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 28, 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. Pat Bryant, Secretary  
Mr. James Persinger, Member  
Dr. Julie Bilz, Member

Absent:  
Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member  
Mr. Rich Stenner, Member

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

Mr. Persinger shared reflections.

Following the pledge of allegiance and determination of quorum the meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Mr. Caldwell referenced the Mission and Vision statements as well as noted the high expectation objectives.
Public Hearing

- **2021 Budget** (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Caldwell gaveled out of the regular board meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 6:34 p.m.

Mr. Phillips presented the 2021 budget and shared the budget is up just under 8%, this includes the operating referendum budget of $7,476,750. The total amount of the 2021 advertised budget is $126,383,411.  

Mr. Phillips shared the updated Education Fund revenue assumptions and noted the changes he had made, due to questions from the board at the last regularly scheduled meeting. He explained the funding sources and presented the ADM estimates. The September ADM count is not official, but it appears the count will be up 30 students. He noted the ADM count process takes approximately three weeks before the official count is determined.

The expenditure assumptions from the last meeting did not change. Mr. Phillips noted the budget does include funds for bringing back approximately half of the certified positions for the 2021-2022 school year, as well as some accounting changes that moved items between the communications, supplies, and property categories. He again noted that salary and benefits equal 97% of the expenditures in the Education Fund. The total Education Fund expenditures with transfers is up less than 1/2%, at $80,148,186.

Mr. Phillips shared that the Operation Fund is primarily supported by property taxes, based on assessed valuation. The assessed value is expected to increase 3.8%. The Operation Fund advertised tax rate is up, due to the 4.2% increase in the max operations levy being more than the assessed value. The Operation Fund is up 2.7% over the previous year’s budget.

The biggest change in the Capital Project portion of the Operations Fund was moving the bus purchases to the G.O. Bond. He shared that due to lower than expected cap losses, moving bus purchases to the bond, and with the strong growth quotient, the corporation is now able to make small building improvements that have been delayed for the past two years.

On the transportation side, Mr. Phillips reported, the only change was the bus purchases being moved from the Transportation Fund budget to the G.O. Bonds.

Mr. Phillips shared that money between the Education Fund and the Operations Fund moves in both directions. Mr. Phillips explained that the Education expenditures had been established in the old General Fund budget and supported by state revenues. He noted at this time the state requires some of those funds be expended on the Operations Fund side.
The state will allow transfers of the state revenue from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. He also shared the breakdown of the Education Fund to the Operations Fund expenditures.

Expenditures moving from the Operations Fund
- Utilities and Insurance
- Custodial Services
- School Resource Officers
- Some Administration Costs

Expenditures moved to the Education Fund
- Technology (directly related to student learning)
- Technology Employees, Software, Hardware, AV Equipment

Mr. Phillips noted that the net change in the CPF (Operations) budget is 8.1% of the Education Fund budget, which is well under the 15% threshold set by legislators.

The bus replacement plan is to replace 11 buses at the approximate cost of $1,414,749. In 2021, buses will be purchased using the 2020 G.O. Bonds (8) and (3) from the Safety and Security portion of the Operating Referendum Fund.

Mr. Phillips shared the Debt Service Fund budget for 2021 to be $13,274,005. The debt service payment is up 7.41%. He noted the way this can be accomplished is to take the cash operating balance in the debt fund and lower it down to the new 15% threshold that the state passed on all new debt. He shared that in the past, 50% of the next year’s payments could be kept in an operating balance, but now only 15% of all new debt can be kept in the operations balance. This is a way the school corporation can increase spending without increasing taxes.

Mr. Phillips reported the final pension payment will be made in 2021. This will allow roughly $312,438 to go back into the 2022 Operations Fund budget.

The High School Building Referendum Debt Fund was reported to be $6,271,100. Mr. Phillips stated that this budget is unchanged and payments will end in 2029.

The overall debt fund of the budget is up just under 5%.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the Operating Referendum Fund. The additional funds will be used as follows:

- Teacher Salary Increase: $5,300,000
- Non-Certified Increase: $1,450,000
- Safety & Security: $726,750

The total budget for the Operating Referendum will be $7,476,750.
The tax rate history was shared and the advertised rate for 2021 is just over $1.0259. The Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) will reduce that slightly due to pension bond offset. Mr. Phillips noted the $1.00 - $1.01 rate was the rate shared earlier this year as the likely rate if the referendum were to pass.

The Board will be requested to adopt the 2021 budget at the October 19 School Board meeting.

Mr. Caldwell asked for questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Caldwell encouraged Dr. Roberts and the administration to continue to push to regain a fully funded staff.

Mr. Caldwell gaveled out of the 2021 Budget Hearing at 6:55 p.m. and gaveled into the 2020 Additional Appropriation Public Hearing.

- **2020 Additional Appropriation** (Mr. Phillips)

  Mr. Phillips noted the public notice for the 2020 Additional Appropriation was posted on September 16. He requested Board approval for an additional $37,000. He explained when the budget was appropriated last fall the full debt payment schedule for the G.O. Bond was not available and it later came in $37,000 above the budgeted amount.

  Mr. Caldwell asked for questions or comments from the public. No comments were made or questions asked.

  Mr. Caldwell gaveled out of the Public Hearing and into the regularly scheduled School Board meeting at 6:59 p.m.

**WHO/WHY**

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

Dr. Roberts gave an update on Mask Compliance. He shared the percentages of compliance, both at the elementary and secondary level over the last two weeks.

- Elementary = 96.3%
- Secondary = 95.1%
- Overall = 96.1%

Dr. Roberts noted, since the last School Board meeting, entities within the community have reached out to ensure the younger students have a sufficient supply of smaller fitting masks. He shared that the data to determine mask compliance percentages are gathered from a combination of ways; unannounced visits to classrooms, staff observations, input from
teachers, surveys and discipline referrals.

Physical distancing continues to be the biggest challenge in terms of mitigation strategies. Dr. Roberts added the challenges will persist as students and staff come back from fall break. After break, the flexibility of students moving from one learning option to another will no longer be available, creating over six hundred students planning to return to the classroom. He noted the challenges will persist, but additional efforts are being made to address the concerns.

Dr. Roberts reviewed the continuing challenges for teachers who provide both in-person and remote instruction and the continuing work that is occurring with CEA and administrators to address these challenges.

Dr. Roberts provided an update on the Bartholomew County COVID-19 Indicators as well as the Indiana State Department of Health County Metrics Map. Currently, Bartholomew County has a weekly score of 0.5, indicating less than 10 new cases and the 7-Day All Tests Positivity Rate is less than 5%.

Dr. Roberts reviewed the flow chart on community spread. He stated the school corporation continues to work with the local and state health departments, as well as local health professionals to determine the COVID-19 spread. He noted that each Friday the positive test case information for the school corporation is provided to the School Board and local media.

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

Concern was shared from Mr. Persinger as to why the turnaround time for COVID-19 testing is trending up.

Dr. Bilz asked for clarification on teaching options for the second nine weeks for those teachers providing both learning opportunities, as well as a stipend for their extra efforts. Dr. Roberts provided additional information on reducing the learning option choices as well as a reduction in flexibility within those learning options. Dr. Roberts noted the resolution on the table for approval, asking the board to go forward with a stipend for those teachers who continue to provide more than one learning option. He stated stipends will be determined as the administration balances the students within the learning options, as well as balancing the teachers providing multiple learning options to the students.

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

**WHAT**

1) Board Commendations
Dr. Jill Shedd commended Instructional Technology Coordinator, Ms. Brenny Kummer for her efforts submitting a digital learning grant. BCSC recently received $98,000 from the Indiana Department of Education to train teachers to better deliver virtual learning. The grant project will allow BCSC to create a program called Growing Educators through Micro-Credentialing (GEM).

Mr. Caldwell commended Mr. Brian Trivett, Coordinator of Information Systems for his recent above and beyond effort. Mr. Trivett along with Ms. Marie Gregory worked several extra hours to upload student free and reduced data into the statewide system. This data provided an opportunity for additional funds to be given to BCSC families. Indiana families whose children receive free or reduced-cost meals at school may be eligible to receive a second issuance of P-EBT benefits. These benefits are intended to reimburse families, within the State of Indiana, for the cost of meals that their children were unable to consume at school. Their time and effort generated an additional $200,000 in funding for the free and reduced population of BCSC.

2) School Board Member Reports

Dr. Bilz gave an update on the latest Diversity Council meeting. The committee had not met since February 2020, due to COVID-19. She thanked Mr. Charles Edwards for leading the meeting as well as Ms. Kimberly Easton for committee updates.

She also provided a BCSF meeting update. BCSF has partnered with Donors Choose to provide material for classrooms. BCSF has contributed a dollar for dollar match, which has already allowed grants to be provided to Clifty Creek, Busy Bees and Southside Elementary. The donations have been received from local community members as well as donors in Pennsylvania, Texas and Arizona.

Mr. Persinger attended the ISBA Delegate Assembly. He reported one of the top priorities for the legislation session was 100% ADM funding for virtual education participation. This funding would only be for the upcoming school year and would need to be voted on yearly to continue.

3) Cabinet Reports

Mr. Phillips provided an up to date ADM report. The initial student count indicated 11,309 students, which is up about 25 to 30 students from last year. He added, from a funding perspective, 40 of those students are considered virtual at 85% funding due to their prior year enrollment in a virtual program. He noted the decline in kindergarten enrollment, possibly due to parents waiting another year because of COVID-19. Mr. Phillips shared if the school corporation would have had a normal kindergarten enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year the count would have been up an additional 75 students.
4) Requests for Approval: (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of September 14, 2020 and the Minutes of the Public Hearing Meeting of September 10, 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) - No fundraiser requests
e. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
f. Second Reading of Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities (Title IX)
g. Title I, Part A (Dr. Pleak)
h. Title II, Part A (Dr. Pleak)
i. Title III (Dr. Pleak)
j. Title IV (Dr. Pleak)
k. Service Agreement with Benefits Broker/Consultant (Mr. Phillips)
l. 2020 Additional Appropriation Resolution (Mr. Phillips)
m. Resolution to Change the Number of Teacher Days for 2020-2021 (Mr. Phillips)
n. Resolution of Intent to Pay Teacher Stipends (Mr. Phillips)

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

Mr. Persinger made a motion to approve the reviewed items and Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, Items 4) a-n were unanimously approved.

6) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations:

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

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

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

BOARD INPUT/REVIEW

Dr. Shedd shared her appreciation for the work and extra effort being made for students. She noted everyone is learning from the efforts. She thanked fellow board member Mr. Persinger for his positive opening words of reflection. She recognized the fabulous job that was being accomplished to serve kids and prioritize students.
Mr. Caldwell echoed Dr. Shedd’s points, as well as recognized the need for all to take time off and enjoy fall break.

Next School Board Meeting: Regular Board Meeting, October 19, 2020, 6:30 p.m., Administration Building Terrace Room.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

__________________________________Secretary

Attest: __________________________________President