

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2018 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held at the Richard L. Johnson Early Education Center, 1209 Sycamore Street, Columbus, IN 47201, on Monday, November 12, 2018 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: Mr. Jeff Caldwell, President
 Dr. Jill Shedd, Vice President
 Mr. James Persinger, Secretary
 Mr. Robert Abrams, Member
 Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member
 Mr. Rich Stenner, Member

Absent: Mr. Pat Bryant, Member

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

School Attorney: Mr. Chris Monroe

REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Caldwell shared reflections.

Following the pledge of allegiance led by Richard L. Johnson students, the meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

A recording was shown of Richard L. Johnson students sharing the Mission and Vision statements.

PUBLIC HEARING

- **Additional Appropriations (Mr. Phillips)**
- Projects:
 - Safety, Security and Renovation Project
 - Transportation and Maintenance Addition and Renovation Project

President Caldwell opened the Public Hearing at 6:36 p.m.

- Approval of the Proof of Publication

Mr. Phillips requested the board approve and accept into the record the proof of publication of the public hearing notice that was printed in *The Republic* newspaper. A copy of the publication was shared with the board.

Mr. Abrams made a motion to approve the proof of publication, and Dr. Shedd seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Phillips shared that the additional appropriations request for approval is necessary to spend more than was approved in the 2018 calendar year budget. The money that will be spent on the 2018 General Obligation Bonds was not a part of the 2018 budget when it was originally approved.

Mr. Caldwell asked the board if they had any comments or questions. There were none.

Mr. Caldwell asked if the public had any comments or questions. There were none.

Mr. Caldwell closed the public hearing and called the board meeting back to order at 6:38 p.m.

WHO/WHY

Richard L. Johnson Early Education Center Best Practice (Mr. Yates)

Mr. Yates, Pre-K Director, shared the school information slide. Mr. Yates, Ms. Backmeyer, Assistant Pre-K Director, and Ms. Edgren, Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Facilitator, shared how the Reggio Emilia-Inspired Curriculum creates authentic learning opportunities for Pre-k students based on their interests. The learning environment is student centered and self-directed. Ms. Edgren and students demonstrated how they were engaged in the project of making Little Free Libraries and keeping them filled with books for neighborhood readers.

Safety and Security (Dr. Roberts/Dr. Boezeman)

Dr. Roberts noted that for a couple of months the corporation has been working on processes to create a safer environment. In addition to the updates that have been previously shared at board meetings, Dr. Roberts noted that the ID badge process is at nearly 100% completion. In January, an additional School Resource Officer (SRO) from the Sheriff's Department will be housed at Southside to serve that surrounding area of the corporation. Interviews are being held this week for two additional City Police Officers to serve as SROs. They will begin in summer 2019. The Indiana Department of Education will begin safety audits in 2019; this will be an external check of our processes and systems that are in place. Dr. Boezeman will be the lead on the audits.

The following statement was shared by Dr. Roberts:

This past week, a few parents in our district expressed concerns over the way we communicate incidents within our schools. Because of our ongoing commitment to the safety and security of BCSC students and staff, I will comment on our safety and security communication process.

If an incident occurs in one of our buildings, our first and foremost priority is to ensure that all students and staff members are safe. Concerning an alleged threat, it is addressed immediately and our communication of the instance is then selectively determined based on viable allegations and concrete facts. We must address every threat immediately; however, we should only report broadly those threats that have been appropriately vetted.

Releasing information unnecessarily or before understanding a situation fully has the potential to desensitize our community to emergency alerts and create panic. In today's world, where technology has created an expectation of instant response and a feeling of urgency on all matters, it is critical that we, as a school corporation, communicate intentionally and factually with our students, parents, staff members, and community stakeholders. The evaluation and classification of a threat determines our speed, methods and extent of our communication. We are not competing with the news or social media to be first with our communication; however, we will be the most accurate.

It is important to understand that, besides providing timely and accurate information, we are also committed to the provision of an ongoing plan of support for all affected by a threat. It is very important that we address both the immediate issue as well as the support needed by any student, family, or staff member impacted by the situation.

There are a number of ways that you can stay informed about incidents that may occur in our School Corporation as well as opportunities to partner with us in making our schools as safe as possible for our students and staff.

First, we encourage you to sign up for emails, text messages and social media accounts from the school or schools where your student attends or family members work.

Second, we ask you to sign up for all e-alerts that you would like to receive from BCSC. On our district's website, you have the opportunity to sign up for email and text alerts from the school district and the schools you would like to hear from directly by clicking on the BCSC e-alerts tab.

Finally, we need you to continue to partner with us in handling threats or situations that are concerning. If you see or hear something involving any type of threat, we are listening. If your student has told you about a threat, let us know immediately. We will continue to do the best we can every day to ensure our schools are safe for our students and staff.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Carolyn Huber, Smith Elementary parent, shared her concerns about a student that threatens other students and acts out violently in the classroom on a regular basis. She requested the student be pulled from the classroom and be educated in a way where they cannot hurt other students. Ms. Huber noted that her child is afraid at school.

Amanda Burden, Smith Elementary parent, shared that her child had been bullied since last school year. She noted that her child is being threatened daily at school by the same student. She has met with BCSC administrators and feels they have run her in circles and have determined that the incidents are not bullying but peer conflict. Her child is afraid to go to school and afraid to go on field trips. Ms. Burden added that the student has threatened violence against staff members also. She notes the student has an adult assigned to him, but she requested the student not be mainstreamed.

Dr. Roberts added that he and Ms. Burden have a meeting scheduled.

Smith elementary student, Lilly Brady, shared an incident that took place in her classroom where a student tried to hurt people. She noted that she was scared for herself and for her classmates.

Robyn Brady, Smith Elementary parent, shared that a student in her daughter's class has emotional needs and almost daily has trouble regulating their temperament. She said the same student threw a chair at her daughter last school year. She applauds mainstreaming children but asked at what point a student should be removed from a classroom. Teachers can do only so much to protect students, and the school principal has only talked to students about how to help other students with their tempers. Mrs. Brady asked the board to review this matter and make sure students are safe.

David Brady, Smith Elementary parent, noted that he did not see anything about safety in the BCSC mission, vision or high expectation objectives. He said parents should feel their children are safe at school. The lack of respect by the student in his daughter's classroom does not dictate that the student should be mainstreamed. The school has tried having this student in

the classroom, and it has not been successful. Other students are deprived of their rights. The classroom environment is not a healthy one, and is not safe. His child has nightmares and worries she will be hit by a chair, stabbed or worse. He said parents have a lack of trust for the principal and the board because they have not provided a safe place for children to learn and grow.

President Caldwell noted that the board would investigate the parent concerns.

Bridget Bartlett, Smith Elementary parent, shared her son protected other students in the classroom from the student that was hurting others. The teacher would have done more but her hands were tied. She feels the principal tries to justify the students' outbursts. She noted her concerns about parents not being notified of the classroom situation. All children deserve an education, but they also deserve to feel safe at school. Her son is scared at school, and she is also afraid of what will happen next if this student is left in the classroom.

Daton Smith, Smith Elementary student, shared that he does not feel safe at school and each day wonders what might happen. He said the student will curse, yell and get mad and that makes him scared.

Stephanie Studley, parent, shared her concerns around the board's lack of communication. She noted that she had come to several board meetings to speak on safety concerns, and little or nothing has been done. She does not agree with using handheld metal detectors and is concerned about not receiving clear communication from the corporation when threats are made. She said there needs to be a way to ensure all parents receive text messages. Ms. Studley also shared her concern that School Resource Officers (SROs) do not wear body cameras as they interact with students. She asked that the board make her feel heard and show that her concerns are considered. She would like to be invited to the table and be included in conversations.

President Caldwell stated that for Ms. Studley to say little or nothing has been done about safety concerns is pretty inaccurate. Every board member has listened and plenty of action has taken place. Dr. Roberts has shared those safety and security updates at several board meetings. The board has listened.

Mr. Abrams noted that the board members are available by phone and email and when they receive an inquiry they pass it on to the proper person that can take action on the concern. He said he gets frustrated, that as a board member, he does not hear much from the public. The board member may not be the person responsible for a specific operation in the district, but they all know the proper person to pass the concern on to. He said to take advantage of the boards' openness as they welcome communication.

Mr. Caldwell shared his appreciation for everyone sharing their concerns.

WHAT

1) Board Commendations:

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer commended Julia Iorio, Columbus North High School student, for receiving the 2018 Indiana Outstanding High School Student of Spanish Award by the Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Dr. Shedd commended Sarah Arnold, C4 Health Careers student, for knowing exactly what to do, and for responding accordingly and promptly, when a peer had a medical incident. Ms. Arnold's reaction affirms the quality of her BCSC education.

Dr. Shedd also commended the Central Middle School Spell Bowl team for earning the State Championship.

2) School Attorney Report:

No report was shared.

3) School Board Member Reports:

No reports were shared.

4) Cabinet Reports

No reports were shared.

HOW

5) Requests for Approval: (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of October 22, 2018 (attachments)
- b. Supplemental Contracts (attachment)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (attachment)
- d. Claims and Payroll (attachment)
- e. School Board Policy Updates (attachment)
 - 1422, 3122, 4122** – Nondiscrimination & Equal Employment Opportunity
 - 2260**-Nondiscrimination & Access to Equal Educational Opportunity
 - 1662, 3362, 4362, 5517** – Anti-Harassment
 - 2700** Annual Performance Report, **3120.04** Employment of Substitutes, **3131** Reduction in Force (“RIF”) in Certified Staff, **4162** Drug & Alcohol Testing of CDL Holders & Other Employees who Perform Safety Sensitive Functions, **5630.01V1** Use of Seclusion & Restraint with Students, **6610** Extra- Curricular Funds, **7510** Use of

School Facilities, **7530.02** Staff Use of Personal Communication Devices, **8315**
Information Management

- f. Additional Appropriations Resolutions (attachment)
- g. Final Bond Resolution; Continuing Disclosure Undertaking; Appointment of Bid Committee (attachment)
- h. Permission to Receive Bids for the Soccer Fields (attachment)
- i. Permission to Receive Bids for the East Auditorium (attachment)

Dr. Roberts shared additional information on the requests for approval. He requested approval of the reviewed items.

Dr. Shedd made a motion to approve the reviewed items, and Mr. Persinger seconded the motion.

Dr. Roberts noted that this was the second reading of the policies; they were discussed in detail at the previous school board meeting.

Upon a call for the vote, items 6) a-i were unanimously approved.

6) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations:

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

Dr. Shedd made a motion to approve the Human Resources recommendations, and Mr. Abrams seconded the motion.

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

BOARD INPUT/REVIEW

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer noted that Veterans' Day was just celebrated. She shared that we are all here because of Veterans that fought for our rights and freedoms. She asked that everyone thank Veterans for their sacrifices. She stated that children have the right to be safe in school and the board should ensure that children and staff have the right to be free and in a good and safe environment. She shared her appreciation for the students that spoke and noted that she cares for and supports them.

Mr. Stenner thanked the parents and students for speaking and sharing information on how to make the corporation better.

Mr. Caldwell thanked all that spoke and noted that the board will follow up on their concerns.

President Caldwell stated that the next school board meeting would be December 10, 6:30 p.m. at Southside Elementary School.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

_____ Secretary

Attest: _____ President