

..... heard Board member, Anne VonDerVellen, recite the Elkhart Promise.

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

Minutes – August 24, 2021 – Public Work Session
Minutes – August 24, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$7,305,988.94.

Gift Acceptance:

Donations of \$1,345 from the Rotary Club of Elkhart, \$1,000 from Jones Petrie Rafinski Corporation and \$5,000 from an anonymous donor through the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to purchase new music apparel for Elkhart High School (EHS) bands, choirs and orchestras.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Conference Leave Requests.

Personnel Report:

Administrative appointment of Machel Seese to assistant principal at Beardsley.

Employment of the following eleven (11) certified staff members for the 2021-2022 school year: Katrina Barhydt, counselor at Elkhart Academy; Elizabeth Davidson, technology integrator at ESC; John DeShone, math at Business Relations; Maureen Meagher, media at West Side; Amber Revior, math at Freshman Division; Kimberly Ross, art at West Side; R. Charles Ross, science at ETI; Clarence Thomas, social studies at Freshman Division; Kaitlyn Vosburg, language arts at Human Services; Jesse Wyatt, physical education at Freshman Division; and Jacob Yant, language arts at Business Relations.

Resignation of the following five (5) certified staff members: Matthew Jerlecki, instructional coach at Pierre Moran; Trista McIntosh, grade 2 at Roosevelt; Matthew Nusbaum, grade 5 at Osolo; Serena Utterback, grade 3 at Roosevelt; and Kristi Zentz, grade 1 at Roosevelt.

Employment of the following four (4) classified employees: Catherine Boudreau, food service at EHS; Roxan Guggenmos, registered nurse at North Side; Lizbeth Ponce, paraprofessional at Roosevelt; and Amanda Sanders, food service at Cleveland.

Retirement of classified employee, Carol Kunst, secretary at Cleveland.

Resignation of the following ten (10) classified employees: Elizabeth Fair, food service at Eastwood; Tiffany Fisher, food service at Osolo; Ashlee Haugh, paraprofessional at Elkhart Academy; Queen Idewu, food service at Cleveland; Shirley Kelley, food service at Osolo; Deanna Kohr, bus driver at Transportation; Michelle Masten, registered nurse at Riverview; Tawasha McKnight, bus driver at Transportation; Betty Sterling, bus helper at Transportation; and Melanie Zottor, bus driver at Transportation.

Leave for the following four (4) classified employees: Emma Confer, food service at Commissary; Pamela Dennis, food service at Pinewood; Dewayne House, food service at Roosevelt; and Charlena Thompson, bus driver at Transportation.

Retraction of leave for classified employee, Kristie Burk, bus driver at Transportation.

-heard Superintendent Thalheimer report COVID numbers were higher following the Labor Day weekend, but so far numbers are dropping in the next week. Four audience members spoke regarding the masking mandate, enforcement of the mandate, and challenges to staff regarding the mandate.
-approved proposed revision to Board Policy 3120.03S – Employment of Substitutes, as initially presented at the August 24th regular meeting.
-was presented proposed revisions to Board Policy 2623.01 – Test Administration and Security Provisions for Statewide Assessments, for initial consideration. Doug Thorne, district counsel/chief of staff, noted the revisions are to comply with changes made by the State.
-approved proposed revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy 3422.12S – Employees in Miscellaneous Positions Compensation Plan.
-was presented 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, Mr. Thorne stated the wording would be reviewed.
-was presented revisions to the 2021-2022 School Calendar, for initial consideration. Dr. Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, stated the recommended make-up e-learning days be October 21 and February 18.
- heard Dr. Sheppard present a proposed new course offering for the 2021-2022 school year: Forensic Science, for Board review.
- approved the purchase of 8 new passenger busses and 4 new activity busses through the State Cooperative Purchasing program. The recommended purchase includes one 84-passenger Colorado specification bus, two 84-passenger busses, two 78-passenger bus, and three 72-passenger, wheelchair lift busses, and four Collins multi-function activity school busses for a total of \$1,224,244.00. Thirteen busses will be traded in for \$42,000.

- heard two audience members express concerns about government overreach and mask mandates.
- heard an audience member ask for review of middle and high school students not having access to lockers.
- heard from Kelly Brown, Vice President of the Elkhart Teachers' Association, asking to recognize Machel Seese, newly appointment assistant principal of Beardsley.
- heard from Kerry Mullet, President of the Elkhart Teachers' Association, address the repercussions of the staff shortages and welcomed all to send messages of support to teachers who are having to go above and beyond to meet the needs of students.
- heard Superintendent Thalheimer state he knows how rough it has been on staff due to shortages and their efforts to keep things going.
- heard Board member, Anne VonDerVellen, comment that she has met with 12 principals so far and appreciates their honesty in response to how things are going and what is needed. Mrs. VonDerVellen plans to meet with all principals in the near future.
- heard Board member, Doug Weaver, comment on the County's public meeting held on Saturday.
- heard Board member, Babette Boling, comment regarding kindness and positive thinking.