

Ms. Bays shared that she had chaperoned the student trip to Japan for 11 years. Students from Columbus East and Columbus North visited Japan this summer, and the trip was funded by part-time jobs, scholarships, and donations. She thanked the community for donations, especially the Japanese business community. A donor list was shared. Ms. Bays noted that the trip to Japan, and experiencing a new culture, revealed the value of learning another language while in high school.

Students shared their experiences from the trip and noted that their lives had been changed as they developed confidence, independence and maturity. They found that living with a host family and experiencing the Japanese culture first hand helped them see the importance of knowing another language and encouraged them to pursue the study of Japanese further. The students stressed the importance of world language classes being offered in high school.

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

The students found the Japanese students to be kids just like them.

BCSC and Miyoshi, Japan have had a 20-year, sister-city relationship. This week, students from Miyoshi are visiting Columbus and will have lunch with the BCSC high school Japanese language students. Mr. Ochi, a Miyoshi group leader in attendance, was introduced and welcomed.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Please find the comments from patrons regarding the adding of gender identity to the list of protected classes in BCSC policies.

- A Patron asked for the process for a citizen to place an item on the school board meeting agenda.

Dr. Shedd noted that agenda item suggestions should be requested through the board president and or superintendent, and the requests would be taken under consideration.

- A patron shared appreciation that the school board added transgender individuals as a protected class to the non-discrimination policy in 2013 and appreciated the updated policy language. The patron agreed with the board that this is not a bathroom policy, but asked if the federal ruling in regards to President Obama's guidelines would cause the board to make any policy changes or would they leave the anti-harassment policy as it stands? The policy, as it stands, is very important because it sends a message that all students in the corporation are valued.

Dr. Shedd said that the BCSC policy would not be changing.

- A BCSC high school student shared that she had come to previous meetings to hear the dialogue around the policy. She has been happy to hear the policy description from the

school board. She hoped the dissenting audience members would have listened and allowed the board to clear-up misconceptions and concerns as they did for her. She shared her appreciation for the school board.

- A patron asked where to find the BCSC policies.

Dr. Shedd noted that the policies were on the BCSC website under About Us/District School Board Policies. The student anti-harassment policy is #5517.

- A parent of three students in BCSC, 2 being daughters, thanked the board for adding gender identity to the protected classes in policy. His children feel safe at school, and he thanked the board for supporting all students.
- A retired nurse and family therapist shared that she supports the board and that they are following the BCSC High Expectation Objective of providing a welcoming and diverse learning culture of respect, fairness and trust. She thanked the board for welcoming and respecting transgender students in 2013 and again by the adoption of the recent policy.
- A BCSC high school student stated full support for the non-discrimination policy and does not feel threatened but feels very safe at school. The board action to update the policy shows they want to protect all students. Statistics show that 82% of students feel unsafe. She thanked the board for making BCSC schools safe places for all learners to be successful.

STUDENT AND STAKEHOLDER FOCUS (3.0)

1) Comments of Individuals and Delegations:

Ann Jonen, Sarah Kilbarger-Stumpff and Alan Kilbarger had signed-in to speak but had already spoken in Public Dialogue.

Elizabeth Monette shared that she had worked with transgender young people and that the struggles they go through are heartbreaking. She thanked the board and BCSC for having a policy that extends a quality education to all students.

Lisa Deaton noted that she had spoken at several meetings but felt she had failed to clearly share her true intentions and thoughts. The Bartholomew County Parent Action Committee (BCPAC) does not want the board to change the non-discrimination policy, and they do not believe that transgender students are a threat. They are not uncaring and are saddened by the statistics shared by Mrs. Benjamin at the past meeting. Ms. Deaton and the BCPAC suggest a single, private restroom for all students. This would be the answer to the bathroom concerns and be a private, safe haven for all students. The single stall facility would free transgender students from going through the identification process. There would be no need for co-ed facilities, as it is inappropriate for the same facility to be used by both boys and girls.

Sunny Currier thanked the board and noted that their commitment to keep all students safe was commendable. The decision was not a popular one, but she thanked the board for standing up for a group of kids who often are bullied and face difficulties as they go through the

day. She wanted to share her support so people would know that not everyone is up-in-arms about the policy. Many individuals are silently cheering the board on and appreciate the fact that they care for all students.

2) Board Commendations:

No commendations were shared.

MEASUREMENT, ANALYSIS, AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (4.0)

3) School Attorney Report:

Mrs. Benjamin noted that later in the meeting the board would be asked to consider her resignation. She will begin a new job in January, and the resignation allows her to begin the transition. Mrs. Benjamin shared that she applied for the school attorney position because she loves kids, wanted to see them grow and have opportunities to succeed. Throughout her career, she has worked in roles that support children. She noted that she has felt privileged to work with the school board and cabinet and has been impressed by their character. While facing roller coaster issues, they have been calm, not blown off course and always dignified. The board and cabinet recognize what needs to be done for students, and they get it done. Mrs. Benjamin thanked the board and cabinet for their hearts, service and for making choices in the best interest of all students. She noted it had been a wonderful opportunity and a pleasure to work with them.

4) School Board Member Reports:

Mrs. Verbanic attended the Literacy Task Force meeting and noted that the 2016 Columbus Community Book Read would be *Hoosiers*, written by James H. Madison, an Indiana University Historian. There will also be grade-level appropriate Indiana authored books along the same theme chosen for children to read. The Book Buddy volunteer program is still looking for adults to read with second and third graders. The Book Express is in need of a driver to deliver books to neighborhood children. September 8 is Put Your Nose in a Book Day.

Mr. Caldwell attended the Health Trust meeting and shared that there had been a three-year trend in the rise of health care costs. This has happened across the community partly due to an increase in pharmaceutical costs. The Health Trust is exploring some innovative solutions.

Mr. Stenner attended the School Foundation meeting where they prepared the application for the teacher innovation grants. Grant applications are due September 14.

5) Cabinet Reports:

Mr. Jensen said that Dr. Roberts would be sharing some great news from Columbus North High School that relates to Mr. Abrams' reflections about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math curriculum (STEM).

Dr. Roberts announced that Mike Spock, Columbus North Math Teacher, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Mr. Spock will travel to Washington D.C. to receive this award. Congratulations to Mr. Spock and Columbus North High School.

EDUCATIONAL PROCESS FOR BOARD ACTION (6.0)

6) Requests for Approval: (Dr. Roberts)

Dr. Roberts reviewed the following items for the Board.

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 8, 2016 and Minutes of the Executive Session of August 17, 2016 (attachment)
- b. Supplemental Contracts (attachment)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves
- d. Claims (attachment)
- e. Columbus Educators Association Memorandum of Agreement (attachment)
- f. Preddie vs. BCSC Settlement (attachment)

Mr. Caldwell made a motion to approve Items 6) a-f, and Mrs. Verbanic seconded the motion. Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried unanimously, 6-0.

FACULTY AND STAFF FOCUS FOR ACTION (5.0)

7) Request for Approval of Human Resources Recommendations:

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

Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer made a motion to approve the Human Resources recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abrams. Upon a call for the vote, the motion was carried unanimously, 6-0.

Mr. Caldwell thanked Mrs. Benjamin for being a terrific resource and for helping the board with so much work.

BOARD INPUT/REVIEW

Mrs. Verbanic announced her candidacy for the BCSC School Board seat. She shared that four years ago when she was asked to run for the board she was not brave enough to ask why. She thought it might be her background in college placement, having kids in the school system, being a Book Buddy volunteer, or maybe because she had been constructively critical if she felt a change was required in the corporation. As a board member the past three and a half years, she has gained appreciation of being a voter on the board and at times has voted in the minority. It can be very sobering to be a good steward and to weigh state statues and federal guidelines. She appreciated being a part of selecting a fantastic superintendent and noted the state has graded BCSC as an A school

district. Mrs. Verbanic noted that she wants to continue to be a part of the district as it works every day to continuously improve.

Dr. Shedd thanked Mrs. Benjamin for being an efficient and effective counsel for the corporation. She added that the county will be gaining a great judge.

President Shedd shared that the next school board meetings would be September 12 & 26, 7:00 p.m. at Southside Elementary School.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

_____Secretary

Attest: _____President