

.....the public 1028 Hearing was called to order by President Susan Daiber.

.....was presented an overview of the hearing process and state requirements by Phil Faccenda of Barnes & Thornburg. Mr. Faccenda stated the 2018 Memorial High Renovation project bonds will not exceed an original aggregate principal amount of Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000). Todd Samuelson of H.J. Umbaugh and Associates, presented the current and potential debt service levy and capacity. No increase in the debt service tax rate over 2016 certified debt service tax rate is anticipated due to the maturity and reduction in payments on other outstanding bonds. Superintendent Rob Haworth stated a 5-year strategic plan was approved last fall. Provided a brief history and the many history makers including an Olympic medalist, NASA award winners, Pulitzer Prize winners, scientists, entrepreneurs and philanthropists as well as the thousands of students and graduates who have earned accolades for their accomplishments and countless students who have achieved success and returned to mentor the children of Elkhart. How, in the past, change has always taken place to meet the needs of our students. Superintendent Haworth reiterated the Elkhart Promise – That every student will be known by name, supported and challenged by highly effective staff, and in partnership with the community will graduate college/career and life ready. The resolution presented is the beginning of the process for change to the high school, junior highs being true 6, 7, and 8 middle schools, and creating the physical space needed for Pre-K. Superintendent Haworth demonstrated the areas of improvement including additions and renovations to provide additional music/performing arts classrooms; expanded and additional cafeteria and kitchen areas; renovations of other areas of the facility to accommodate additional students; and construction of a new secure front entrance.

.....opened the floor for public comment

.....heard from Alex Holtz, who spoke in favor of the bond issue, stating the need to move forward.

.....heard from Cephas Chigwada, who spoke in favor of the bond issue citing the importance of education and job training.

.....heard from Stacy Fann, who is opposed to the bond issue and questioning the rationale of the district's plan to issue bonds rather than seek approval for all borrowing through a referendum. In response to her inquiry, Superintendent Haworth stated combining the projects would raise taxes and the bond issues would not increase the tax rate outside of tax caps as this would have been the result with a referendum.

.....heard from Lou Pace, who spoke in favor of the bond issue and the need for facilities to improve and enhance performing arts and music.

.....heard from Ron Davis, President of the Elkhart County NAACP, on behalf of the organization and board that unanimously voted in favor of the bond issue.

-heard from Adam Homo, who spoke in favor of the bond issue referencing the need for pathways and cross curricular teaching.
-heard from Ronisha Beal, who spoke in favor of the bond issue and the concept of pathways.
-heard from Hayley Boling, who spoke in favor of the bond issue to move forward with the Elkhart Promise.
-heard from Brian Wiebe, Executive Director of the Horizon Education Alliance (HEA), who spoke in support of the bond on behalf of the alliance. Stating ECS is leading the way with the Pathways concept.
-heard from Reed Davisson, who spoke in support of the bond issue expressing his desire to see a more individualized approach to learning and the schools of interest.
-heard from Kurt Weimer, who spoke in support of the bond issue referencing other cities' negative results from not moving forward and the need to pool our resources to have more options for our students.
-heard from Rod Roberson, who spoke in support of the bond issue to begin the process of educating children from 3 years old through high school students able to refine their interests.
-heard from Stephanie Krol, who spoke in support of the bond issue and the innovation and vision of the plan.
-heard from Susan Wyse, who is opposed to the bond issue. Mrs. Wyse would like to see the plan go forward without the high schools merging and the associated expense.
-heard from Jeannette Jacobson, who is opposed to the bond issue, the freshman center and suggested the plan may not be beneficial for all students.
-heard from Julie Bird, who spoke in support of the bond issue.
-heard from Arvis Dawson, who spoke in support of the bond issue. He stated his support of the Board and their due diligence.
-heard from Jennifer Lefever, who spoke in support of the bond issue and how high school students currently only have access to half of the resources and the benefit of combining them.
-heard from Heather Gerlach, who spoke in support of the bond issue and the opportunities it will provide to assist children to find their passion.
-heard from Tom Kurth, who spoke in support of the bond issue stating the plan will help make Elkhart better again.

-heard from Hannan Hakim, who spoke in support of the bond issue citing additional opportunities and resources.
-heard from Regina Roberson, who spoke in support of the bond issue and the benefits of the plan.
-closed the public hearing.
-heard Phil Faccenda review the Preliminary Determination/Reimbursement Resolution to include the 2018 High School Renovation project's financial information: maximum borrowing amount is \$10,000,000 for a term not to exceed 20 years with an estimated interest expense of \$5,474,548. Estimated maximum annual payment will be \$850,000 with the maximum aggregate payment of \$15,544,000.
-individually commented on the resolution. Karen Carter stated the project is going forward, but how to manage the expenses with the ongoing other building needs with only two million dollars available in the capital project budget for maintenance and repairs. Would this require asking those elementary schools in need to wait 5 additional years for parking lot repairs, carpeting, air handlers, boilers, chillers, and classroom needs such as white boards and technology? Some items like emergency lighting and PA systems are needed immediately. Mrs. Carter asked that more time be taken to develop the plans further before a funding resolution. Rodney Dale commented on the strong feelings on both sides of the strategic plan and the need, going forward, to make it work primarily to be able to offer Pre-K at more locations. He stated moving forward to get to the Pre-K programs will result in better high school students. Jeri Stahr thanked all those who spoke and appreciated their attendance, and especially loved hearing Coach Kurth's comments on community. Ms. Stahr noted work on this plan has been going on for months keeping in mind what is best for our students in the future. The resolution will finance a start of the plan. Carolyn Morris commented she is the product of a one high school and is in favor of what is best for 'all' children, adding the process takes a lot of work and time. Doug Weaver also thanked everyone for coming and the passionate opinions expressed. He quoted part of Rabbi Marvin Hier's presidential inaugural address, *"Because, the freedoms we enjoy are not granted in perpetuity, but must be reclaimed by each generation!" "As our ancestors have planted for us, so we must plant for others. While it is not for us to complete the task, neither are we free to desist from them."* Our goal is to teach freedom and opportunity. Glenn Duncan clarified the vote this evening is on the finance resolution. The strategic plan had previously been adopted. He knows the community wants what is best for its students and the plan is financially sound to begin to make it happen. Susan Daiber told a story of a social studies teacher who asked students what they would do if they had \$1,000.00 to improve education. The student asked three individuals: 70 year old illiterate father of five answered to make sure special needs students are taught to read; the privately educated woman replied arts and athletics were necessary in schools; and the husband wanted college education managers particularly in technical fields. Mrs. Daiber identified the individuals as her father, mother and husband. The need for all of these areas of education be provided for the students in our community.
-adopted a 1028/Preliminary Determination/Reimbursement Resolution for the 2018 High School Renovation Project by a vote of six (6) Susan Daiber, Doug Weaver, Carolyn

Morris, Glenn Duncan, Rodney Dale and Jeri Stahr in favor and one (1) Karen Carter, opposed.

-welcomed Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) representatives from both high schools: Sydney Bias, a sophomore from Central High School (CHS) and Nolan Grose, a junior from Memorial High School (MHS). In addition to SSAC, Sydney Bias plays the cello, is in Key club and on the yearbook committee. Ms. Bias reported the following sports activities: Logan Brown recently broke a school and pool record at Clay; Swim coach Michelle Guipe was named NIC Coach of Year; Ross Kirkton was named to the IFCA Academic All State Team and JT Webb was named to the Region 2 All Stars; and the basketball is also doing well. Ms. Bias invited everyone to the basketball games this coming weekend and to Say What karaoke on February 8th. Nolan Grose plays football and baseball in addition to SSAC. Mr. Nolan thanked the Superintendent for Monday's SSAC trip to Indianapolis. Upcoming events include West Side's class Olympics and a community cook off in concert with the Jazz café in April. Mr. Nolan reported on wrestling, senior night for girls basketball, boys basketball, swimming, and the middle school wrestling matches to be hosted by Memorial. Mr. Nolan thanked the Elkhart Education Foundation for their support of Memorial athletes
-accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): hats and gloves and \$270.00 from Karen Johnson and Flexible Concepts to pay negative lunch balances at Pinewood; \$200.00 from Trinity United Methodist Women to be used for supplies for children through the nurse's office at Woodland; and 60 hand-made hat and scarf sets from Ruth Ann Owen for distribution through social workers.
- approved proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy. The funds raised through the listed activities are deposited into each school's extra-curricular fund. In response to Board inquiry, further discussion will take place regarding Go Fund Me activities.
- approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 0130 – Functions, as initially presented at the Board's January 10th regular meeting. In response to Board inquiry, Doug Thorne, district counsel/chief of staff, clarified the 'best efforts' revision.
- was presented proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation KI – Application for Fundraiser Approval, as initially presented at the Board's January 10th regular meeting. The revisions included additional contact information and door to door solicitations.
- requested additional research regarding the Redevelopment Commission appointment.
- heard Karen Carter publicly disclose her potential conflicts of interest and noted Board members pay for their insurance. Doug Thorne, disclosed the potential conflict of Wesley Molyneaux, director of technology integration.
- approved proposed revisions and waived second reading of Board Policy 144.1 – Membership – Compensation, Insurance, Expenses and Travel.
- approved proposed revisions and waived second reading of Board Policy 3422.12S Employees in Miscellaneous Positions Compensation Plan. In response to Board inquiry, the

position description of EACC Career Center Testing Specialist will be provided to all members.

- approved new course offerings in accordance with Board policy. New courses include: College and Career Readiness Bridge: Math Ready/HS3465 and Math 10/HS3421.
- approved the following overnight trip requests: Central and Memorial Japanese class students to travel to Yokohama City, Japan on July 21 thru August 5, 2017 as part of the Yamate Gakuin High School Exchange Program; Central Winter drumline students to travel to Indianapolis on February 10 and 11 to compete in the Indiana Percussion Association competition; and West Side social studies students to travel to Washington, DC on October 25 thru 29 to explore and discover the nation's capital.
- approved a consent agreement regarding unpaid time off for a certified employee.
- confirmed the retirement of certified employee James Langton, world language at Memorial.
- approved regular employment for classified employee Jamie Greenway, paraprofessional at Cleveland, who has successfully completed her probationary period.
- confirmed the resignation of the following six (6) classified employees: Holly Hardy, bus helper at Transportation; Broc Hiatt, misc. food service receiving/supply at Commissary; Julie Johnson, food service at Central; Nicole Quesinberry, food service at Beardsley; Collin Rowland, bus driver at Transportation; and Linda Sedlock food service at Feeser.
- approved unpaid leave for classified Deidre Wright, bus driver at Transportation.
- heard Board member, Doug Weaver, congratulate the Elkhart Area Career Center on the tremendous turnout for their Open House last Sunday.
- heard Board members, Susan Daiber and Carolyn Morris commented on their recent trip with the SSAC students to Indianapolis. The group met with legislators, heard various leadership speakers and toured the State House.
- discussed the Elkhart Education Foundation financial information.