

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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, September 26, 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  
                              Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member  
                              Dr. Julie Bilz, Member

Absent:                    Mr. Todd Grimes, Member  
                              Mr. Pat Bryant, 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

Absent:                   Dr. George Van Horn, Director of Special Education

Attorney:                Mr. Michael McIver, School Attorney

**REGULAR SESSION**

Dr. Jill Shedd provided Reflections.

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

Dr. Shedd, President, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **2023 Budget Hearing**

Dr. Shedd gaveled out of the regular school board meeting at 6:34 p.m. and into the Public Hearing.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the timeline for approval for the 2023 Budget and provided an overall Budget Summary. He noted the proposed increase to the 2023 Budget to be 5.1% over the current year's budget, with the majority of the increase coming from the Operations Fund.

He shared an update on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) count, noting the Fall ADM count appears to be flat. The 75-student decrease noted at the last meeting is the difference between the graduating class of 2022 and the incoming kindergarten enrollment.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the costs in the Education Fund, noting the 4% anticipated increase in health premium costs, online curriculum, and professional services. The Education Fund budget is more than 95% salaries and benefits, with the majority of the remainder of the budget for supplies.

Dr. Shedd opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Phillips responded to questions from the public.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the Operations Fund Revenue Assumptions. He anticipates the revenue to be up 2.4% which includes a deduction of \$1.5M in tax cap losses from the total. The Operations Fund is determined by the Maximum Levy and the Assessed Value. Mr. Phillips explained that it is a levy-driven fund and the operations portion of the property tax rate is expected to decline about half a cent per \$100 of assessed value.

Mr. Phillips reviewed Operations Fund Expenditures, detailing the budget changes in salaries and benefits. The new budget will allow for small school-level capital projects and allocate \$1.5M to one-time district-wide paving and district-wide HVAC projects. The overall change in the Operations Fund is a 9.5% increase over the prior year.

Mr. Phillips responded to questions from the public.

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

Mr. Phillips reviewed the changes the State of Indiana made in how funds are expended. He explained the process for transfers from the Operations Fund to the Education Fund. The State of Indiana has set a threshold of 15% of the Education Fund as a limit, after that the corporation would need to report why they are exceeding that amount.

Mr. Phillips continued with the review of bus replacement. The plan is to replace 12 buses every year. The buses will be replaced using the Operations Fund and Operating Referendum Fund.

He reported that there is significant debt rolling off in 2024 and 2025, but no debt rolling off in 2023 in the Debt Service Fund. The High School Debt Service Fund will remain flat through 2029.

Mr. Phillips responded to questions from the public.

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

Two recent GO bonds were issued; one in 2019 and paid off in 2020, and the 2020 GO Bond was paid off in 2021. This was possible due to the assessed value growing at a healthy rate.

A healthy balance is necessary in this fund due to possible delays in tax distributions. Property taxes were not distributed in June of 2021, instead in August 2021, causing concern about the Operation Fund balance.

The 2019 General Obligation Bond was primarily used to put LED lighting in all buildings and solar panels on two buildings. Those funds have been expended and will be paid off in 2027.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the Referendum Operating Fund. This fund will now cover the Director of Wellness position and mental health therapy support for each building. Mr. Phillips clarified that the school counselors are paid through the Education Fund.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the overall 2023 Budget and the history of the BCSC Tax Rate. He anticipates the final adopted tax rate to be slightly lower than the last two years based on the 11% increase in assessed property value.

The Public Gateway website provides financial detail on each year and each fund.

### **Public Hearing GO Final Additional Appropriation Hearing**

Mr. Phillips noted the board has previously approved the GO Bond and this Public Hearing is to request approval to expend the GO Bond in this calendar year. The \$5.8M GO Bond is to help complete the Parkside Elementary renovation and replace the HVAC system at Schmitt Elementary.

Dr. Shedd opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Phillips responded to questions from the public.

Dr. Shedd gaveled out of the Public Hearing at 7:43 p.m. and back into the regularly scheduled Board of School Trustees Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

### **WHO/WHY**

#### **BOARD COMMENDATIONS:**

In Mr. Grimes's absence, Dr. Shedd gave commendations for him to the Youth Development Council for teaming with BCSC for a successful Spark Spirit Week. A commendation was also given to nine students from CEHS and CNHS who have been named National Merit semifinalists.

Dr. Shedd gave commendations to C4 teacher Carrie Utterback. She was recently named the recipient of the 2022 Jack Cramer Award. She noted the positive influence and the valuable asset she has been to BCSC students and the community.

Mr. Stenner thanked those in the school corporation and the community who volunteer their time and effort into extracurricular activities.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Roy West – 2738 Orchard Lane, Columbus, IN 47201  
Mr. West recommended gaveling in and out of public comments.

Mr. Jason Major – 3241 Overlook, Columbus, IN 47201  
Mr. Major noted his questions regarding GO Bonds were answered during the Public Hearing.

Mr. Eric Grow – 2247 Rolling Hill Court, Columbus, IN 47201  
Mr. Grow commented on the recent *Resilience through Strengths* survey given to students in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. He feels that barriers were in the way of parents viewing and discussing the questions on the survey. He requested additional detail be provided on board agenda items and an opportunity for community space to discuss the items.

## **WHAT**

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

Dr. Shedd gave an update on the Wednesday, September 14 CCIC (Corporation Continuous Improvement Council) meeting. She noted that the committee debriefed on the September 6 Professional Development Day and held a discussion on topics to offer at the next PD Day scheduled for Monday, November 28. The committee also spent time discussing the new Learning Management System (LMS), Canvas, and the opportunities ParentSquare is providing for teachers. The CEA representatives provided an update on the topics that will be presented at the upcoming public forums for school board candidates.

Dr. Shedd provided an update from the Friday, August 19 Business Advisory Meeting. She noted the Legado Spanish Immersion Academy and the success the program continues to be to the school corporation and the community.

### **2) Cabinet Reports**

There were no reports presented.

### **3) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)**

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of September 12, 2022
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- d. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
- e. Title IV, Part A Grant Application (Mr. Edwards)
- f. 2022 GO Bond Additional Appropriation Resolution (Mr. Phillips)
- g. 2022 GO Bond Final Resolution (Mr. Phillips)

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

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

**4) Human Resources Recommendations (Dr. Pleak)**

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

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

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

**BOARD INPUT AND REVIEW:**

Dr. Bilz thanked those in attendance for their questions during the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Wheeldon shared she had attended the IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management) Governor Awards and noted the environmental impact BCSC is making through the LED and HVAC improvements. She also thanked Mr. Phillips for his continual efforts with the budget.

Mr. Stenner shared that thoughts and prayers continue to be with Mr. Grimes during this time.

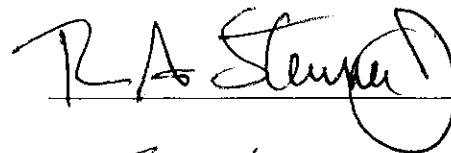
Dr. Shedd shared her appreciation for those individuals working on the Health Trust Fund and Mr. Phillips for his continuing efforts on the 2023 Budget.

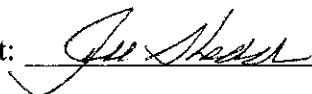
**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

Strategic Planning Session will be on October 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, October 24, 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