

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held at the Administration Building, Columbus, Indiana, on Monday, March 6, 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. Pat Bryant, Member
 Mr. Jason Major, Member
 Mr. Dale Nowlin, Member
 Mr. Logan Schulz, Member

Administration: Dr. Jim Roberts, Superintendent
 Dr. Gina Pleak, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 Mr. Chad Phillips, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services
 Mr. William Jensen, Director of Secondary Education
 Dr. Laura Hack, Director of Elementary 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

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

Mrs. Wheeldon, the President, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

WHO/WHY

HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR APPROVAL: (Dr. Roberts/Dr. Pleak)

Columbus East High School Principal

Dr. Roberts introduced Dr. Michael Parsons and made a recommendation to the board to appoint him as the principal of Columbus East High School. He noted that Dr. Parsons has served as the principal of Clifty Creek Elementary for the past six years and spearheaded the development of the Legado Spanish Immersion Academy. Dr. Parsons received his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Purdue University, Master of Arts in Special Education from Ball State University, and Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies Secondary Education from Taylor University. The vacancy for this position was created by the recent appointment of Mr. Mark Newell as Director of Adult and Alternative Education.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the recommendation to hire Dr. Michael Parsons as principal of Columbus East High School, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nowlin.

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

Dr. Parsons thanked the school board and Dr. Roberts for the opportunity to continue on his path with BCSC. He gave a special thanks to the Director of Elementary Education Dr. Laura Hack for providing opportunity and support over the past six years. He thanked the Clifty Creek Elementary School staff and students and noted the positive experiences both his family and he have had since becoming part of the BCSC community. He shared that he is looking forward to getting to know the CEHS community and noted that he is committed to relentlessly serving CEHS and making it the very best version of itself in academics, school activity, and school life.

RECOGNITIONS:

Columbus East High School State Wrestling Finalist (Dr. Roberts)

Columbus East High School Athletic Director Mr. Pete Huse introduced IHSAA state wrestling finalist Tommy Morrill. He noted Tommy's academic achievements at CSA New Tech High School as well as his IHSAA state success. Columbus East wrestling coach Chris Cooper noted he appreciated the opportunity to recognize Tommy's hard work ethic, exceptional character, great personality, and the fact that he is such a fantastic human being. Tommy finished third in his weight class.

PRESENTATIONS:

The Official Dedication of the Rockcreek Elementary Gymnasium Floor (Dr. Roberts/Mrs. Jennifer Dettmer)

Rockcreek principal Mrs. Jennifer Dettmer requested the board consider her recommendation to rename the Rockcreek gymnasium floor to the Garry Barker Memorial Floor. She shared that Mr. Barker was a significant stakeholder in the community and a member of the Rockcreek family. He attended Rockcreek Elementary as a student and continued his passion for the Rockcreek community as a coach for both the boys' and girls' basketball teams for 18 years. She shared that Mr. Barker saw the need to work and mentor all students in the school in order for students to learn, explore, and determine their pathway. Garry believed academics were important to being a successful student-athlete. He was

well respected by students, other coaches, community members, and officials for his passion for helping students improve. Mrs. Dettmer asked the board to help honor a man that gave so much of himself for Rockcreek students, families, and community by considering her request to rename the gymnasium floor at Rockcreek Elementary to the Garry Barker Memorial Floor.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the recommendation to rename the Rockcreek Elementary gymnasium floor to Mr. Garry Barker Memorial Floor, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

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

Senior Project Presentation (Dr. Roberts)

Columbus East High School student Yutika Sawant presented her senior project, "Solar Power for CEHS". She noted some of the benefits of solar power are its abundant energy source, how easy it is to replenish, a one-time investment with no ongoing electric bills, negligible carbon footprint, and it is long-lasting with the average lifespan of solar panels being 25-30 years. She shared her family's personal experience with solar power in India and the reasons why she is spreading solar energy awareness at Columbus East High School and her community. Yutika believes the use of solar power would benefit the community, workforce development, STEM Education and allow students to be part of urging the community to transition to clean energy and be part of the climate solution. She shared that according to her research nearly 1 in 10 public schools use solar energy.

The staff and students at Columbus East High School had the opportunity to weigh in by signing a petition to support the installation of solar panels at East. Yutika presented her case study on energy usage at CEHS and shared comments from the East community, and the approximate cost savings solar would provide the school district.

She shared several informational resources on solar energy, ways solar is estimated to save costs for the Indianapolis Public Schools over the next 30 years, and the benefits solar power is currently providing to Pittsburg Unified School District in Pittsburg, California.

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

Yutika advised to install all solar panel units at once.

Yutika will be studying Applied Physics at Purdue University in the fall. She desires to do something sustainable for the environment.

Dr. Brett Boezeman, Director of Operations indicated that the solar panels at Taylorsville and Northside Middle have been successful.

Dr. Boezeman stated that, generally speaking, when a roof needs being replaced on a school building, an evaluation is completed as to whether solar panels should be considered.

Best Practice – Central Middle School (Mr. Jay Payne/Mr. Blake Manuel)

Principal Mr. Jay Payne shared various pieces of information about Central, noting the special historical features that have been incorporated into the new building from the old Central Middle School that opened in 1956. The new building opened in 2007 and features a state-of-the-art Gray Box Theatre. Mr. Payne noted the two specialized pathways offered at CMS, High Ability on Team Adventure and CSA Project Based Learning. Both teams are invested in the community and participate in various academic competitions.

Mr. Payne shared that through the staff engagement survey the staff's role and purpose were redefined and clarified. He noted that the role of a teacher is not only academics but now involves social, emotional, and family interaction. The staff refocused and discussed how to align purpose with the BCSC mission and CMS expectations - **Chargers are Academically responsible, Personally responsible, and Socially responsible.** Mr. Manuel worked with the staff to determine new roles and how to use them to develop expert learners and help students invest in themselves and their community.

The teachers use the 15-minute CAPS classroom period to help students determine what their mission is at Central. Mr. Manuel shared students are challenged to determine what it means to be a successful student and what changes need to be done now for future success. Students are asked what it means to be a successful high school student and what they need to be doing now to make that happen. Each week teachers introduce a new topic for students and that topic is built upon throughout the week.

Mr. Manuel shared other ways students are investing in their school and the community with Parent Night and quarterly Passion Days. The CAPS Time lessons focus on how to be an expert learner, and invest well in your community and yourself.

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

CAPS: Central Middle School is, Academically, Personally, and Socially responsible.

CAPS lessons are schoolwide.

The teachers are given the same material so that all students are given the same message.

Forty different staff members held forty different Passion Sessions.

Students selected their top four session picks and each student was able to attend at least one of their top picks.

Elementary Math Curriculum Adoption

(Dr. Laura Hack/ Mrs. Gail Koors /Mrs. Amy Elsbury)

Curriculum Specialist Mrs. Gail Koors and Rockcreek Elementary teacher Mrs. Amy Elsbury presented the BCSC Elementary Math Adoption Committee's recommendation Great Minds/Eureka Math2 as the next adopted math curriculum beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Elsbury shared the process for developing the leadership team and reviewing the materials from each vendor. She noted the compelling challenge of which research-based math curriculum will provide a conceptual foundation with instructional practices that promote student learning within the UDL framework. She reviewed the timeline for the adoption process and the top three publishers. Mrs. Koors shared the timeline negotiation process with Spendbridge and presented the projected cost of all three publishers.

Mrs. Koors and Mrs. Elsbury noted that Eureka Math2 helps students establish a foundational understanding of mathematics rather than only relying on procedural skills. The program will help develop strengthening, reasoning and critical-thinking skills that students can apply to solve real-world problems in real-world situations. The program has three parts: Teach, Learn, and Apply to help gauge student progress.

Mrs. Koors shared BCSC data that indicates an impact in accelerated learning over the past two years. She noted a vital need for change in math instruction and that Eureka Math2 meets those

expectations. She shared Indiana schools that are currently using the program and those in the pilot program. She noted that the team did speak with the school districts using the program and they were very pleased with the increase other districts are seeing in math scores. Mrs. Koors shared the next steps with teacher training and the available professional development offered by the publisher.

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

Some school districts in Indiana adopted the curriculum last year but data is not yet available for review.

BCSC adopts the curriculum on a 6-year cycle.

If interested, curriculum samples of the program are available for review.

Classroom math has moved from the teacher's hands to the student's hands.

We involve first-year and second-year teachers to get their perspectives.

HMH is a merger of Houghton Mifflin and Harcourt publisher.

We look online to review curriculum options, develop a leadership team, and align the rubric with Indiana State Standards.

BOARD COMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Nowlin gave commendations to Ms. Beth Flamion at Central Middle School and Mr. Brad Branham at Northside Middle School for their students' performances at the MATHCOUNTS district competition. He noted that both schools had students advance to the state competition.

Mr. Schulz gave commendations to Taylorsville Elementary teachers Ms. Kari Tyree and Ms. Brenda Frady for their efforts with the Food Pantry. The pantry helps assure that the students and the families of the Taylorsville community are being fed.

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to five Central Middle School students who received special recognition for participating in a state literacy competition and the C4 program for a successful career week. Commendations also went to Josh Burnett for his efforts on the Elementary Basketball League highlight video and the 33 students who were selected for the EBL Above and Beyond Award. This award is based on character and academic grades. Mr. Grimes gave commendations to the Lilly Teacher Creativity Grants recipients, CEHS media specialist Ms. Emily Cordova and Smith Elementary Principal, Ms. Casey Voelz.

Mrs. Wheeldon gave commendations to the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF) for their efforts in hosting the Harlem Wizards basketball game.

Mr. Stenner gave commendations to those involved in the Columbus Robotics Program. He noted the hard work and extra efforts of the adults who help the students have this opportunity.

Mr. Major gave several commendations to Clifty Creek Elementary; the Above and Beyond Elementary Basketball League winners from Clifty Creek Elementary: Karla Hernandez - cheer, Tristen Raymer – boys' basketball, and Jakayla Smith – girls' basketball; Sophia Lawrence for her national ranking in gymnastics, Lilea Robbins Brodfueher for her first All-Around placement in gymnastics, and

4th grader Caleb Parsons. He started every EBL basketball game, and was this season's high scorer for the team. 5th grade teachers Ms. Shelby Dunville, Ms. Lucy Pierce, and Ms. Brianna Tatlock looped with their students from last year and Dr. Parson shared the significant improvement in their students' testing scores. Music teacher Ms. Kaila Lifferth is a creative, engaging, energetic, and inspiring teacher every day at Clifty Creek. In the past two weeks she has taken two different grade levels to professional music concerts, regularly stays after school each week for Clifty Rocks (a rock band club where she teaches students to be in a band), and is getting ready to lead the entire school in the 2nd Annual Battle of the Bands concert for the entire Clifty Creek school building. Ms. Susan Peña, 1st Grade Legado, is in her 5th year teaching in Legado. She has been a major part of developing all of the K-2 dual language curriculum and scope/sequence for Legado Spanish Immersion Academy. Kindergarten teacher Ms. Melissa Streeval attended a 40-hour course, on her own accord, to grow her abilities to implement Orton Gillingham techniques in her classroom; 3rd grade teacher Ms. Raven Chandler has a unique ability to take a class with a wide range of learning abilities (students who are HA and students who spend time in Life Skills) and integrate each student into her classroom at an exceptional level where they feel loved, accepted, and valued.

Mr. Major also gave commendations to the staff and students at Taylorsville Elementary and Northside Middle School for hosting his and Mr. Schulz's building visits.

Mr. Bryant gave commendations to the local Robotics Program.

WHAT

1) School Board Member Reports

Mr. Stenner provided a report from the Districting & Facilities Meeting, noting updates on the Parkside and Schmitt Elementary buildings.

Mr. Stenner provided a Subcommittee Public Engagement Meeting report. The topics were addressed across the board. The next Subcommittee Meeting will be Monday, March 27. He also provided a Business Advisory report. He noted an effort is being made to engage students in civics and how the government works within the community. Multicultural Coordinator Ms. Angie Kirkham was introduced to the committee. Ms. Kirkham briefly defined her role for the district and the current work she is doing.

Mrs. Wheeldon provided a meeting update on the Diversity Leadership Council. She noted that the committee is eager to support and provide civic engagement for students.

Mr. Grimes provided a BCSF report noting that the Harlem Wizards basketball fundraiser game had approximately 2,000 in attendance and raised nearly \$24,000 for the school foundation. He shared that the combined elementary choirs sang the national anthem. The next fundraiser for the foundation will be the "Good, Better, Best" 5K on Saturday, April 29 at 8:30 a.m. at Southside Elementary. Mr. Grimes provided an Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) meeting update, noting that the legislative session is at the halfway mark. The ISBA tracking list is down to 68 remaining bills.

Mr. Major provided a Health Trust update. He shared a review of the 2022 year and noted discussion was held on cutting costs, improving access, and assuring customer satisfaction. He shared a City Redevelopment Commission meeting update. The committee met on March 6, 2023. Further discussion was held on the opening of the 1821 Trail, downtown grocery and apartments, the downtown conference center, and early planning for the 2nd Street corridor.

Mr. Shultz provided a CCIC meeting update. He noted on February 8 the Resilience Through Strengths Survey was reviewed, the agenda was set for the February 20 Professional Development Day

and planning discussion was held for the April 6 Professional Development Day. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10 in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

Mr. Nowlin reported that the IUPUC Advisory Board met on February 8. There is an increase in applications for the 2023-2024 school year. He noted that many of those applications are from BCSC students desiring to continue their education. IUPUC has added athletic teams and has several initiatives to increase the output of educators.

2) Cabinet Reports

Secondary Level Reconfiguration (Mr. Edwards)

Mr. Edwards noted a comment from CSA New Tech High Principal Mike Reed that indicated students benefit from small schools. Mr. Edwards followed by noting the CSA graduation rate has consistently averaged over 90% for at least the past five years. He shared that it is because of the size of the school that CSA can emphasize building relationships and getting to know their students well. In terms of BCSC graduation rates, he shared the graduation rates of both CNHS and CEHS since 2014 and noted the decline in both schools. He shared that if we can achieve a 90% graduation rate at CSA New Tech with both CEHS and CNHS students, that means there is a path for us to replicate the same model at both CEHS and CNHS.

Mr. Edwards shared that on February 28 educators from BCSC had the opportunity to visit Brownsburg Community High School. Brownsburg High School was chosen because they have one of the highest graduation rates in the state, have had the team model in place for over 12 years, and face some of the same educational headwinds as BCSC. He shared that the teaming model at Brownsburg Community High School consists of an Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselor, Academic Coach, and Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Edwards shared that BCSC is very interested in this model and would like to put into place a team of individuals who are responsible for the success of our students. Mr. Edwards shared the team would have three jobs: get to know the students well, get to know the parents well, and get the students across the stage on graduation day. Implementing a team structure will increase accountability, change the administrator-to-student ratio, and increase ownership which would likely increase the success of the student. There would be weekly team meetings to discuss absences, tardies, and behaviors. Mr. Edwards shared that after seeing the power of teaming it is the goal of BCSC to give each student the experience of a small school and increase graduation rates.

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

iGrad and other BCSC programs could provide layers of needed support.

Staffing adjustments will be made as we learn numbers and develop the structure.

The demographics of BCSC are different than Brownsburg Community High School. We didn't find a school district that mirrored BCSC, but Brownsburg came close enough.

The School Board will be given more specifics and have an opportunity for discussion at the Friday, March 24 Strategic Planning Session.

The goal for the district would be to start this model with the 9-12 grade levels for the 2023-2024 school year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Eric Grow – Columbus, In

Mr. Grow requested that information regarding the new curriculum be provided to the public as early as possible.

HOW

3) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of February 6, 2023, and the Minutes of the Executive Session, February 6, 2023
- b. Supplemental Contracts (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- d. School Fundraisers (Dr. Hack/Mr. Jensen)
- e. Claims and Payroll (Mr. Phillips)
- f. Approval of the Official Naming of the Rockcreek Gymnasium Floor (Dr. Roberts/Mrs. Jennifer Dettmer)
- g. Approval of the Adoption of Edmentum as the vendor for CVP students in grades 6-12 (Mr. Jensen/Mr. Josh Giebel)

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

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the reviewed items 3) a-e & g and Mr. Major seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, items 3) a-e & g were approved unanimously. Item 3) f had been approved earlier in the meeting.

4) 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 was carried unanimously.

BOARD INPUT REVIEW

Mr. Nowlin thanked Mr. Edwards for his efforts with the secondary reconfiguration presentation. Mr. Schulz requested the curriculum and policy revisions be made available to the public before the board meeting.

Mr. Grimes thanked all of those who shared presentations.

Mrs. Wheeldon thanked all of those who contributed to the board meeting.

Mr. Stenner congratulated Dr. Parsons on his new position at Columbus East High School.

Mr. Major noted Dr. Parsons's character and leadership skills.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

 Secretary

Attest:  President