

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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 12, 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

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

Attorney: Mr. Michael McIver, School Attorney

REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Nikki Wheeldon provided Reflections.

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

Dr. Shedd, President, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

2022 GO Bond Public Hearing

Dr. Shedd gaveled out of the regular school board meeting at 6:36 p.m. and into the Public Hearing.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the GO Bond request. He shared that the unique high inflation rates have driven up the estimated costs of the projects. The bond request will help fund the increased costs of the renovations at Parkside Elementary School, HVAC upgrades and other improvements at Schmitt Elementary School, and athletic improvement projects at Columbus East and Columbus North high schools. Mr. Phillips noted that Dr. Boezeman is working with his team to reduce project costs at Parkside Elementary.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the original estimates from the summer of 2021 and noted the market has driven the estimated costs of the three projects up by a combined \$10.5M. He shared the bond is tax neutral and will be paid off over two years. The district has the capacity to issue this bond for \$5.8M without increasing the property tax rate. This will leave us with a shortage of \$5M to complete the projects. Mr. Phillips shared that Dr. Boezeman and the engineers are making adjustments to be sure the projects are completed within the financial constraints. Dr. Shedd opened the floor for public comment.

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

If the bonds are not issued, the property tax rate would fall and measures will need to be taken across the district to address the shortage.

The purpose of this particular bond is for facility improvements, technology, or equipment. These funds cannot be used for teacher pay raises.

Dr. Shedd gaveled out of the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. and back into the regularly scheduled Board of School Trustees Meeting at 6:45 p.m.

WHO/WHY

PRESENTATIONS:

Best Practice - L. Frances Smith Elementary (Mrs. Casey Voelz)

Mrs. Voelz, principal, shared student demographic information. She noted that Smith Elementary is a Title I school serving a diverse population and that the school building is one of the highlighted architectural buildings in the community. Mrs. Voelz, 3rd-grade teacher Mrs. Alicia Johnson, and Multi-Cultural Coordinator Mrs. Angie Kirkham shared the work that Smith Elementary has been doing in relation to Restorative Practices and the positive impact the practices have had on the students and staff. Restorative Practices provide students and caring adults with an intentional, inclusive, and respectful way of thinking about, talking about, and responding to conflicts that arise between students. When integrated, Restorative Practices help build and repair relationships, prioritize student agency, and restore the harm done to all parties. She shared that now, more than ever before, students must be taught how to positively handle conflict to assure a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment. She shared that Restorative Practices have allowed students to have a voice and ownership, and work collectively to solve problems.

Mr. Grimes gave commendations to Dr. Roberts, Dr. Boezeman, and Mr. Phillips for their enjoyable commentating of the CNHS vs. CEHS football game on the BCSC YouTube Channel. He also provided commendations to the IT and HR Departments for the great communication and additional information that is provided in their newsletters.

Mrs. Wheeldon gave commendations to Mr. Nick Williams and Mr. Josh Burnett for their efforts with the smooth transition into ParentSquare. She noted the positive interaction she has had with teachers and the ability to quickly obtain helpful information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Roy West – 2738 Orchard Lane, Columbus, IN 47201

Mr. West suggested that Martin Luther King Day and Good Friday be used as part of the allotted eLearning days for inclement weather, making the total of approved eLearning days five days. He also suggested the school board partner with the community to host a public in-person forum for school board candidates.

WHAT

1) School Board Member Reports:

Mr. Grimes shared that the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation (BCSF) will receive 10% off every purchase at Texas Roadhouse on Tuesday, September 13.

2) Cabinet Reports:

2023 Budget Work Session (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips noted that this was an informal budget session, and at the next regularly scheduled board meeting, September 26, there would be a Public Hearing for the 2023 budget. The school board will be asked to approve the budget at the regularly scheduled board meeting in October. Mr. Phillips reviewed the Budget Summary and noted the proposed increase to the 2023 Budget to be 5.1% over the current year's budget, with the majority coming from the Operations Fund.

He reviewed the revenue assumptions for the Education Fund and noted the revenue increase for the 2023 Budget will come primarily from the State of Indiana Per Pupil Tuition Rate. He explained how the funding is calculated for Average Daily Membership (ADM) estimates and provided detail on how virtual students are funded. He estimated the fall ADM count to be 11,358 students. This number is down 75 students from last school year. The 2022 class graduated 885 students and the 2022-2023 incoming kindergarten enrollment is currently at 806 students. Mr. Phillips shared this is a trend across the nation due to lower birth rates.

The Education Fund expenditure assumptions include only teachers and staff paid from the Education Fund. The \$1.5M increase in salaries includes a \$350K reduction in substitute expenditures. The district is back to relatively normal substitute expenditures after spending \$900K in the 2020-2021 COVID-19 impacted school year. Mr. Phillips anticipates a 4% increase in health premium costs for the upcoming year. He noted that the Health Trust works hard to control health costs and stay consistent from year to year. Those costs have remained stable after the rates were raised twice in 2019. The Education Fund budget is more than 95% salaries and benefits, with the majority of the remainder of the budget for supplies, including an increase in online curriculum and professional services due to a

shortage in psychology and speech pathologist services and an increase in the Columbus Virtual Pathway (CVP) curriculum.

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

BCSC is currently retaining the number of CVP students and those CVP students are included in the ADM count.

This is entirely district-wide software that is directly related to the classroom. This is not textbook or consumable textbook material.

The ADM count date is Friday, September 16. It takes about 4 weeks to verify the report before an official count is made.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the Operations Fund Revenue Assumptions. He anticipates the revenue to be up 2.4% that includes a deduction of \$1.5M in tax cap losses from the total. He noted that the driving force for revenue is the Maximum Levy and is dependent upon the Maximum Levy Quotient. Mr. Phillips shared the following information regarding the Max Levy Growth Quotient (MLGQ).

Operations Fund Levy

Max Levy increase by a growth quotient (MLGQ):

2023 max Levy: \$22,218,113 (increase of 5.0%)

Assessed Value: \$5.2B (increase of 10.8%)

Tax Rate = Max Levy/(AV*100)

If assessed value > MLGQ growth, then the tax rate decreases.

He noted that the Operation Fund Levy portion of the Tax Rate will decrease for 2023 and the state projection for Tax Cap losses has increased dramatically for 2023, but we do not expect to incur the amount that the state estimated.

The increases in the Operations Fund budget include increased salaries and benefits for classified staff, SROs, vehicle replacement, utilities, and fuel. Mr. Phillips noted we do plan to spend more than what is being collected in the Operations Fund Budget in 2023. This is intentional as we gradually draw down the cash balances in the Operation Fund.

The larger cash balance in the Operations Fund will allow us to increase funding for capital projects at the building level and for the first time be able to meet all building principals' project requests. We will also allocate \$1.5M to one-time district-wide paving and HVAC projects.

Mr. Phillips shared the process for transfers from the Operations Fund to the Education Fund. The expenditures moving from Operations include utilities and insurance, custodial services, SROs, and some administration costs for a total of \$10,969,454. The expenditures moved to the Education Fund total \$3,991,919. Those expenditures were for technology directly related to the classroom, technology employees, software, hardware, and AV equipment. The net change is just under \$7M which is 8% of the Education Fund Budget.

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 referendum ends in 2029 with payments consistent between now and then. The increases in the Referendum Fund Budget are SROs, bus purchases, STEM

lab teachers, full funding for the Wellness Coordinator position, and contracting with mental health providers. Mr. Phillips reviewed the summary, cash balances, and next steps for Budget approval.

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

The state has asked us to identify cash balances and what portion are being held back for capital needs.

Regular payroll is in the neighborhood of \$3M every two weeks. This only gives us two months of reserves.

The state dictates both the operational and educational expenditures.

3) Requests for Approval (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 22, 2022
- 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. 2022 GO Bond Project Resolution (Mr. Phillips)
- g. 2022 GO Bond Preliminary Bond Resolution (Mr. Phillips)
- h. 2022 GO Bond Reimbursement Resolution (Mr. Phillips)
- i. Approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Educational Improvements (Dr. Boezeman)
- j. Title I, Part A Grant Application (Mr. Edwards)
- k. Title II, Part A Grant Application (Mr. Edwards)
- l. Approval for Allotted Days for eLearning Days (Dr. Pleak)

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

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the reviewed items and Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer seconded the motion.

Upon a call for the vote, Items 3) a-l 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 Dr. Bilz

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

BOARD INPUT AND REVIEW:

Mr. Grimes thanked Mrs. Wheeldon for her reflections on the timeline of the September 11 attacks, Mr. West for his questions during the Public Hearing, and Mrs. Voelz and her staff for their presentation on Restorative Practices.

Mr. Stenner expressed appreciation for the student involvement in the Restorative Practices Presentation.

Dr. Shedd thanked Mr. Phillips for the thoroughness of the budget presentation.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular School Board Meeting will be on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

 Secretary

Attest:  President