

- ..... heard Steve Thalheimer, superintendent of schools, recite the Elkhart Promise.
- ..... heard from the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) representative Patrick Yeakey, a senior from Central High School. Mr. Yeakey participates in football, baseball and hockey along with being president of Central's SSAC and class vice president. Mr. Yeakey reported on the following events: recent breakfast honoring 300 students with 3.4 or over grade point average; ISSMA solo and ensemble competition resulted in 25 gold medals for band, 43 for choir and 26 for orchestra; Blazeline and winter guard recently had competitions; jazz competitions are early March; upcoming performances of High School Musical in March; in sports – boys swimming sectionals are this week, five wrestlers went to semi-state, Sydney Dygert went to state swim, boys basketball sectionals begin February 26<sup>th</sup>, two football players, Ricky Rocha and Brian Mullins have committed to play college football; and girls basketball competed in their sectional last Monday night.
- ..... accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): an anonymous donation of \$1,600 to Central's boys and girls golf teams to be used to purchase new golf bags; an anonymous donation of \$1,600 to Memorial's boys and girls golf teams to be used to purchase equipment for the team; \$2,500 from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to be used toward the Elkhart Culture Series: Thought Leadership Conference in May; and \$250 to the Elkhart Junior Academy from the Elkhart Chapter of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 52 to be used for tangible student rewards through the Scholar Dollar store.
- ..... 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.
- ..... approved an extra-curricular purchase request from West Side for girls basketball uniforms and t-shirts in the amount of \$2,113.
- ..... held a public hearing on Beardsley Elementary School 2017-2018 Priority School Status from the Indiana State Board of Education. Dr. Bob Woods, director of elementary education, stated the three schools holding hearings tonight for receiving an 'F' grade and being identified by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) as Comprehensive Schools in Improvement (CSI) are Beardsley, Mary Beck and Hawthorne. Dr. Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, stated the schools are conducting a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and developing School Improvement Plans (SIP), and each has received a Title I School Improvement Grant of \$50,000. IDOE training included two days in December with Dr. Anthony Muhammad from Solution Tree, to discuss using the Professional Learning Community (PLC) model as a school turnaround process. Follow-up school culture audits are being conducted by Solution Tree. PLCs are being held monthly and timelines to analyze the CNA data and develop a more comprehensive SIP.
- ..... heard Val Priller, principal of Beardsley Elementary, report with the assistance of technical assistance provider, Solution Tree: a cultural audit was conducted on February 1<sup>st</sup>; they are analyzing the data and gathering key findings to help develop their SIP; and recommend

research based interventions for improvement. Mrs. Priller noted the school's accomplishments include: all grade levels have evidence to support strong PLC implementation; stakeholder input has been gathered to help with the plan; in order align with need, students have been tracked by academic and behavioral data; regular student celebrations for mastery of essential skills and behavioral expectations; and celebrating each classroom, each month that hits the 96% attendance rate. Board members commented on the outstanding job Beardsley's staff is doing and the 92% pass score on IREAD. During the public comment period, a bus driver stated she has seen how excited the children are to attend school and the reading program.

- ..... held a public hearing on Mary Beck Elementary School 2017-2018 Priority School Status from the Indiana State Board of Education. Principal, Tracey Kizyma, noted Beck is in the second year of their School Improvement Grant and partnership with IUSB's College of Education. As a result of the focus in improving the culture and climate of the school, they have seen a significant decrease in office referral and suspensions. Solution Tree was scheduled to perform their culture audit on January 31<sup>st</sup> but due to inclement weather it has been rescheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>. This year the focus is on language arts grade level academic rigor and analyzing student data to address gaps in learning, along with the PRIDE initiative and PLCs. During the public comment period, Dr. Hope Smith Davis of IUSB spoke regarding the success of their partnership and the improved climate at Beck. Ashley Molyneaux, executive director of the Elkhart Education Foundation, remarked how the school is using every resource available including their library and PLCs. In response to Board inquiry, Mrs. Kizyma replied her goal is to achieve a 12% increase in ISTEP scores.
- ..... held a public hearing on Hawthorne Elementary School 2017-2018 Priority School Status from the Indiana State Board of Education. Principal, Eric Chandler, stated the culture audit for Hawthorne was conducted on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Chandler highlighted work on acknowledging goals and accomplishments of students and staff; implementing PRIDE, adding parent monthly meetings, and using PLCs. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Chandler stated their achievable goal is to increase from 53% to 65%. Board members commented on what a terrific job Mr. Chandler is doing building a team and working together, and were very impressed considering this is his first year as principal.
- ..... was presented a potential conflict of interest from an administrator, Dawn McGrath, director of special services.
- ..... approved a settlement agreement with the Elkhart Teachers Association regarding voluntary employees beneficiary association (VEBA).

..... heard a presentation from Dr. Thalheimer regarding the Referendum Tax Levy Resolution including the history of the district's finances and school funding, the impact upon the district, specific referendum language, and the anticipated effect on tax rates and comparisons to other districts. Board comments included: the need for the best/brightest teachers, the rate qualified teachers are leaving, Mishawaka, Concord and Penn have all passed similar referendums, without great schools communities fail, district needs consistency with its teachers, teachers deserve an improved compensation package, the need to collectively work together for teachers, if it doesn't pass – what happens, will class sizes increase or loss of positions, the referendum is an opportunity for the community to support teachers and staff. Public comments: teachers are holding on waiting for improved pay and benefits; a suggestion to hold community meetings; priority of literacy; and a review of administrative positions. In response, a Board member stated literacy is a number one concern.

..... adopted the Referendum Tax Levy Resolution.

..... accepted the following grants from the Elkhart Education Foundation as presented by Ashley Molyneaux: 10 Innovative Teaching Grants totaling \$13,761.91: Memorial – CPR instructor \$325; Memorial – whiteboard table top materials \$500; Cleveland – Corner of Creation \$3,500; Central – Les Mis: From Page to Stage \$1,000; Eastwood – Deer in the Headlights \$3,887.29; and North Side – sphero equipment and training \$4,549.62; 7 Extracurricular Grants totaling \$19,868: Cleveland – volleyball equipment \$2,500; Memorial – unified track \$800; Feeser – solar pyrography \$568.98; Monger – Character Counts \$5,000 and Memorial/Central – 2019 Washington, DC experience \$2,000; \$5,000 to each of the ECHS & EMHS Athletic Departments for athletic fees and physicals; and \$5,000 to each of the ECHS & EMHS Fine Arts Departments for fine arts participation fees. For the benefit of the new Board members, Mrs. Molyneaux reviewed the process for applying for and receiving grants from the EEF.

..... approved the submission of the following grants from Adult Education: to the Pro Literacy Organization for a National Book Fund grant in the amount of \$1,500; and to Dollar General for an Adult Literacy grant in the amount of \$15,000.

..... reviewed proposed course offerings for the 2019-2020 school year, including: , Analytical Algebra II, Applied Career Information and Exploration, and 3D Computer Animation and Visualization 5530.

..... confirmed the following overnight trip requests: for Memorial's Air Force JROTC students to travel to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, OH on March 9 and 10 for the a drill and color guard competition; and the ElkLogics Robotics team to travel to Greenwood, IN on March 28 – 30 for a robotics competition.

..... approved agreements regarding unpaid time for six certified staff members.

..... confirmed the resignation of the following three (3) certified staff members: Heather Clear, math at Central; Shaun Hesselbart, permanent substitute at Osolo; and Kara Walterhouse, math at North Side.

- ..... confirmed the retirement of certified staff member, Sharon Stauffer, music at Eastwood, at the end of the 2018-2018 school year.
- ..... confirmed employment of the following six (6) classified employees who have completed probation: Sherman Bailey, custodian at Beck; Sheila Brown, paraprofessional at Central; Corrie Finch, food service at North Side; Velma Gross, food service at Cleveland; Elizabeth Niemeyer, food service at Daly; and Kayla Turpin, paraprofessional at Beck.
- ..... confirmed the resignation of the following four (4) classified employees: Michael Schmidt, paraprofessional at Riverview; Melanie Thompson, bus driver at Transportation; Carmela Tomsits, food service at Memorial; and Joe Wilson, custodian at Central.
- ..... confirmed the retirement of classified employee, Sarah Troncoso, bus driver at Transportation.
- ..... approved leave for classified employee, Cassidy Parsons, paraprofessional at Memorial.
- ..... approved the termination of a classified employee in accordance with Board Policy 3039.01S
- ..... heard from a student regarding a petition on Twitter seeking signatures for a change to the mascot for the one high school.
- ..... heard from an audience member regarding safety measures at bus stops.