

For April 9, 2013

The School Board...

..... welcomed Superintendent's Student Advisory Council representatives from both high schools. Alexandra Brown-Anderson of Central reported Service Project X community service hours total 13,500 to date and invited Board members to attend any of the spring sporting events now in season. Stephen Tefft of Memorial reported Service Project X community service hours total 11,418 to date; members of the baseball team helped a community member move over spring break; Mr. Weimer is leading a group of students who will be cleaning up the court yard at Riverview Elementary School, and students currently on the no-dance list may be able to attend prom by completing community service hours.

..... accepted with appreciation donation of 15 golf bags to the Elkhart Central Golf program valued at \$1,875.00 from JJ Babbitt and William Reglein to be used during practice and competition.

..... heard from ETA President Alex Holtz regarding Elkhart Community Schools' (ECS) graduation rates increase from 66.3%(2007) to 84.5%(2012), closing the gap based on the state graduation rates.

..... heard from Mary Yoder Holsopple, coordinator of ECS bully prevention program, when Roosevelt applied for a grant from Teachers Credit Union (TCU) four years ago to print bookmarks, which lead to TCU sponsoring the annual bookmark contest for primary and upper elementary, and middle school students. 14,500 bookmarks were printed this year. Mrs. Holsopple presented three awards: primary elementary to Kennedy Stewart of Cleveland; upper elementary to Amelia Redding of Riverview; secondary to Hannah Quinn of Central; and Kathy Udovenko, an advertising design student at the Career Center is using all the book mark entries for a calendar. The calendar includes all ECS dates; explanation of bullying; parent tips; and the anonymous bullying website is listed on every page. The graphics arts students at the Career Center will be printing the calendars. The entire project is student driven. Mrs. Holsopple reported money has been received to print calendars for this year, but the idea of selling calendars for a nominal fee to support future printing is being considered.

..... heard a presentation on bridges from Phyllis Herczeg's fifth grade high ability class. The program started as a hands-on activity to understand physics and is coordinated with current state standards. Students had a model of the bridge on display and gave a short report on the following: Tower Bridge: Joseph Gard and Savion Bias; Dames Point Bridge: Neil Terrell and Jeremy Espinoza; Firth of Forth Rail Bridge: Patrick Petersen; Astoria: Michael Huang; Golden Gate Bridge: Carter Hazzard.

..... heard from Bill Kovach, Career Center Director, about Motorcycle Technology teacher Ryan Gortney who was seriously injured in a racing car accident last summer, has continued to teach his classes as often as possible this school year even as he was undergoing extensive physical therapy. Mr. Kovach described Ryan as a determined, tenacious and dedicated employee. Board President Jeri Stahr presented Ryan Gortney with the ECS Perseverance Award.

..... heard from Doug Thorne, Executive Director of Personnel and Legal services, about the employees nominated for employee of the year by their peers and the winners in three categories. Distinguished Non-Certified Support Employee: David Fager, BJ Gawthrop, Danielle Miller, Jackie Perry, Anita Randolph, Donna Schmucker, and Becky Vechera; the winner is Jackie Perry, head custodian at Memorial. Distinguished Certified Support Employee: Brenda Emerson, Jacquie Rost, and Cindy Whittaker; winner Jacquie Rost, activities director at Memorial. Distinguished Teacher of the Year: Jill Halloran Barnes, Jacalyn O'Hara, Carrie Repaich, Janet Riley, David Robinson, Natalie Schultz, John Taylor; winner John

Taylor, physics teacher at Memorial. Mr. Thorne summarized the glowing nominations each of the winners submitted to the nomination committee.

..... heard from Lisa Regan, the 6th annual Daly Dash will take place on Saturday, May 4th. There are 200 runners currently registered. Daly uses this annual event to teach its students about healthy lifestyles and as the school's major fund raiser. Other events scheduled for the day include Five Star fitness, Rock Star fitness, sale of Nelson's Chicken, lemonade stands as part of Lemonade Day, and Lochmandy Motors will have a test driving fund raiser in front of the J. C. Rice Educational Services Center from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and donate \$10 for each licensed driver who test drives a car that day.

..... adopted a resolution to amend the 403(b) retirement plan adoption agreement. Doug Hasler, executive director of support services, indicated the changes are necessary to allow employees to make changes to their contributions on a quarterly basis instead of two times a year and dropping ING as a 403(b) vendor.

..... approved the Board of School Trustees meeting schedule for the 2013-2014 school year as originally presented at the March 26th Board meeting. The schedule follows past years' schedules - regular meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm and public work sessions on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 am with exceptions in December; the location for all meetings are routinely at the J. C. Rice Educational Services Center, but during the school year are held at various schools.

..... by a 5 to 1 vote, the Board approved suggested revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy GDBA-12, Employees in Technology Services Positions Compensation Plan. Mr. Thorne indicated the changes are necessary for salary ranges to be competitive with similar positions in the private sector; changes to the holiday schedule to align with other employee groups; and the addition of the position of Digital Communications Specialist. Prior to casting the dissenting vote, Board member Glenn Duncan stated his disagreement with the district's practice of creating salary "ranges," which can allow employees the opportunity to be complacent in salaries. His preference would be for the district to move toward more performance-based compensation plans, as are found in the private sector. Mr. Duncan clarified his views were not directed specifically toward the Technology Services Department Compensation Plan, but rather towards the school district compensation plans in general. He went on to express his great confidence in Mr. Rice and the Technology Services Department, his view that technology is important and growing in importance, and that he is not specifically opposed to the new position or the salary levels outlined in the compensation plan.

..... approved the submission of the following grants to the United Way: Reading Camp, \$2,000.00; Reading Boost, \$1,500.00; and Minds in Motion, \$1,000.00 by Bristol Elementary School.

..... approved the submission of a grant to the Indiana Department of Education High Ability for the "Making a Difference Grant" up to \$15,000 for testing or curriculum purchases for the 2013-2014 school year.

..... approved for the submission of a grant to the Monsanto Fund for the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education for \$25,000.00 to support the transition of Roosevelt Elementary into a STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) school.

..... confirmed the resignation of Molly Gibson, mild intervention teacher at Hawthorne.

..... approved regular employment for the following three (3) classified employees who have successfully completed their probationary periods: Mayra Adame, paraprofessional at Monger; Paul Boers, paraprofessional at Roosevelt; and Joseph Wood, support tech I at ESC.

..... confirmed the resignation of Erika Ledezma-Martinez, paraprofessional at Beck.

..... confirmed the retirement of Doyle Franklin, custodian at Hawthorne.

..... heard from Superintendent Haworth three information sessions will be held at each of the middle schools over the next two weeks to present how the shortfall in the budget affects transportation routing, school boundaries, and school start times. The sessions are open to ECS parents and staff. At the last Board meeting, the retirement of four administrators was reported. These vacancies will be filled by current employees and responsibilities will be absorbed and redistributed to other administrators.