

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held at Columbus North High School, 1400 25th Street, Columbus, IN 47201, on Monday, April 22, 2019 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
 Dr. Julie Bilz, Member
 Mr. Pat Bryant, Member
 Mr. Jeff Caldwell, Member
 Mr. James Persinger, Member

Absent: Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Secretary

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. Brett Boezeman, Director of Operations
 Dr. Gina Pleak, Director of Title Services
 Dr. George Van Horn, Director of Special Education

School Attorney: Mr. Chris Monroe

REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Caldwell shared reflections.

Following the pledge of allegiance, the meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Dr. Shedd noted the mission, vision and high expectation objectives.

WHO/WHY

Columbus North Jazz Band Performs (Mr. Clark/Mr. Stultz)

The Jazz Band played “Bohemian Rhapsody” and it was noted that Band Director, Mr. Stultz, would be retiring at the end of the school year.

Columbus East High School Top Ten Seniors (Ms. Schuetz)

Ms. Schuetz, Director of Counseling, noted that the Top Ten Seniors from Columbus East High School not only had great grade point averages but they also have great character and are highly involved in the community. The Top Ten Seniors from Columbus East introduced themselves and their parents. They shared their college and career plans, senior projects and noted their most influential teacher. They were congratulated by the board and cabinet.

Columbus North High School Top Ten Seniors (Mr. Pemberton)

Mr. Pemberton, Director of Counseling, shared that he was amazed at this exceptional group of students and that they truly have great qualities including a hard work ethic and compassion. The Top Ten Seniors from Columbus North introduced themselves and their parents. They shared their college and career plans, senior projects and noted their most influential teacher. They were congratulated by the board and cabinet.

Ross Wallace/Chuck Grimes Out of the Box Innovation Award (Mrs. Bruin)

Mrs. Bruin, Executive Director of the School Foundation, introduced Michelle Fee, Central Middle School Media Specialist, as the winner of the Ross Wallace and Chuck Grimes Out of the Box Innovation Award. Mrs. Fee was congratulated by the board and cabinet.

Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation Spring Innovation Grants (Mrs. Bruin)

Mrs. Bruin shared that the School Foundation had been awarding innovation grants to staff for over 63 years. She thanked the corporation for their generous financial contributions that help support the grants. Mrs. Bruin introduced the grant winners and shared that the 2019 spring grants totaled \$28,866.67. The grant recipients were congratulated by the board and cabinet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amelia Shaw, German Teacher, thanked the board and cabinet for their support of the German program. She shared that they just hosted students and teachers from North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany through a city cultural exchange program. Ms. Shaw noted that it was a positive experience and that there is a plan for students from Columbus to visit Germany this summer.

WHAT

1) Board Commendations:

The following commendations were noted:

Central Middle School Track Coaches, **Darren Baugh, Hillary Hilycord and Sheila Blake**, jumped into action and performed CPR on the track timer from Seymour Middle School when he collapsed. The ER doctors said the three saved the life of the individual.

Columbus East High School Senior, **Anita Henrichsen**, donated two 3D printers from her senior project to the Columbus East Art Department. The printers will be used in the Visual Communication class and will increase opportunities to create more hands-on products.

2) School Board Member Reports:

Dr. Shedd shared a legislative update from a Senate Appropriations Committee webinar. Information was shared on the education budget, improvement of the complexity matrix, costs of English Language Learner (ELL) instruction, school safety and how Tax Increment Financing (TIF) impacts School Corporations.

3) Cabinet Reports

- 1st Quarter Financial Update (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips shared the 1st Quarter Financial update. Mr. Phillips noted some revenues and expenditures that varied from expected and explained the reason for variances. He noted the balance at the end of March in the Education Fund to be \$1,654,799, and the month end balance with tax anticipation warrants was \$13,254,799. The 1st Quarter balance in the Operations Fund was (\$991,705), but the balance with tax anticipation warrants was \$10,928,295. The corporation will receive a tax draw in May and another in June.

Mr. Phillips shared that the slight profit in the Health Trust is entirely due to reinsurance reimbursements because of large claims at the end of 2018. Close tracking of expenses and premiums is being done in health and dental. Health reserves for the 1st Quarter were \$2,913,714, and reserves in dental were \$154,462. Mr. Phillips shared that the Health Trust members meet later in the week and they have some tough decisions ahead. They are considering changes to the plan for 2020. He noted that he was hopeful that the trust would make it through the year without the need to take emergency action.

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

The Health Trust membership is actively working on a recommendation that they will consider through negotiations with the CEA and will bring it to the board this fall. The Health

Trust is prepared, if necessary, to take emergency action and request an increase in premiums before the end of the calendar year, but Mr. Phillips is hopeful this will not be necessary.

There is evidence that the changes the Health Trust made in the past few years, like adding the clinic, have been helpful, but the unexpected large claims and specialty drug costs are negating these savings.

State funding dollars go into the Education Fund and there are monthly transfers from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund.

The corporation will receive a tax draw in May and another in mid-June.

- Property and Liability Insurance (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips noted that the board had received several pieces of information on property and liability insurance in their board packets. Property and liability insurance is a major expense for the corporation and he is looking for opportunities to save and find efficiencies in the budget under Educational Service Centers Risk Funding Trust (ESCRFT). Mr. Phillips has engaged a law firm to complete a comparative analysis of the 2018-19 quotes from our current insurance provider, Liberty Mutual, and ESCRFT. ESCRFT was found to be a “bona fide” school trust and meets the requirement of Indiana Code and could handle a corporation of our size. The findings were largely positive for ESCRFT; deductibles and premiums were less under ESCRFT compared to the current amounts. It was also found that under ESCRFT, a single event with more than \$500,000,000 in property losses could expose BCSC to additional financial liability. They are working on increasing the single event limit since BCSC is a larger corporation. Mr. Phillips is awaiting quotes from both ESCRFT and Liberty Mutual. He plans to bring a recommendation for approval at the June 10th school board meeting.

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

The total savings through ESCRFT are unknown, until quotes are received, which should happen in mid to late May. There are layers of coverage with both companies. With a traditional plan, the district pays a deductible and the insurance company covers the remaining claim amount. With an insurance trust, the district pays the deductible, the cash reserves held by the trust pays the next layer, and the insurance company covers the remaining claim amount.

When a proposal is made to the board the company will be invited to attend to answer questions.

The East Allen School Corporation in Ft. Wayne uses ESCRFT for their insurance.

The largest claims the corporation has had most recently would be the flood in 2008, a bus accident a few years ago, and the Columbus North auditorium fire.

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 April 8, 2019 (attachment)
- b. Supplemental Contracts (attachment)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (attachment)
- d. School Fundraisers (attachment)
- e. Claims and Payroll (attachment)
- f. Elementary Student Handbooks (attachment)
- g. Secondary Student Handbooks (attachment)
- h. To Renew the Agreement with Renaissance Learning (attachment)
- i. To Select Traps Software for Windows Endpoint Protection (attachment)
- j. Virtual Pathway Provider Agreement-Edgenuity (attachment)
- k. Adopt Career & Technical Education Resources (attachment)
- l. High School Alternative Schedule (attachment)

Dr. Roberts shared additional information on the requests for approval. He completed a quick glance of the Career & Technical Education Resources presentation. He noted that he had looked back at past resource adoption requests and found that costs were typically not included, but noted that the committees were mindful of competitive costs as they worked with vendors. As course fees are adjusted they will be brought to the board for adoption in June and July.

Dr. Roberts skimmed the High School Alternative Schedule power point. The block schedule information has been presented and discussed at three board meetings.

Dr. Roberts requested approval of Items 5) a-l.

Mr. Stenner made a motion to approve the reviewed items, and Mr. Caldwell seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Bryant noted that the board had not heard from teachers at the board meetings in regards to their thoughts about the block schedule. He asked if teachers could speak at the meetings, and also asked for clarification on training teachers on the changes block scheduling would bring.

Dr. Roberts noted that there were teachers on the committee that worked on the block schedule proposal. Teachers were represented. He added that School Board Policy 3112-Board-Staff Communications, establishes the procedure of how teachers are to work through the system before they engage in conversation with the board. There will be training on block scheduling at the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) summer institute, and professional development will take place during the 2019-2020 school year. The proposed block schedule would begin the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Caldwell reiterated that administrators presented the block scheduling proposal at school board meetings, but teachers and parents were represented on the committee.

To increase cyber security, the more sophisticated Endpoint Traps protection was chosen over the current Kaspersky product. Endpoint provides up-to-date individual computer protection and is cost effective; a \$27,000 savings with the proposed three-year agreement. Traps will adapt to new security threats K-12 and protect networks and data.

Upon a call for the vote, Items 5) a-1 were approved five to one, with Mr. Bryant voting against Items 5) a-1.

6) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations (Ms. Heiny)

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

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the Human Resources recommendations, and Dr. Bilz seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Heiny introduced three newly approved Schmitt Elementary School Teachers, Claire Wilson, Shelby Stephens and Laura Atkins. Nichole Johnson was also introduced, as she will transfer from Northside Middle School to Schmitt Elementary.

BOARD INPUT/REVIEW

Dr. Roberts shared that the board had a copy of a #REDFORED resolution from the Columbus Educators Association (CEA). The CEA asks that the board review and consider the resolution in support of their efforts for the #REDFORED movement. The board will be asked to approve the resolution at the next school board meeting.

President Shedd reported that the next school board meeting would be May 13, 6:30 p.m. at Rockcreek Elementary School. There will be a 6:00 p.m. reception in honor of the 2019 retirees.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

_____Secretary

Attest: _____President