

For April 23, 2013

The School Board

..... met at Mary Beck Elementary School.

..... was presented with colors by Cub Scout Pack #706.

..... welcomed Superintendent's Student Advisory Council representatives from both high schools. Juan Gonzalez of Memorial reported Service Project X community service hours total 13,712 to date; advanced band students completed the clean-up of the court yard at Riverview Elementary School; band, choir and orchestra received gold ratings at recent competitions and the choir sang at the recent child abuse prevention vigil last week. Francisco Cardoza of Central reported the goal of 15,000 Service Project X community service hours has been reached; \$5,000.00 was raised during the St. Baldrick's fundraiser; and a dance marathon is scheduled to raise funds for Riley Children's Hospital.

..... accepted with appreciation donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): a check for \$200.00 from Trinity United Methodist Church's Methodist Women to Eastwood Elementary School for their nurses' fund; a set of soccer goals valued at \$5,218.00 to Pinewood Elementary School from the Pinewood PTO to be used by students; a check for \$1,930.00 from the Elkhart County Community Foundation for the U.S. History summer school field trip; and a check for \$48,000.00 from the Rex and Alice A. Martin Foundation to Riverview Elementary School to purchase and install smart boards in eight classrooms and also purchase school licenses for digital programs to be used with the smart boards.

..... congratulated two certified staff members who have been employed by ECS for 40 years. Mayor Richard Moore reported the City of Elkhart swore in four new firefighters earlier today and people serving people hold a special place in his heart which teachers are certainly in this category. Mr. Moore stated it was a pleasure to award the City's highest honor to employees for their many years of service. He presented Key to the City plaques to Richard Rushlow, teacher at Daly; and Pat Virrill, teacher at Feeser.

..... heard a report from principal Richard Mendez about Beck Elementary. Mr. Mendez introduced PTO and staff members present. He thanked music teacher Ms. Williams and the drummers who performed to open the meeting. Mr. Mendez reported 90% of kindergartners are reading at or above grade level. Growth of a year or more in reading levels since the beginning of the school year were reported: 42% of first graders, 68% of second graders, 49% of third graders, 64% of fourth graders, 45% of fifth graders and 52% of sixth graders. An afterschool tutoring program was formed to assist the lowest 25% of students, Acquity is used as a predictor of who will pass ISTEP and all grades have shown improvement in their overall average percent. Sue Watrel, math bowl sponsor, introduced the Beck Math Bowl team: Jennifer Fuentes, Noberto Martinez, Eva Morales, Alejandra Ramirez, Sayra Resendiz, Brenda Rodriguez, Jaquelyn Barrera, Vannice Evans, Lupita Martinez, Jocelyn Portillo, Juan Resendiz, and Isaac Vega. This is the second year Beck has had a team competing, ranking first in their division and 81 out of 112 schools in the state. Kristi Turner, behavior specialist, reported Beck uses positive behavior support (PBIS) and has seen the average number of referrals per school day decrease since 2006. Classroom meetings are held for students to talk about issues and how to positively deal with those issues. She also showed a graph of students by grade level who have not been sent to the office with a referral. Ms. Turner indicated the culture at Beck is great and wants all students to feel that when they walk through the doors. Superintendent Haworth noted the number of staff in attendance shows how much each of them cares about Beck. He reported his wife has been helping at Beck and has noticed the welcoming culture and he feels it every time he enters the building.

- approved the purchase of a John Deere tractor to be used for the maintenance of the softball and baseball fields to be paid of out of the athletic fund for Central High School at a cost of \$3,000.00. Recent donations of \$3,000.00 were received from parents of the softball and baseball teams.
- awarded the bid for the Memorial High School roofing project to Slatile Roofing and Sheet Metal of South Bend, IN as the lowest and best, most responsive and most responsible bidder in the amount of \$376,248.00; with a base bid of \$294,812.00 and alternate 1- \$52,218.00 and alternate 2- \$29,218.00. In response to Board inquiry, Tony Gianesi, director of building services, reported the base bid was low enough to add two alternatives; the majority of the roof at Memorial is much newer; and all contracts should include an e-verify component, which is an internet-based system which allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States. Mr. Gianesi reported ECS currently receives this information once the bid is awarded and will be changing the procedure to be included in the bid submission.
- held a public hearing on the proposed resolution to finance the 2013 Capital Improvements Projects with no comments from the audience, the hearing was closed.
- adopted a resolution to authorize financing for 2013 Capital Improvements Projects.
- heard from Ted Foland, energy education specialist, the last audit was conducted at Beck on Monday, April 22nd at 6:30 pm. He reported the building temperature was within the appropriate range. Improvement has been made in end of day shut downs but building needs to continue to work on shutting down computer lab's screens and printers. Mr. Foland indicated Beck's administration and staffs efforts have resulted in a first quarter cost avoidance 2% ahead of last year. Beck is ranked 7th out of 14 elementary buildings. For the corporation, year to date 2013 cost avoidance is 26.8%, overall program cost avoidance from September 2009-current is valued at \$3,260,000.00. Currently the chillers and irrigation systems are being started up for the season and end of year schedules and shut downs are being planned along with summer school schedules.
- heard proposed revisions to Board Policy GCBA, administrative salary schedule, for initial consideration. Doug Thorne, executive director of personnel and legal services, indicated proposed changes will be effective July 1, 2013.
- heard proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation JEA-1, Kindergarten Early Entrance Procedure and Application Form, for initial consideration.
- approved the submission of a grant to the United Way in the amount of \$950.00 to offer an after-school program at Hawthorne Elementary for reluctant male fourth grade readers in October 2013.
- approved an overnight trip request for members of Memorial High School marching band to travel to Orlando, FL on April 6, 2014 and return on April 12, 2014, to perform at Universal Studios, visit Sea World and Clearwater Beach.
- approved a consent agreement regarding employer compensation.
- approved the employment of Ashley Coe, speech pathologist at Cleveland.

- approved maternity leaves of absence for the following three (3) certified staff members: Micolette Berry, intervention teacher at Beardsley; Whitney Goeglein, art teacher at Memorial; and Kathryn Landin, art teacher at Pierre Moran.
- approved a health leave of absence for Martin McCrindle, public safety teacher at Career Center.
- confirmed changes to maternity leaves of absence for the following two (2) certified staff members: Karla Doyle, second grade at Eastwood; and Katie Wallace, first grade at Bristol.
- confirmed a change to voluntary leave of absence for Julene Fitch, special education teacher at Beck.
- confirmed retirement of the following three (3) certified staff members at the end of the 2012-2013 school year with years of service in parenthesis: Rebecca Clawson, sixth grade at Pinewood, (37); Nena Strong, social studies at Central, (26); and Bonita Willem, special education at West Side, (37).
- confirmed the resignation of the following two (2) certified staff members: Janice Hickman, first grade at Monger; and Jessica Windsor, second grade PEP at Bristol.
- confirmed the resignation of the following four (4) classified employees: Marcus Perez, paraprofessional at West Side; Dawn Powell, food service at Memorial; Melissa Vega, supply manager at Building Services; and Betty Yoder, bus helper at Transportation.
- confirmed the retirement of Carol West, secretary at the Career Center.
- heard from Superintendent Haworth an information session will be held at West Side Middle School Wednesday, April 24th to present how the shortfall in the budget affects transportation routing, school boundaries, and school start times.