

..... heard Board President, Rocky Enfield announced two additions to the Revised Agenda: the Elevate K-12 contract, and the appointment of a liaison to the Indiana School Board Association.

..... heard Board member, Babette Boling, recite the Elkhart Promise.

..... approved the following items under a consent approval:

Minutes – August 10, 2021 – Public Work Session
Minutes – August 10, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$5,846,587.46.

Gift Acceptance:

A donation of \$2,000.00 from Mr. Robert Martin for the EHS football program.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Grant Submission: Non English Speaking Program (NESP) grant from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) in the amount of \$803,982.56 for the District; Title I, Part A grant from the IDOE in the amount of \$3,497,617.93 for nine Title I schools: Beardsley, Beck, Daly, Hawthorne, Monger, Osolo, Roosevelt, Woodland and Pierre Moran; and Title III, Language Instruction for English Language Learners grant from the IDOE in the amount of \$243,252.00 for the District.

Overnight Trip Request: EHS Girls' cross country team sending 12 students on September 3-4, to the Marion Indiana Invitational meet.

Conference Leave Requests.

Personnel Report:

Appointment of the following three (3) administrators: Matthew Garber, assistant principal at Hawthorne; Shawn Johnson, assistant principal at Pierre Moran; and Nicole Serge-Nemes, principal at Beardsley.

Employment of the following ten (10) certified staff members for the 2021-2022 school year: Roshell Bangura, grade 4 at Hawthorne; Anne Bell, grade 5 at Eastwood; Linda Brewer, grade 5 at Pinewood; Michael Fritschi, business education at EHS Business Relation; Alicia Harvill, grade 5 at Pinewood; Elizabeth Hooser, art at Freshman Division; Michelle Huff, intervention at St. Vincent; Melissa Morey, intervention at Hawthorne; Heather Rohyans, grade 1 at Daly; and Paul Walker, business education at EHS Business Relation.

Resignation of the following eleven (11) certified staff members: Robert Brannock, music at EHS-East; Todd Efsits, language Arts at EHS; Elizabeth Hooser, art at Freshman Division; Colleen Jones-Dubois, language arts at EHS-East; Ashley McQueen-Ghaffar, grade 4 at Roosevelt; Shanna Robinson, social studies at EHS-West; Scot Shaw, physical education at EHS-West; Linda Stofko, academic coach at ESC; Kayla Suits, intervention at Monger; Damen Ullery, grade 6 at Feeser; and Haley Warstler, social studies at EHS-East.

Employment of the following four (4) classified employees: Nina Bayes, paraprofessional at EACC; Taylor Clarkson, assistant manager at Commissary; Kimberly Noble, bus driver at Transportation; and Louise Young, bus helper at Transportation.

Resignation of the following fourteen (14) classified employees: Todd Baugh, dispatcher at Transportation; Donna Bellino, paraprofessional at Woodland; Amanda Fisher, paraprofessional at EHS; Eboni Frazier, bus driver at Transportation; Sharon Garcia, food service at Freshman Division; Alexis Graber, paraprofessional at Monger; Theresa Hammond, technical assistant at EACC; Tanya Mead, secretary at West Side; Joanna Pizana, bus driver at Transportation; Jamie Stitt, assistant secretary at North Side; Brittnee Taylor, food service at Commissary; Lanasha Taylor, food service at Freshman Division; Caylee Watson, registered nurse at West Side; and James Wooten, paraprofessional at Feeser.

Leave for the following two (2) classified employees: Kristie Burk, bus driver at Transportation; and Brigid Steinhagen, paraprofessional at Feeser.

-was presented additional revisions requested by members of the Board to Administrative Regulation INB - Procedure for Controversial Issues and Materials, as initially presented at the July 13th regular meeting and reviewed at the August 10th regular meeting.
-approved proposed revision to Board Policy 0164.4 – Meeting of the Board Defined, as initially presented at the August 10th regular meeting.
-approved proposed new Board Policy 164.5 – Member Participation in Meetings through Electronic Means of Communication, as initially presented at the August 10th regular meeting.
-approved proposed new Board Policy 164.6 – Meetings During Declared Disaster Emergencies, as initially presented at the August 10th regular meeting.
-approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 167.1 – Voting, as initially presented at the August 10th regular meeting.
-was presented proposed revisions to Board Policy 3120.03S – Employment of Substitutes, for initial consideration. Mr. Thorne noted the revision clarifies when a retired employee is entitled to receive a rate of pay equivalent to the current pay rate for the position than what the employee retired ‘working in the classification from which the employee retired’.
-approved a contract with Elevate K-12, for services for the 2021-2022 school year.

- appointed Troy Scott as the Indiana School Board Association Legislative Liaison for 2021.
- approved the Student Fees for Curricular Materials for 2021-2022 (previously known as book rental fees). Kevin Scott, chief financial officer, noted increases in fees for elementary are driven by the addition of Math Expressions activity books along with digital access, for secondary fees the noted increases are for music for special education intense students and a statistics class.
- was presented the monthly financial report.
- was presented the monthly insurance update. Mr. Scott stated July's medical claim level is consistent with June's, and while higher than last year on a year to date basis is still running better than expected cost projections.
- heard Board President, Rocky Enfield, announce an added agenda item would include discussion and a decision on a possible mask mandate. Mr. Enfield opened the floor for public comment allowing up to three minutes per speaker. Ten audience members spoke on both sides of the masking issue. Superintendent Thalheimer stated in response to Board inquiries, COVID positive numbers of students and staff are up from last year along with a marked increase in close contacts. In an effort to keep students in school five days per week, Dr. Thalheimer recommended the following motion: Effective Thursday, August 26, all staff, students, and visitors to all Elkhart Community Schools buildings will be required to wear masks. Masks are optional outdoors, they are not required while eating and drinking. They are still federally mandated on school buses. The motion was approved by Babette Boling and seconded by Dacey Davis. Mr. Enfield called for Board comment. Doug Weaver asked to amend the Motion to hold a Special Board Meeting be held later in the week, the Motion was seconded by Kellie Mullins. The Motion failed by a vote of 4 – 3. Doug Weaver also asked to amend the Motion to add a 45 calendar day review, the Motion failed to receive a second. Each Board member spoke in regards to the masking issues. The Motion passed by a vote of 4 – 3.
- heard an audience member speak regarding the coding class for freshman to be offered by Elevate K-12, and a previous employee's request to teach freshman coding.
- heard an audience member speak regarding the 2-mile walk zone for secondary students.
- heard a bus driver question recent memo regarding the criteria for use of Personal Illness/Family Illness and Personal Business days.
- heard an audience member thank the Board and administration for school being open; questions regarding security at the Freshman Division; and her daughter's perspective regarding being a senior, parking, advisory periods and homework.
- heard from a bus driver stating how terribly hot it is on the busses, especially waiting to load in the afternoon.
- heard from Kelly Brown, Vice President of the Elkhart Teachers' Association, asking to recognize Nicole Serge, newly appointment Principal of Beardsley. Ms. Brown also thanked everyone for their work and consideration on some very hard topics.