

**BARTHOLOMEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation was held at the Southside Elementary School, 1320 W 200 S, Columbus, Indiana on Monday, September 12, 2016, at 7:00 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. Rich Stenner, Vice President
 Mrs. Polly Verbanic, Secretary
 Mr. Robert Abrams, Member
 Mr. Pat Bryant, Member
 Mrs. Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Member

Absent: Mr. Jeff Caldwell, Member

Administration: Dr. Jim Roberts, Superintendent
 Ms. Teresa Heiny, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 Dr. Vaughn Sylva, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services
 Mr. William Jensen, Director of Secondary Education

Absent: Dr. Laura Hack, Director of Elementary Education

School Attorney Interim: Mr. Seamus Boyce

BUSINESS MEETING

Dr. Shedd offered reflections.

President Shedd called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Interim School Attorney, Seamus Boyce, from Church Church Hittle + Antrim, was introduced and welcomed.

LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Southside Elementary Principal, Jeff Backmeyer, read the vision and mission.

PRESENTATIONS

2017 Budget Work Session:

Dr. Sylva noted that the budget work session was not required, but it gives the board and public time to digest and be ready to ask questions in two weeks at the public hearing. He shared that the public dialogue session follows his presentation and questions could also be asked at that time. The board members will receive detailed budget books soon.

Dr. Sylva expects the 2017 General Fund revenue to be \$72.9M an increase from \$72.2M in 2016. The state supports this fund by a per student dollar amount. The September ADM student count is predicted to be unchanged from the prior year. The September 2016 student count funds the current six-month period, the February 2017 ADM count will fund the first half of 2017 and the September 2017 ADM count will fund the second half of 2017. The expenditure assumption in the General Fund was reported to be \$72,862,339 up from \$71,879,393 in 2016.

The General Fund health costs have had a major uptick; as of July 2016 health expenses were 20.8% higher. Expenses did not begin to increase until 2014 so the trust had built up reserves. Reserves in the Health Trust as of July 2016 were \$7,000,000. Dr. Sylva attributed the increase in health expenses to costly diseases and child births. Also, a number of employees have switched to the high-deductible insurance plan and this decreases the premium payments into the health trust.

Dr. Sylva shared the estimated General Fund reserves for December 2016 and December 2017 to be \$1.9M. The present Rainy Day Fund balance is \$6,274,348.

Dr. Sylva shared the Debt Service Fund budgets. The regular Debt Service Fund budget totaled \$9,612,438. The Pension Debt Fund budget totaled \$1,450,889. The Pension Bonds have to reduce the budget elsewhere, so the payments become neutralized. The Bus Replacement Fund will be reduced by \$300,000, the Transportation Fund by \$300,000 and the remaining balance will reduce the Capitol Projects Plan. The 2002 Pension Bond will end in 2017 relieving \$1.1M from needing to be neutralized. The Referendum Debt Fund for the 2010 High School Bond totaled \$7,973,000. This will continue to drop each year and will expire in 2029.

The 2017 Capital Projects Plan has an assumed budget of \$13,423,943. This fund is determined by the assessed value.

Dr. Sylva shared that the Transportation Department has worked hard to reduce their costs. The 2017 Transportation Fund revenues are projected to be \$5,954,892, and the expenditures are projected to be \$5,933,316.

The initial Bus Replacement plan would have allowed ten buses to be replaced at a total cost of \$1,383,141. But, Dr. Sylva noted that the Pension Bond offset would reduce the number of new buses to be purchased to seven or eight.

The assessed value data prediction shows a slight increase of .6%. A higher assessed value equals a lower tax rate. The assessed value is unknown at this point, but if there is a slight increase, the corporation tax rate should remain the same.

Dr. Sylva shared that the Property Tax Cap Losses went down in 2015 but have jumped back up in 2016.

Dr. Sylva shared the budget summary that indicated the proposed total budget, before Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) adjustments, to be \$112,639,067. This is an estimated increase of 1.2%

In response to questions from the board the following information was shared.

The City of Columbus Redevelopment Commission has approved to give the corporation \$750,000 from dollars collected from Tax Increment Financing (TIF). The \$253,825 given to iGrad is included in the budget shared by Dr. Sylva. The money given to STEM education and Special Education Transition is not included in this budget.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

No one spoke at this time.

STUDENT AND STAKEHOLDER FOCUS (3.0)

1) Comments of Individuals and Delegations:

No one signed in to speak.

2) Board Commendations:

Mr. Stenner commended Principal Backmeyer for filling in for a first grade teacher when no substitute was available.

MEASUREMENT, ANALYSIS, AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (4.0)

3) School Attorney Report:

No report was shared.

4) School Board Member Reports:

Mrs. Verbanic attended the High Ability Broad Based Planning Committee where they discussed finding an updated and purposeful high ability test for specific levels, including kindergarten. One test for third and sixth graders has been eliminated because data from a present test that is given to all students will be used to determine ability. This will reduce

student testing time and cost.

Mrs. Verbanic attended the Literacy Task Force where it was noted that a bi-lingual Book Express driver had been hired. The volunteer Book Buddy program is still looking for tutors to read with second and third grade students. There are 350 volunteers serving 174 students. Last school year, second graders advanced 6.7 reading levels and third graders advanced 9.2 reading levels.

Mr. Stenner attended the School Foundation Committee meeting where they learned that Director Ethan Crough would be leaving for a new position. The committee is in the process of writing a job description and they will seek applications soon. He thanked Mr. Crough for all his accomplishments.

5) Cabinet Reports:

Dr. Roberts shared in regards to public relations that various things were happening in the corporation through the Columbus East High School television station, Channel 3, You Tube and other social media outlets. Students have recorded the first episode of *BCSC in Action* and the show will be broadcast beginning this week at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Dr. Roberts noted that the students did a great job working behind the scenes in this authentic learning experience. Students will produce an episode each month.

Dr. Roberts thanked Dr. Sylva for the valuable school finance information. As Dr. Sylva mentioned, the board would receive a binder that goes into more detail.

Dr. Roberts shared the sad news that Dr. Hack's brother had passed away. Dr. Hack was not in attendance as she was out of town with her family attending services.

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 22, 2016 and Minutes of the Executive Session of September 7, 2016 (attachment)
- b. Supplemental Contracts (attachment)
- c. Field Trips/Professional Leaves
- d. Claims (attachment)

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Items 6) a-d, and Mrs. Dayhoff-Dwyer 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. Verbanic 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.

BOARD INPUT/REVIEW

Mrs. Verbanic noted the sad loss of a former Columbus North teacher Cheryl Dieckman. Mrs. Verbanic's children were saddened by the news as they were quite fond of Ms. Dieckman as a teacher.

President Shedd shared that the next school board meeting would be September 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