources recommendations as presented.

Dr. Shedd made a motion to approve the recommendations, Dr. Bilz seconded the
motion.

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

BOARD INPUT/REVIEW

Mr. Stenner noted those students and staff whose education is currently interrupted due to the fires on the west coast as well as the schools affected by the storms in the gulf region.

Mr. Persinger requested an update in regards to potentially revising Policy 3112. Mr. Caldwell responded that discussion will continue, but currently there is nothing ready to be presented to the board.

Next School Board Meeting: Regular Board Meeting, September 28, 2020, 6:30 p.m., Administration Building Terrace Room.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

__________________________________Secretary

Attest:__________________________________President