

The School Board....

-the Board met at Memorial High School (MHS). Fire Department on site recommended no one enter the building, the Board voted to move the meetings to J.C. Rice Educational Services Center.
-approved a motion to table the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council representative reports, student recognitions and MHS building report.
-accepted with appreciation donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): a cello valued at \$300.00 for ECS music by Susan and Charles Moore; \$220.50 for Beardsley kindergarteners to take a fieldtrip to Pottawatomie Zoo from First Presbyterian Church; 8 wiggle chairs with a value of \$100.67 for Cleveland 4th graders from Donors Choose with the support from Donna Stevenson, Abbie Thompson, Rob Hoffer and Scott Hershberger; \$500.00 from the United Way for start-up supplies to help local families transition into kindergarten; \$385.00 from Impassion Mothering to cover the price of admission for all Hawthorne kindergarten students to visit Potawatomi Zoo; and \$532.59 from the Indiana Youth Institute for hotel and registration to Indiana Speech Language Hearing Association State Convention for Nicole Spear of Mary Daly Elementary.
-approved the proposal for Property/Liability Insurance Renewal by Wright Specialty Group. Doug Hasler, Executive Director of Support Services indicated our insurance agent, Gibson Insurance conducted a request for proposals and received two. Both companies were interviewed and Gibson recommended Wright Specialty Group.
-approved proposed fundraisers offered by Mr. Hasler.
-approved a 2014 Budget timeline provided by Mr. Hasler. He reviewed the budget timeline for the development of the 2015 budget.
-was presented with proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation JFC-(1), Guidelines for Good School Order, for initial consideration. Doug Thorne, executive director of personnel and legal services, indicated the changes made: to clarify suspensions from school will be no more than five (5) days; under the bullying section, referencing the new Bullying Policy; and an addition under electronic devices stating, in addition to being subjected to discipline, electronic devices may be confiscated by the school and returned to the parent upon request.
-was presented with proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation JFC-(2), Rules for Student Conduct, for initial consideration. Mr. Thorne explained the regulation also references the proposed new Bullying Prevention Policy. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Thorne clarified the suspension and expulsion process at ECS and praised Tony England, Director of Student Services, for doing a great job keeping kids in school. Also in response to Board inquiry, Mr. Thorne expressed these regulations are printed in Spanish and English and sent to each student's family at the beginning of the school year.
-was presented with proposed New Board Policy JFCB, Bullying Prevention, for initial consideration. Mr. Thorne explained it is state mandated we have a policy addressing bullying prevention. The policy as presented was developed from the Indiana Department of Education's model policy, by Mr. England, Mary Yoder Holsopple, Bully Prevention Coordinator for ECS, and Mr. Thorne changes were made to fit our district needs. Mr. Thorne stated all staff members, not just teachers, have had anti-bullying training which makes recognizing bullying and reporting more accurate. State law mandates a prompt investigation of all reports of bullying behavior,

intervention and follow-up for both the victim of any bullying behavior and the student who engaged in the bullying behavior. Both policies also require, pursuant to state law that confirmed incidents of bullying behavior be reported to the Superintendent, the Board of School Trustees, and ultimately the Indiana Department of Education. It was noted many allegations of bullying are determined during an investigation to be conflict existing between two students rather than bullying. In response to Board inquiry, he stated the model policy does not give much leeway when defining teacher responsibilities when they observe bullying behavior, however since for many years our schools have been involved in initiatives to prevent bullying behavior, the policy will not change what is already taking place in our schools. The education Mrs. Yoder Holsopple has provided our staff is research based and is being used throughout the nation. At no expense to our corporation, she has been asked to train school employees in other states regarding the Olweus Bullying Prevention program in use in the Elkhart Community Schools. Mr. Thorne assured the board he would take their ideas and make changes to the policy and bring it back to them in the future.

.....approved proposed revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy GDBA-12, Employees in Technology Services Positions Compensation Plan. Mr. Thorne indicated the changes are needed to update the salary schedule needed for a new hire.

.....approved submission of a grant to the Indiana Works Council and the Center for Education and Career Innovation (CECI) encouraging innovative and collaborative career and technical training opportunities by the Elkhart Area Career Center.

.....approved proposed revisions to the 2014-2015 School Calendar as originally approved at the December 10, 2013 Board Meeting.

.....approved an overnight trip request from Elkhart Area Career Center students attending National Skills USA Contest in Kansas City, Kansas on June 23-28th.

.....approved five consent agreements regarding unpaid time.

.....confirmed the retirement of two (2) certified employees, with years of service in parenthesis: Kathleen Dowiat, Grade 1 at Monger (23); and Pamela Howell, Special Ed at Osolo (16).

.....confirmed the resignation of three (3) certified employees: Margaret Bloczynski, Grade 5 at Osolo; Deborah Richards, Special Education at Cleveland and Lisa Wilkes, Special Education at Beck.

.....confirmed the change to Maternity leave for Nicole Serge-Nemes, Grade 3 at Beardsley,

.....confirmed the employment of eight (8) classified employees, who have successfully completed their probationary period: Ronald Barr Sr., Custodian at Hawthorne; Haley Burkhart, Physical Therapist at ESC; Donna Johnson, Paraprofessional at Riverview; Andrea Pinarski, Paraprofessional at North Side; Josh Roth, Paraprofessional at Riverview; Mila Simeonova, Bus Driver Unassigned at Transportation; Jeanetta Thompson, Food Service at West Side and Leia Williams, Secretary at Hawthorne.

.....confirmed the retirement of seven (7) classified employees, with years of service in parenthesis: Sara Braun, Registered Nurse at Woodland (10); Sally Coddens, Bus Driver at Transportation (29); Monda Fields, Paraprofessional at Memorial (16); Carolyn Holmes, Secretary at North Side (18); Lin Ladd, Secretary at Memorial (16); Cathy VanDerGriff, Bus Driver at Transportation (31); and Janet Williamson, Paraprofessional at Woodland (20).

.....confirmed the resignation of classified employee Rodney Tilford, Food Service at Memorial.

.....confirmed the voluntary leave of Bryan Kratzer, Paraprofessional at Bristol.

.....heard from Superintendent Dr. Rob Haworth thanking everyone for their flexibility in moving locations and his staff for making phone calls to cancel speakers, entertainment and award recipients. Dr. Haworth asked Mr. Hasler to speak. Mr. Hasler explained ECS may seek a waiver with Board approval from the implementation of the "protected taxes" statute which shifts circuit breaker losses from debt service funds to the Transportation and Capital Projects Funds. The Board approved the waiver and Mr. Hasler will submit the waiver request to the Department of Local Government Finance by May 1, 2014.

.....heard from Board president Dorisanne Nielsen WVPE has been named one of the Top 10 Stations in the country. She asked everyone who watches or listens to Public Television or radio to contribute generously.

.....heard from Board member Karen Carter inviting everyone to Celebration of Excellence at the Lerner Monday, May 5th at 7 pm. She reminded everyone to vote and thanked the MHS staff for attending.