

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held at Northside Middle School, 1400 27th Street, Columbus, Indiana on Monday, January 13, 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.

On call of the roll, the members of the Board were shown to be present or absent as follows:

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

Administration: Dr. Jim Roberts, Superintendent
 Ms. Teresa Heiny, 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. Gina Pleak, Director of Title Services
 Dr. George Van Horn, Director of Special Education
 Dr. Brett Boezeman, Director of Operations

School Attorney: Mr. Chris Monroe

REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Stenner offered reflections.

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

President Dr. Shedd called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

HOW

1) Election of Officers for January 2020 through December 2020 Board of School Trustees

President Dr. Shedd asked that a motion be made for a slate of officers for January 2020 to December 2020.

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer made a motion for the following slate of officers: Mr. Jeff Caldwell as President, Dr. Shedd as Vice President, and Mr. Bryant as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stenner.

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

The officers assumed their duties.

WHO/WHY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were heard from local retired Cummins employee Shirley Phares. Ms. Phares stated she did not have a concern with teachers getting a raise or with BCSC. Her concern is the potential tax rate increase and the effect on her fixed income and other low to middle income home owners and renters.

Local resident and Director of Council for Youth Development, Heather Carson, expressed her support for placing the proposed referendum on the May 5th ballot. She shared her experience with BCSC's Counseling Counts initiative and why she feels an increase in funding for student mental health needs is important. Ms. Carson also shared statistics of the Indiana Youth Survey results and again expressed the need for BCSC to continue addressing student mental health and providing creative and collaborative solutions. "BCSC students are worth every penny that we invest in them," she concluded.

Columbus resident and Director of Community Health Partnerships for Columbus Regional Hospital, Beth Morris, spoke in favor of the proposed referendum. Ms. Morris believes the proposed referendum will sustain the Counseling Counts efforts. She spoke of how Counseling Counts has reduced the stigma many associate with mental health issues and allows educators to address the whole child to maximize learning. She commended BCSC for pursuing and receiving the initial Counseling Counts grant and believes support of the proposed referendum will allow young people to have easier access to quality mental health services.

Local resident, Mr. James Wheatley, asked for clarification on whether or not within the last year approximately \$6 Million had been approved for a soccer field? He questioned as to whether these funds could have been used for teacher salaries. He also made a point to express that he would be voting against the referendum.

Dr. Roberts clarified that when dollars are raised for projects, such as the soccer field, capitol funds cannot be transferred for teacher salaries.

Columbus resident, Mr. John Burnett, indicated he is a supporter of the proposed referendum. He commended BCSC for pursuing and advancing the referendum to support teachers and staff as well as focus on safety and security of the students. Mr. Burnett feels this is about the viability of the community

and hopes BCSC will continue to retain and recruit great teachers and those teachers will recruit their friends and family to come teach here as well. He commended BCSC for what they do and noted he would be voting in support of the referendum.

HOW

2) Reorganization of Business Services January 2020 to December 2020:

- a. Appoint Corporation Treasurer-Mr. Chad Phillips**
- b. Appoint Corporation Deputy Treasurer-Ms. Paula Betros**
- c. Authorization for Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to Invest School Corporation Funds**
- d. Approval of School Treasurer Bonds**

Mr. Caldwell requested the approval of the reorganization of Business Services as presented by Mr. Phillips.

A motion was made by Dr. Bilz to approve the reorganization of Business Services as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Persinger.

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

3) Establish Board Remuneration, Board Required Notices, and Board Meeting Dates:

- a. Establish Board Remuneration as Provided by Law (attachment)**
- b. Designation of Newspapers or Qualified Publications in which to Publish Required Notices-*The Republic* (attachment)**
- c. Board Meeting Dates and Locations July 2020 to July 2021 (attachment)**

A motion was made by Dr. Shedd to approve the board remuneration, required notices and board meeting dates as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant.

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

4) Board Appointments for January 2020 to December 2020:

- a. BCSC Health Trust - was James Persinger/ proposed **James Persinger****
- b. Districting & Facilities Committee - was Rich Stenner/proposed **Rich Stenner****
- c. Diversity Leadership Council - was Julie Bilz/proposed **Julie Bilz****

A motion was made by Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer to approve the board appointments as presented and Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

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

5) Approval of Board Members Serving as Liaison with District and Community Advisory Boards and Committees for January 2020 to December 2020:

- a. High Ability Broad Based Committee – was Rich Stenner/proposed **Rich Stenner**
- b. Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation – was Jill Shedd/proposed **Julie Bilz**
- c. Corporation Continuous Improvement Council – was Jill Shedd/proposed **Jill Shedd & Julie Bilz**
- d. Education Hall of Fame Committee – was Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer/proposed
Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer
- e. Indiana School Board Association – was Jill Shedd/proposed **Jill Shedd**
- f. IUPUC Advisory Board – was Julie Bilz/proposed **Julie Bilz**
- g. Special Education Parent Advisory Council – was Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer/proposed
Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer
- h. Support Staff Roundtable – was Pat Bryant/proposed **Pat Bryant**
- i. Career & Technical Education Regional Advisory Committee – was James Persinger/proposed
James Persinger
- j. Literacy Task Force – was Julie Bilz/proposed **Julie Bilz**
- k. Council for Youth Development- was Rich Stenner/proposed **Rich Stenner**
- l. District Wellness Committee – was Pat Bryant/proposed **Pat Bryant**
- m. Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – was Jeff Caldwell/proposed **Jeff Caldwell**
- n. City of Columbus Redevelopment Commission – was Jeff Caldwell/proposed **Jeff Caldwell**
- o. Legislative Liaison – was Jill Shedd/proposed **Jill Shedd**

A motion was made by Mr. James Persinger to approve board members serving as liaisons with district and community advisory boards and committees as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shedd.

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

6) Recommendations for Public Disclosures of Conflict of Interest: (attachment)

Mr. Monroe submitted conflict of interest disclosures for Dr. Bilz, Mr. Jensen, Dr. Hack, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Boezeman, and Dr. Van Horn. Dr. Bilz' disclosure was due to her employment and the others have spouses and/or family members that work for the corporation. The forms will be filed as part of the official minutes of the Board. The statements will also be filed with the county court and the State Board of Accounts.

Dr. Shedd made a motion to accept the conflict of interest disclosures and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer.

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

7) Request for Approval for the Strategy for Increasing Teacher and Support Staff Salaries – Referendum 2020: (attachment)

Dr. Roberts made a formal recommendation for the Operating Referendum. He highlighted the changes from the information presented at the prior board meeting, and reviewed the challenges BCSC continues to face with inadequate funding resources. He shared BCSC continues to do more with programing opportunities for students, in more ways, for more students and more efficiently, but with limited resources. Property tax caps, emergency state funding reduction, funding formula changes, and

complexity funding cuts are the top ways funding to BCSC has been reduced by \$46 Million since 2009. BCSC has had to find ways to be more efficient with funding resources to continue to produce quality students for the community, but with the same education tax rate.

Dr. Roberts addressed the challenge with recruitment and retention of staff. He shared data on the annual average number of teachers new to BCSC and the number of resignations per year indicating the challenge of retention. The proposed referendum is a property tax increase of \$0.1560 per \$100.00 of assessed property value. Since the December board meeting, an extra effort to narrow the focus to specifically raise teacher and support staff salaries and improve student safety has been made, reducing the original projected rate of \$0.1950. The proposed tax rate for BCSC remains below the Indiana average and similar school districts comparable in size, assessed values and location. This rate calculates to an average of \$7.79 a month per household with only four of the eleven townships being over \$100.00 per year. One hundred percent of these funds would be going to teacher and support staff salaries as well as student safety. Dr. Roberts stated the above information as well as a tax calculator is available on the BCSC web site under the referendum tab.

Mr. Persinger made a motion to approve the reviewed Operating Referendum and Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Stenner noted informational changes since the December meeting. He asked, if a vote is passed on the referendum tonight, could additional changes continue to be made to the rate? Dr. Roberts explained changes were made to the rate to benefit the taxpayer based on input received and once the proposal has been approved the rate would be locked.

Mr. Caldwell inquired about wording of the referendum on the ballot and how the transparency of spending and reporting of the funds would be communicated. In response, Mr. Phillips read the wording as it will appear, if approved, on the May 5 ballot. He also stated there would be a separate budget to track referendum fund spending, with those expenditures, as well as revenue and metrics, being available for public viewing on the BCSC web site.

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer asked how soon the teachers and support staff would see the pay increase. Mr. Phillips replied that support staff will see the increase in January 2021. Teachers will collectively bargain for a start date and tax payers would see the increase on the May 2021 tax statement.

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

8) Requests for Approval:

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of December 16, 2019 (attachments)**
- b. Supplemental Contracts (attachment)**
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (attachment)**
- d. School Fundraisers (attachment)**

- e. Claims and Payroll (attachment)**
- f. Appointment of Dr. Roy Goode as School Physician (attachment)**
- g. Appointment of Chris Monroe as School Attorney (attachment)**
- h. Appointment of Eva Cagwin to the BCSC Health Trust**

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

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

Upon a call for the vote, Items 8) a-h were unanimously approved.

9) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations: (attachment)

Ms. Heiny 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 Mr. Bryant.

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

WHAT

10) Board Commendations:

Mr. Stenner commended our two local high schools for their Unified Sports Programs and the tremendous impact they have on our community. He shared the national recognition Columbus East received through the “National Olympics Champions Together Program”. Columbus East was one of fourteen schools in the state of Indiana to be named a “Unified Champion School”.

Dr. Shedd shared the “American Mathematics Competition” winners. Central Middle School had two 1st place winners placing in the top five percent in the nation, as well as a 2nd and 3rd place winner. She congratulated the students and their teachers.

Dr. Shedd also shared a Channel 13 feature story on the Royalty Athletic Team that is known as the Angels. The cheer team began in 2015 as a senior project of student Cassie McDonald, who at the time wanted to start a special needs program at that particular gym. Dr. Shedd affirmed the good of our senior projects and that they are a part of our community in a very fundamental way for the good of many.

Dr. Bilz attended the Soul of Philanthropy reception held at Columbus North High School. She commented on the high level of information presented as well as gave a commendation to the C4 Culinary Program for their beautiful display.

11) School Board Member Reports:

Dr. Shedd highlighted a program she attended through the Indiana School Board Association and Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents. The focus was on social/emotional learning, and mental health. She noted that this program was made available to Noblesville and Hamilton Southeastern School learners through passing a referendum.

12) Cabinet Reports:

- **Extra-Curricular Fund Report**

Mr. Phillips shared the extra-curricular fund report from each school.

- **Final 2020 Tax Rate (attachment)**

Mr. Phillips shared the DLGF approved tax rate.

BOARD INPUT/REVIEW

Mr. Stenner thanked the Northside staff for hosting the board meeting and tour.

Dr. Shedd thanked the individuals that shared their thoughts on the referendum. She shared appreciation of the diligence of the administration for coming back with additional information and a lower tax rate since the December 16 board presentation. She added that, the board takes their responsibility serious as they take care of BCSC’s professionals which take care of our children.

Mr. Caldwell shared final comments noting the need for adequately compensating our teachers and he added that the school board would hold the administration accountable with the requested referendum funds.

President Caldwell announced that the next School Board Meeting would be on Monday, January 27, 6:30 p.m. at Northside Middle School in the cafeteria.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

_____ President

_____ Secretary