



## **itslearning:**

Mr. Jensen said that the journey began last year when one-to-one computing started across the district. Mr. Jensen shared that Mr. Williams, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, would present the success story of the learning management system, itslearning. Itslearning supports BCSC instruction and the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework.

Mr. Williams noted that Mr. Jensen, Mr. Jamerson, Technology Director, and others were responsible for putting itslearning in place in the schools. The program usage rate is at 95% and Preschool is included in the 5% not using itslearning. Positive feedback was shared on the use of Chromebooks and itslearning.

Richards Teacher, Ms. Voils and UDL Facilitator, Ms. Hebert, shared the story about a first grade student, Karol Storch, who would not speak in class. Through itslearning, Karol began talking to classmates through recording videos. She now teaches other students how to make and upload videos on itslearning. Karol now speaks in class and she was present to read a statement to the members of the board. This was an example that primary students can navigate the itslearning platform. Another example was shared of PE students using itslearning for a virtual eLearning Day. Mr. Williams shared that one reason the itslearning platform was chosen was the program integrations. Only one password is needed to log-in and access all programs. The platform is also used for senior projects, student services profiles, announcements, resource courses for teachers to collaborate, eLearning Days, virtual courses, surveys and data.

Mr. Williams noted that Instructional Technology Teams support itslearning through workshops, online support and professional development. There is also a great partnership between itslearning and the corporation. Mr. Jamerson presented at an itslearning national conference on BCSC using itslearning with UDL, and the corporation has also been featured in articles and in webinars. In the future, the plan for itslearning will be to continue integrating more programs through the UDL lens, adding additional professional development, showcasing success and helping every teacher grow through technology.

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

There are a few kinks to work out in regards to better communication for at-home log-ins. There are specific procedures to follow to log-in on the BCSC filter.

The eLearning Days for the 2016-17 school year follow the same calendar as the 2015-16 year. The first week of spring break is out of school, but if needed, the second week will be used as snow make-up days. eLearning Days begin on the actual sixth snow day. Some schools will open on eLearning Days and there will be Wi-Fi sites across town. Knowing there may be connectivity concerns, the state allows a three-day window to have assignments completed from an eLearning Day.

Presently there is not a separate parent log-in on itslearning. Parents may log-in with their children. The Technology Department is working on the best way for parents to access

itslearning. They are looking at paring the PowerSchool log-in with an itslearning log-in. BCSC hosted an itslearning parent night and shared information on student internet safety and the significance of the BCSC safe filter.

## **PUBLIC DIALOGUE** **STUDENT AND STAKEHOLDER FOCUS (3.0)**

### **1) Comments of Individuals and Delegations:**

Dr. Shedd explained the difference between Public Dialogue and signing in to speak during Comments of Individuals and Delegations. She shared that if you signed in to speak, but after hearing the explanation, would rather speak in Public Dialogue that this was permissible.

In an hour and a half long Public Dialogue and Comments of Individuals, more than a dozen patrons shared concerns in opposition of adding gender identity to the list of protected classes within the corporation school board policies. Several shared their support of the policy update. Please find patron comments below.

- Was the Presidential directive considered in making this decision? The government has overstepped their bounds.
- Concerned about risks to female students if males who identify as females are allowed to use the female restrooms or locker rooms.
- Does not trust the corporation to protect their children, a lawsuit could come against the board.
- Protecting a small group but discriminating against all other students.
- Do not compare discrimination of blacks to the discrimination of transgender students.
- What about students that on a whim want to change their gender just to enter the opposite sex restroom?
- How will parents know if transgender students are entering the restroom they identify with?
- Add transgender bathrooms to facilities.
- There is a standard mode of discrimination now by identifying male and female bathrooms. Allowing males in female bathrooms and females in male bathrooms flexes the gender category.
- What if a student sees someone in the restroom that they feel should not be there, how does the student know if they are transgender?
- Thanked the board for considering the protection of all students and researching this thoroughly.
- Too early to make a policy around something that no one understands, reconsider and put a hold on the policy change.
- Find a place for transgender students to feel comfortable.
- It is ridiculous to vote on whether boys should go into the girls' restroom.
- Teaches youngsters there are no guidelines; schools should teach discipline and moral values.

- People will pull their children out of BCSC. The board should fear losing their jobs.
- Commended the board for properly dealing with a challenging situation.
- Everyone has gone to school with transgender students and no one has suffered from this.
- It has been lost in the conversation that we are talking about transgender children, parents love them and they are our kids too. Do not separate these students like history has done in the past for religion, race, disabilities and females.
- The policy change fits perfectly with BCSC's high expectation objectives of providing a welcoming and diverse learning culture of respect, fairness and trust.
- Respect the rights of all children, no child should feel threatened.
- Adding gender identity to the protected class allows students to focus on learning in school instead of being held back due to anxiety.
- Respect the rights of all children, by students using the facility of their gender at birth.

In response to the questions and comments the board and cabinet shared the following information.

Dr. Shedd shared that the policies have one minor modification that adds the term "gender identity" to the list of protected classes. The BCSC policies have included transgender as a protected class since 2013. The board discussed the policies at a board meeting two weeks prior. There are no significant changes and the modification to the policy adds nothing that the corporation specifically has to do differently.

Ms. Heiny read the change to the policy that restated what Dr. Shedd had noted.

Dr. Quick noted that each situation would be looked at case-by-case, and schools would work with families and students to best accommodate all students. There are stalls in each restroom and in the nurse's office. There are alternatives, not a one-size fits all.

Mrs. Benjamin noted that a 504 treatment plan comes into place when a student has a special circumstance or a disability, one being gender identity. The parents and administration develop a plan to help accommodate the student.

Dr. Shedd noted that there is a systematic process for transgender students. Administration, families and students work together through a comfortable systematic process. No students just get to choose what sex they identify with on a given day.

Mrs. Verbanic shared that the corporation presently has and has had transgender students going into the restrooms they identify with, and there have not been any complaints from anyone. This is a delicate situation but the board is asking you to trust them as they look at this case-by-case and help all students.

Dr. Quick noted that we have had transgender as a protected class in corporation policies since 2013. The corporation has provided guidance to transgender students and not one problem has occurred. Providing access to all students is important.

Mrs. Benjamin noted that the term gender identity causes confusion. In the DSM-IV it is referred to as gender identity disorder. In the DSM-V it was changed and is referred to as gender dysphoria to reflect that there is gender incongruence rather than confusion. She shared that she has researched every case she could find, and not in one case, had any school not worked diligently through a process with families. Never was it allowed for a student to just come in one day and say I am a boy or I am a girl. The kids are suffering and trying to understand their situation and the schools are working with them. Cases in schools were started based on a concern from someone outside of a school because they did not like the transgender students in the bathroom of their identified gender. Every child still has rights whether transgender or not. The law speaks to discrimination in regards to freedom of not being harmed, freedom of expression and protection of privacy rights. Adding gender identity to the policy does not change things from how they are now. BCSC has had transgender in the policy for three years with not one issue raised. Each situation is looked at on a case-by-case basis. In regards to non-discrimination, the corporation will work with all students and families to protect everyone's rights.

Dr. Shedd again noted that only one term is being added to the existing policies. Dr. Shedd noted that the Columbus City Council added protection based on sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected classes of their Human Rights Ordinance. The corporation is striving to be a representative of our community by making a slight change to policy. Policy changes relate state and federal law and are recommended only after they are thoroughly researched by Indiana legal counsel.

Dr. Quick shared that the corporation has not dealt with transgender locker rooms, but would follow the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) process and procedure. BCSC can make accommodations in the locker rooms for all students.

Mrs. Verbanic shared that, as a parent and board member, she had spent months considering both sides of the debate and concluded that the policy is reflective of students already coming through our doors. She considered the following question, "What discomforts am I personally willing to bear for the sake of others?" This led her to believe a one-size fits all policy regarding rights of transgender students would not allow both sides of the issue to be comfortable. She noted that the districts case-by-case strategy is best for every student. She asked for the patrons to trust the board as they have given this much thought and consideration.

Dr. Quick shared that BCSC presently has transgender students enrolled. The families notified the administration and have worked through the process. There have been no concerns reported from any parents or students around transgender bathroom use.

Dr. Quick noted that there is the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and school personnel would not violate the law and tell others that students are transgender.

Mrs. Verbanic shared that her high school son shares the bathroom with transgender students and has not had any worries. Students may go into the stalls for privacy.

If a student feels unsafe in the restroom or anywhere, they should speak to staff at their school. The corporation wants all students to feel comfortable.

**2) Board Commendations:**

Dr. Shedd congratulated teams from Central Middle School and Northside Middle School for their success in the Indiana Academic Super Bowl.

**MEASUREMENT, ANALYSIS, AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (4.0)**

**3) School Attorney Report:**

No report was shared.

**4) School Board Member Reports:**

No report was shared.

**5) Cabinet Reports:**

No reports were shared.

**EDUCATIONAL PROCESS FOR BOARD ACTION (6.0)**

**6) Requests for Approval: (Dr. Quick)**

Dr. Quick reviewed the following items for the Board.

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of May 9, 2016 (attachment)
- b. Supplemental Contracts (attachment)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves (attachment)
- d. Claims (attachment)
- e. School Board Policy Revisions (attachment)

Mr. Caldwell made a motion to approve the items as described by Dr. Quick. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Verbanic.

Mr. Caldwell noted as a Christian, father, husband, son and grandfather that he does not know any transgender individuals. For better understanding, Mr. Caldwell had read articles and listened to personal stories. He knows the young and old wrestle with who they are and how they are perceived in society. For all, including transgender students, this can lead to isolation and broken relationships. He asked everyone to remember how hard it was to be a teen finding your place, and asked everyone to take this small step and be inclusive of all, especially those dealing with gender identity. Mr. Caldwell noted that he will vote yes on the policy change as it's the right thing to do.

Dr. Shedd shared that Mr. Abrams regretted that he could not attend the meeting. Dr. Shedd read a statement from Mr. Abrams noting that if he were present he would have voted yes to the policy modification that gives equal rights and non-discrimination of all. He noted that the policy revision is only a language change and does not change the fact that we presently treat everyone equally. Universal Design for Learning is the starting point for all corporation practices and BCSC welcomes and honors all of its learners.

Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried unanimously with a vote 6 to 0.

**FACULTY AND STAFF FOCUS FOR ACTION (5.0)**

**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. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Verbanic.

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

**BOARD INPUT/REVIEW**

President Shedd shared that the next school board meeting would be June 13, 7:00 p.m. at Central Middle School. There will be a 6:30 p.m. reception in honor of Dr. Quick's retirement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ President