

..... heard Board member, Doug Weaver, recite the Elkhart Promise.

..... heard Dr. Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, introduced Dan Burton, Pierre Moran music instructor, and Mike Kamphuis of Conn Selmer. Mr. Burton had contacted Conn Selmer regarding the unique needs of a music student with a disability who plays a baritone. Mr. Kamphuis presented the instrument and discussed the modification process used to build a baritone to accommodate the student's needs. Conn Selmer provided the instrument for the same cost as a standard one. Dr. Mindy Higginson, director of elementary instruction, reported on current discussions regarding a Fischhoff music program.

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

Minutes – September 14, 2021 – Public Work Session
Minutes – September 14, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$12,974,293.14.

Gift Acceptance:

Donation of a year's worth of Ramsey Education Personal Finance Curriculum (valued at \$3,500) from Brian and Laurie Smith for teachers and students to utilize.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Extra-curricular Purchase Request: A Dell Latitude 5200 Laptop Computer to produce the Yearbook for Elkhart High School in the amount of \$1,462.78

Conference Leave Requests.

Personnel Report:

Employment of the following two (2) certified staff members for the 2021-2022 school year: Ross Weckesser, music at Arts & Communication; and Ryan Wixon, physical education at Health & Safety.

Retirement of certified staff member, Tamara Obendorf, coordinator at PACE.

Leave for certified staff member, Whitney Grandison Alexander, intervention at Roosevelt.

Leave for certified staff member Caddabra Bernard Brown, psychologist at Exceptional Learner.

Resignation of the following two (2) certified staff members: Jacquelyn Babb, physical education at Pierre Moran; and Itanya Coon-Kauffman, science at Pierre Moran.

Rescinded resignation of certified staff member, Serena Utterback, grade 3 at Roosevelt.

Employment of the following eleven (11) classified employees: Shelli Baker, promotions manager at WVPE; Megan Boutsomsky, secretary at EHS; Chaicee Jacobs, secretary at Pierre Moran; Amanda Clayborn, LPN at Woodland; Karen Cross, secretary at Pierre Moran; Heather Erlacher, secretary at EHS; Brandon Miller, support technician at Tech Services; Natalia Shelestun, food service at EHS; Brittany Stewart, secretary at Mary Daly; Hailey Wichman, support technician at Tech Services; and Crystal Zullo, secretary at PRIDE Academy.

Retirement of the following two (2) classified employees: Laura Homan, secretary at Freshman Division; and Eluvia Leeling, paraprofessional at West Side.

Resignation of the following ten (10) classified employees: Juanita Bruncz, food service at Cleveland; Shawn Burton, bus driver at Transportation; Nikolas Dandino, mechanic at Transportation; Estrella Diaz, secretary at West Side; Shannon Hicks, route/driver coordinator at Transportation; Alicia Hood, food service at Monger; Emily Lewandowski, social worker at Monger; Kristen Smith, food service at Feeser; Zach Storm, mechanic at Transportation; and Heath Wagner, HVAC at Building Services.

Leave for the following four (4) classified employees: Minnie Hutch, food service at North Side; Julia Newvine, food service at North Side; Cleve Shirley, bus driver at Transportation; and Julie Weaver, paraprofessional at Cleveland.

Rescinded resignation for classified employee, Tiffany Fisher, food service at Osolo.

.....heard Superintendent Thalheimer report COVID numbers are declining.

.....approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 2623.01 – Test Administration and Security Provisions for Statewide Assessments, as initially presented at the September 14th regular meeting.

.....was presented additional proposed revisions to Administrative Regulations JFC-ex1 – Notice of Suspension Pending Request for Expulsion; JFC-ex2 – form for Documenting Suspension Meeting Prior to Expulsion Request; JFC-ex3 – Principal’s Written Charge Requesting Expulsion; and JFC-su – Student Suspension Notice, for initial consideration. Mr. Thorne noted the changes to these administrative regulation forms coincide with previous changes from the Standard of Conduct to Guidelines for a Safe Learning Community. In response to Board inquiry, Doug Thorne, district counsel/chief of staff, noted the wording had been revised as requested at the September 14th regular meeting.

.....approved revisions to the 2021-2022 School Calendar, as presented at the September 14th regular meeting. Dr. Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, stated the recommended make-up e-learning days will be October 21 and February 18.

.....approved proposed revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy 3410.04CS – Substitute Compensation.

..... heard Dr. Sheppard and Brandon Eakins, EACC director, presented proposed new course offerings: Agriculture Classes: Principals of Agriculture, Precision Agriculture, Crop Management, and Capstone Course; Healthcare Classes: Principles of Healthcare, Medical Terminology, and Central Service Technician Fundamentals; and Technical Skills Development: Next Level Programs of Study.

..... authorized the administration to accept a grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to have Solution Tree prepare a district audit. Amanda Jamison spoke on behalf of the Community Foundation and Solution Tree representatives Catherine McClemens, Director of Education, Claudia Wheatley, Education Specialist and Dr. Alex McNeece provided information regarding the audit.

Dr. McNeece will complete the individual comprehensive school audits and conduct focus groups and interviews with district stakeholder to include school board members, superintendent, leadership team, office staff and parents. The audits and interview will culminate in a comprehensive report reflecting the district's priorities with recommendations for next steps.

..... approved the recommendation from the business office to proceed with two elementary school renovation projects: Daly and Monger. In response to Board action, the decision whether to include Hawthorne has been postponed until the October 12th regular meeting.

..... approved the advertisement of required documents related to the 2022 Budget, CPF and Bus Replacement Plans and to hold a Public Hearing on October 12, 2021.

..... received a financial report from Mr. Scott, chief financial officer, for the period January 1 – August 31, 2021.

..... received the monthly insurance update from Mr. Scott stating August medical claims exceeded one million dollars. Due to high claim experience in 2021 the insurance committee conducted a Request for Proposal with the intent to avoid a potential increase with the current provider. The committee will receive final results of that effort in October.

..... heard energy and risk management specialist, Todd Dowiat, report the following updates: anticipated cost avoidance to be over two million since inception of the program; chiller shutdown should be around October 8 - 15; due to rising electrical costs, looking for savings opportunities including continue to upgrade lighting to LED; and the potential to add solar panels for our buildings.

..... heard five audience members speak representing both sides of the mask mandate issue.

..... heard a (virtual) audience member thank the Board and administration for all the of homecoming activities and information provided regarding the recent TikTok challenges. She also asked the Board to reconsider the mask mandate.

..... heard Superintendent Thalheimer thank everyone regarding the priority audit and noted interviews will be scheduled in the near future

..... heard Board member Doug Weaver, invite all to attend the Public Work Session scheduled for 7:00 a.m. Thursday

..... heard Mr. Enfield invite everyone to attend the Open House on Monday evening, October 4th at the high school, ETI building and Elkhart Area Career Center