

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held at Columbus East High School, 230 S. Marr Rd., Columbus, IN 47201, on Monday, December 11, 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. Rich Stenner, President  
                                 Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Secretary  
                                 Mr. Robert Abrams, Member  
                                 Mr. Pat Bryant, Member  
                                 Mr. James Persinger, Member  
                                 Dr. Jill Shedd, Member

Absent:                     Mr. Jeff Caldwell, Vice President

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

School Attorney:        Mr. Chris Monroe

**REGULAR SESSION**

Mr. Stenner shared reflections.

Following the pledge of allegiance, the meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

**WHO/WHY**

Mr. Stenner noted the mission, vision and the high expectation objectives.

Mr. Newell, Columbus East Principal, shared an informational slide on Columbus East High School.

**Parkside Elementary School Spelling Bowl State Champions:**

Mr. Smith, Parkside Principal, thanked the Board and Cabinet for the recognition of the Parkside Spell Bowl Team that won the state championship. He noted the hard work of the

students and how proud he was of them. The Spell Bowl Coach, Ms. Logston, shared that the students work on memorizing the spelling of 750 words over the summer and try out for the team in the fall. There are 17 students on the team, but only eight are allowed to take part in the competition. She noted that all the members are supportive of one another and that they represent the corporation very well by being good citizens. Parkside earned the State Championship while competing against 500 teams and 6000 students. The students were introduced and congratulated by the board.

### **Columbus East High School Best Practice:**

Mr. Newell and Columbus East students, Alec Burnett, Morgan Meier, Maggie Gregory and Lizzie Frazier shared a presentation on their peer-mentoring program LEAP; **L**eading, **E**ncouraging, **A**ssisting our **P**eers. The program is a partnership between Columbus East, Central Middle School and the Indiana Future Farmers of America (FFA). There is a connection between LEAP and the 40 Developmental Assets that are a foundational element of the Lilly Counseling Counts Community Grant. Developmental assets are building blocks of healthy development that help children grow up healthy, caring and responsible. The student mentors shared that there are weekly mentor/mentee meetings and they take trips throughout the year. The overall goal is to encourage positive peer relationships, help mentees connect with available youth programs and to develop decision-making skills and positive self-esteem. The mentors also noted that they are becoming expert learners by being purposeful and motivated, resourceful and knowledgeable and they are strategic about how they structure their time. Columbus East will work with all staff next semester on the Developmental Assets to help them best build relationships with all students. Mr. Newell recognized Ms. Schuetz, Columbus East Counselor, and Mrs. Wohlford, Columbus East Dean, for their role in training the mentors to be effective peer facilitators, by teaching the best way to respond and how to better engage and build relationships.

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

The students were attracted to the program after seeing their friends having fun and enjoying being mentors. They wanted to work with younger students, be a positive role model and build relationships. Past mentors have continued to keep in touch with their mentees.

Being a mentor does take a significant amount of time. It is an academic course and the students receive credits.

Central Middle School Counselors recommend students for the program, and the mentees complete a survey that helps make a more purposeful match between mentees and mentors. The best balance is one mentor to two mentees.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **2017 Additional Appropriation:**

President Stenner closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Phillips shared that the Additional Appropriation request is asking to increase the General Fund expenditures by \$1,040,000 with dollars we have available. The approval to spend more than the approved budget for the calendar year is the result of preparing and approving the budget before the increase in health premiums were known and because the collectively bargained raises approved for 2017-2018 averaged 3.2% and were budgeted for 2%.

Dr. Roberts added that the cash balance in the General Fund would not be affected by the additional appropriation approval, as the corporation received additional funds to make-up for the increased expenditure.

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

The increase in health premiums were a result of an increase in claims from October to December. The increases were not known until after the budget was approved.

President Stenner asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:07 p.m. and the regular meeting resumed.

## **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

No one spoke at this time.

## **WHAT**

### **1) Board Commendations:**

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer commended the Columbus East Football Team for being State Champions. The team will be recognized at the January 8<sup>th</sup> school board meeting.

Mr. Stenner commended Columbus North senior, Brandon Mitchell, for his senior project on creating self-advocacy cards. There was a feature in the newspaper.

Mr. Stenner thanked Dr. Sylva for his service to BCSC. This is Dr. Sylva's final board meeting as the Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services. He will retire this month. Mr. Stenner noted that the budgets Dr. Sylva developed would total in the billions of dollars.

## **2) School Attorney Report:**

Mr. Monroe noted that the Columbus Multi-High School Building Corporation met prior to the board meeting and made all necessary approvals and completed all steps needed to move forward with the refinancing of the Build America Bonds.

## **3) School Board Member Reports:**

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer shared that the Education Hall of Fame Nomination Committee met and reviewed several nominees. The 2018 Education Hall of Fame winner was chosen and will be announced in January. The award will be presented at a board meeting in February.

Mr. Stenner met with the Council for Youth Development and they determined main areas to work on in 2018. Their goals are to work on youth empowerment, family engagement, and professional development for those servicing in youth organizations. The council plans to equip youth workers with the 40 Developmental Assets.

## **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 November 13, 2017 (attachment)
- b. Supplemental Contracts (attachment)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (attachment)
- d. Claims (attachment)
- e. 2017 Additional Appropriations (attachment)
- f. Declare Items Surplus and Hold Auctions in 2018 (Mr. Forster/Mr. Hoskins)
- g. Declare School Buses Surplus and Hold an Auction in 2018  
(Mr. Forster/Mrs. Wetherald)
- h. Award Bids for Playgrounds (Mr. Phillips/Mr. Forster/Mr. Funk)
- i. Change Orders for Playgrounds (Mr. Phillips/Mr. Forster/Mr. Funk)
- j. Bid Columbus North and Columbus East High Schools Athletic Field Turf  
(Mr. Phillips/Mr. Forster/Mr. Funk)
- k. Change Order for Columbus North High School Auditorium and Columbus East High School  
Gymnasium (Mr. Phillips/Mr. Forster/Mr. Brummett)
- l. Change Order for Northside Middle, Southside Elementary and Rockcreek Elementary  
Roofing Projects (Mr. Phillips/Mr. Forster/Mr. Brummett)
- m. Change Order for Northside Middle Renovation (Mr. Phillips/Mr. Forster/Mr. Brummett)
- n. Change Order for Richards Elementary Renovation  
(Mr. Phillips/Mr. Forster/Mr. Brummett)

- o. 2018 Tax Anticipation Warrants (Mr. Phillips)
- p. Resolution to Add Chad Phillips and Pam Boles as an Authorized Signer for the Raymond James Investment Account (Mr. Phillips)
- q. Teacher Appreciation Grant Memorandum of Agreement (Ms. Heiny)

Dr. Roberts shared additional information on the requests for approval and noted that the appropriate people were present to respond to questions. Dr. Roberts requested approval of the reviewed items.

Dr. Shedd made a motion to approve the reviewed items, and Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Findley, CSA-Lincoln Principal, shared that the playground proposal at Lincoln has architectural and historical significance, and parents have raised \$266,000 toward the \$710,000 project. They have held fundraising events and received grant dollars. The playground is titled the Linden Project to pay homage to the original design of Architect, Gunnar Berkerts, that included little leaf linden trees planted around the school. Another driving force for the playground improvements was that the community is in need of an updated outdoor play area.

The parent fundraising group continues to ask area businesses for donations toward the Linden Project and several have contributed. Non-profits have contributed as well.

There is not space at CSA-Lincoln to expand the playground, but Randy Royer, Landscape Architect, has planned the space to make it quite functional. Two improvements will be a water fountain and a covered area. Last year the corporation looked at all playgrounds and found CSA-Lincoln to have a significant need for updates.

The plan is to break ground on the playground in the spring and have it ready for students in the fall.

The athletic field artificial turf at both Columbus East and Columbus North is twelve years old.

The Raymond James account is not a new account for the corporation. The requested approval is to add Mr. Phillips as a signer for the account. With the retirement of Dr. Sylva, it is likely there will be other accounts where Mr. Phillips will need to be authorized to sign.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried to approve the Items 5) a-q as described by Dr. Roberts.

#### **6) Request for Approval to Refinance the Build America Bonds: (Mr. Monroe)**

- a. Resolution Approving Preliminary Plans, Form of Amendment to Lease and Authorizing Publication of Hearing of Notice on Amendment to Lease (Mr. Monroe)

- b. Resolution to Authorize the Refunding, Establish Savings Parameters, and Hire Underwriter, School Counsel and Bond Counsel (Mr. Monroe)
- c. Resolution Approving Continuing Disclosure Undertaking (Mr. Monroe)
- d. Resolution Reapproving Building Corporation (Mr. Monroe)
- e. Resolution Approving Amendment to Lease (Mr. Monroe)
- f. Resolution Determining Need for Projects (Mr. Monroe)
- g. Reimbursement Resolution (Mr. Monroe)

Mr. Monroe noted that there were a number of complex legal documents on the agenda. Refinancing bonds to reduce interest cost is a complex process. To permit refinancing BCSC will work through the Columbus Multi-High School Building Corporation to lease. The documents the board was asked to approve were necessary to complete the process of refinancing the Build America Bonds. Mr. Monroe and Mr. Phillips have worked through the process with the bond council.

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

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

The savings amount from the refinance will be known Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the day of the bond sale. Depending on the interest rate, the savings will be from \$2.5 million to \$3 million. The additional funds will give the corporation the opportunity to do facility work at Columbus East and Columbus North High Schools.

This concept is similar to refinancing a home, but more complex. There will be additional documents brought for approval in January 2018.

The resolution to hire legal counsel in Item 6) b is referring to Mr. Monroe as a part of the Columbus Multi-High School Building Corporation. He is filling the opening of retired school attorney, Mr. Wells.

The dollar benefit from the refinancing of the bonds depends on interest rates. The refinance reduction in interest will equal more dollars than what the corporation would have received in tax credits from the Build America Bonds.

The original 2015 referendum approval by public vote was to fund \$89 million of facility improvements at the two high schools. The increase in funds from the refinancing will continue to fund high school projects. This will allow close to a total of \$115 million of facility needs being met. The tax rate will not increase.

Build America tax credit dollars will pay for the turf replacement at both high schools.

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

**7) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations:**

Ms. Heiny requested approval of the human resources recommendations as presented.

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer made a motion to approve the human resources recommendations, and Dr. Shedd seconded the motion.

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

**BOARD INPUT/REVIEW**

Dr. Shedd thanked Dr. Sylva for being a great financial steward and for guiding the corporation. She added that it could not have always been easy for Dr. Sylva, but he hung in there and did great things for the corporation. Additional board members thanked Dr. Sylva for his service to students and the corporation.

Mr. Stenner thanked the parents from CSA-Lincoln for their fundraising efforts for the playground improvements.

Dr. Roberts thanked Mr. Findley for being ready to share at the spur of the moment on the CSA-Lincoln playground and noted that it was evident that Mr. Findley had invested in the process and project.

Mr. Stenner shared that it was a pleasure to serve as president of the board the past year. The next school board meetings would be January 8 and 22, 6:30 p.m. at Parkside Elementary School.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_Secretary

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_President