

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

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

Minutes – February 9, 2021 – Public Work Session
Minutes – February 9, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$5,532,903.84.

Gift Acceptance:

Donations of \$750 from Robert & Kelly Berheide, \$500 from Chad & Nikki Gernand; and \$500 from Brian & Lauri Smith to purchase new music apparel for Elkhart High School (EHS) bands, choirs and orchestras; a Conn student clarinet (valued at \$100) from Kathy Stump to the EHS music department; 90 pairs of mittens and gloves collected by Harvey Browman for students in need; 5,000 additional washable cloth masks from MCC Great Lakes for students and staff; and a correction to the recipient of a donation previously received from Lippert Components to the Athletic Renovation and Improvement Fund.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Grant: A Student Success Grant from the NEA Foundation, for school based yoga goals and standards in the amount of \$2,000.

Overnight Trips: approved the following overnight trip requests: Air Force JROTC to travel to Molena, GA on February 24 – 26 for the All-Service National Raider Championship, and to travel to Dayton, OH on March 12 - 14 for drill/color guard competition; swim/dive competitors to travel to Indianapolis on February 25 - 27 for boys state swimming and diving competitions; and confirmed swim/dive competitors to travel to Indianapolis on February 11 - 13 for girls state swimming and diving competitions.

Conference Leave Request

Personnel Report:

A consent agreement regarding unpaid time for a certified staff member.

Retirement of certified staff member, Marie Kidder, physical education at Osolo, with 28 years of service.

Leave for the following two (2) certified staff members: Aubrey Neeser, art at Bristol; and Kaylee Traver, grade 4 at Hawthorne.

Employment of classified employee, Alicia Mendez, secretary at Bristol.

Retirement of classified employee Tammie Dickison, secretary at North Side, with 16 years of service.

Extension of leaves for the following two (2) classified employees: Frances Eggink, food service at West Side; and Sonia Thomas, food service at EHS West.

Leave for the following two (2) classified employees: Patricia Robinson, food service at Commissary; and Rebekah Schooley, food service at EHS East/Roosevelt.

Death of classified employee Dawn Hostetler, paraprofessional at EACC.

-was presented proposed revisions to Board Policy 2210 – Curriculum Development, for initial consideration. In response to Board inquiry, Doug Thorne, district counsel/chief of staff, the proposed revisions will be reviewed prior to the next meeting.
-was presented proposed revisions to Board Policy 3160ACS – Fitness for Duty Examination, for initial consideration. The revision added bus drivers to those needing annual physicals at the expense of the district.
-was presented proposed revisions to Board Policy 3422S – Wages and Benefits for Support Staff, for initial consideration.
-was presented proposed new Board Policy 3432 – Support Staff Absences, for initial consideration.
-was presented proposed new Board Policy 5780 – Parents Rights and Responsibilities (Custodial and Non-custodial), for initial consideration.
-adopted a Resolution Requesting Governor Holcomb Prioritize Teachers and School District Employees.
-adopted a Joint Resolution between Elkhart Teachers Association and Elkhart Community Schools in Opposition to HB 1005.
-authorized the administration to enter into an Agreement between Elkhart Community Schools and the Crossing National, Inc. for July 2021 thru June 2022.
-approved the proposed revision to the 2021 Board of School Trustees meeting schedule. The revision moved the time for Public Works Session to 6:00 p.m.
-heard Kevin Scott, chief financial officer provide the current insurance update reporting claim costs in January totaled \$748,748, exceeding the same month in the prior year, but similar to earlier years. Elevated January costs are expected as employees met their deductible will incur medical expenses late in the year that pay in January.
-approved the Recommendation to Modify the Reentry Plan to return to school. The Recommendation stated: Conducting class in person is the best way for teachers to deliver instruction while also gauging the social and emotional well being of students. Given that Elkhart County has settled into the yellow range in the State of Indiana’s color

coding system and given that case counts and students and staff who are COVID positive or isolating in the district schools are drastically reduced, the administration recommends Elkhart Community Schools implement the following changes to its school entry plan and return students to more days of schooling in March 2021.

Students who are on the hybrid plan will return to school Monday through Thursday, attending 4 days a week. Friday will remain an eLearning day in order for teachers to conduct professional development that was already planned, to allow virtual students to come to the buildings to take ILEARN tests, and to allow for cleaning of facilities. Students on the fully virtual option will remain on the virtual option.

Students in grades K-6 will return to school for the four days on Monday, March 8.
Students in grades 7-12 will return to school for the four days on Monday, March 15.

After lengthy discussions including input from 16 speakers attending the meeting in person and/or virtually, and statements from each Board member, the Recommendation received unanimous approval.

.....approved proposed revisions and waived second reading to the 2020-2021 School Calendar. The additional revisions reflect the changes necessary to accommodate the return to the classroom four days a week.

..... heard Board member Doug Weaver, thank Superintendent Thalheimer, the administration and the Elkhart Teachers Association for their input and comments regarding the recommendation to return to school.