

..... heard Board vice president Troy Scott recite the Elkhart Promise.

..... heard SSAC member Jai'Lin Parker present the Moment of Pride. Miss Parker is a senior at Elkhart High School - School of Business and International Relations. She will be graduating soon and cannot wait to begin college this fall at Grace College on a full tuition scholarship. She plans to major in Accounting and minor in Business Management.

Miss Parker shared some of the great things happening at Elkhart High School (EHS). The National Honor Society is Posting Positivity throughout the school by hanging posters with a positive message. Beside each poster are sticky notes and thank you cards students can use to write a kind message to a friend or teacher. Cards are then delivered to the recipients. This action is a great opportunity for students to come together and let others know they are supported by so many of their fellow students. If a student is having a bad day, they may walk by a positivity poster and see the kind words making their day better.

Miss Parker wished good luck to the following EHS teams competing April 27, 2022: girls' tennis, boys' golf, JV/varsity baseball, JV/varsity softball, unified track, and boys' lacrosse.

Lastly, Miss Parker thanked all the teachers, staff, and administrators for all their hard work and dedication during the merger. It was a huge transition to bring two high schools together as one, but they did a tremendous job. She also added a special thank you to Mr. Miller for all he does for the students of EHS; students will be forever grateful.

..... heard Maggie Lozano, director of human resources, thank everyone for coming to honor those certified teachers who were nominated by their peers for the 2022 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Lozano noted, "There is no one person who has a greater impact on the education of a child than does the teacher who creates and cultivates a learning environment for students to thrive." Albert Einstein said, "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." Each of these teachers are a true testament to those statements. The following teachers have been nominated for Teacher of the Year for their respective building:

Elementary School Teacher of the Year Nominees

- Alexandria Cupery – Beardsley Elementary
- Maria Garcilazo – Mary Beck Elementary
- Elizabeth Gingerich – Bristol Elementary
- Michelle Crussemeyer – Cleveland Elementary
- LuAnne VanKirk – Daly Elementary
- Kimberly Haas – Eastwood Elementary
- Joanna Rushenberg – Mary Feeser Elementary
- Amy Kindig – Hawthorne Elementary
- Mary Lehman – Monger Elementary
- Jody Smith – Osolo Elementary
- Wendy Armour – Pinewood Elementary
- Sara Chrobot – Riverview Elementary
- Amazing Teaching Staff – Roosevelt Elementary
- Amy Richardson – Woodland Elementary

- Jamie Engen – Pride Academy

Secondary School Teacher of the Year Nominees

- Betsy Tepe – North Side Middle
- Amanda Davis – Pierre Moran Middle
- Chad O’Brien – West Side Middle
- Lori Holt – Elkhart High
- Traci Pankratz – Elkhart Area Career Center
- Robyn Almasri – Elkhart Academy

Amy Kindig thanked everyone, said she was honored to be the last teacher at Hawthorne to receive this award, and everyone at Hawthorne deserved this recognition. Jody Smith thanked her friends, staff, school, and the administration, noting her work is for the students, not the plaque.

Following the recognition of the building nominees, Ms. Lozano continued, “Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” (Williams Butler Yeats) which applies to both Elkhart Community Schools Teacher of the Year recipients. Congratulations Kimberly Haas (elementary) and Tracy Pankratz (secondary) for being named Teacher of the Year.

Next, Ms. Lozano recognized those who were retiring from Elkhart Community Schools. “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” (Henry Brook Adams – American historian). There truly are no words to describe a teacher’s true impact on students. She thanked the retirees for their commitment to ECS students noting a combined years of service totaling 121 years. To follow is a list of retiring teachers, school last worked, and years of service:

- Daniel Burton, Pierre Moran (17)
- Dave Hicks, EHS (21)
- Denise Uitendhowen, Hawthorne (19)
- Kathryn Freehafer, Pierre Moran (32)
- Tammara Obendorf, PACE (32)

Ms. Lozano thanked Teacher of the Year nominees/recipients and retirees for their service to the students and families of Elkhart Community Schools.

..... heard Board members congratulate the Teacher of the Year nominees/recipients and retirees and thanked them for their commitment to ECS’s students.

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

- Minutes – March 22, 2022 – Public Work Session
- Minutes – April 12, 2022 – Public Work Session
- Minutes – April 12, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting
- Minutes – April 19, 2022 – Public Work Session

Claims in the amount of \$8,315,670.11.

Gift Acceptance: Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$500 from the Air Force Association to Mr. Walsh to be used to offset the cost of Aerospace STEM materials for his classroom; 120 boxes of donated school supplies from Lippert, care of Carley Mayer, to Eastwood to be shared with sister schools that will be having summer school programs; \$500 from Vaughn and Cynthia Nickell to EHS boy's track team for the continued growth and progression of the program; \$1,000 from Terry and Peggy Trimmer to the EHS unified track team for the continued growth and progression of the program; \$750 from NIPSCO, LLC to the ElkLogics Robotics club/team to be used to purchase supplies, competition registrations, snacks, and equipment for the team students; and eighty (80) different Sizzix die cuts along with five (5) different Sizzix alphabet and number sets with an approximate value of \$1,500 from Joe and Barbara Crosbie to Osolo.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Accepted the following extra-curricular purchase requests: EHS Yearbook Fund to purchase Dell Chromebooks 11 3100 and Google Licensing (25 of each) in the amount of (\$46,583.50).

Submission of the following grants: United Way Community Mini-Grant hosted by United Way from ECS Student Services in the amount of \$15,500 and Data Action Mini-Grant hosted by The Source – Elkhart from Feeser in the amount of \$2,000.

Approved overnight trip request for Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) to travel to Greenwood, Indiana on April 22 – 23, 2022 for the FFA Small Engines State Contest.

Conference Leave Requests

Personnel Report:

Agreement regarding incentive pay.

Consent agreements regarding unpaid time for two (2) certified staff members.

Retirement of certified staff member Susan Herr, Behavior Support at ESC.

Maternity Leave for certified staff member Katie Wilson, grade 6 at Pinewood.

Resignation of the following four (4) certified employees: Jamie Brown, grade 2 at Woodland; Lashawndra Gates, grade 4 at Hawthorne; Chalicee Jacobs, counselor at Pierre Moran; and Yahaira Jaimes-Hernandez, grade 3 at Hawthorne.

Employment of the following five (5) classified employees: Jodi Buckhout, food service at North Side; Barbara Estrup, RN at Riverview; Viola Flicker, food service at Pinewood; Elizabeth Miller, paraprofessional at Eastwood; and Rachael Proffitt, food service at North Side.

Resignation of the following eight (8) classified employees: Sandra Arnold, paraprofessional at Woodland; Valorie Books, LPN at West Side; Ronda Conner, bus

driver at Transportation; Catelynn Fuller, trainer/dispatch at Transportation; Johanna Montas-Arias, secretary at ESC; LaKayla Moore, bus helper at Transportation; Rosa Ramirez Arias, paraprofessional at PACE; and Rebekah Shaw, paraprofessional at Daly.

Retirement of two (2) classified employees: Deborah Clarkson, paraprofessional at Hawthorne and Julie Hamlin, food service at Freshman Division.

Extension of unpaid leave for classified employee Jamie Bontreger, social worker at Elkhart Academy.

Unpaid leave for classified employee Tanisha Anderson, bus driver at Transportation.

.....heard Dr. Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, present a proposed new course offering for the 2022-2023 school year: Principles of Business Management.

.....awarded the bid for construction project at Monger Elementary School to Gibson-Lewis, LLC as the lowest and best, most responsive and most responsible bidder.

.....approved and waived second reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy 3422.01S – Food Service Employees’ Compensation Plan moving the position of allergy specialist from a level IV to a level V on the wage schedule.

.....was presented the monthly financial report.

.....was presented the monthly insurance update.

.....heard three (3) audience members voice their concerns about bullying and expressed an interest in working with the school/administration to be a part of the solution.

.....heard an audience member speak about transportation issues and ask about an app for parents to track the location of their student’s bus.

.....heard Superintendent Thalheimer congratulate all Teacher of the Year nominees/recipients as well as the retirees and thank Ms. Lozano for doing a fantastic job organizing the celebration of ECS teachers this evening.

.....heard Superintendent Thalheimer inform the audience letters would be going out to all families impacted by the boundary changes by the end of this week. A follow-up letter will be sent from the student’s new school.

.....heard Sarita Stevens, assistant superintendent of student services, speak about the Standing Together to Stop Bullying – Anti-Bullying Parent Assembly on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at the Freshman Division. This is a time to bring all parents together. The program starts at 6:00 p.m. and will begin by reviewing national data and what it means to Elkhart. Participants will then break out into focus groups. The administration plans to advertise via flyers, post on social media, and have principals communicate with parents on Seesaw and Canvas.

- heard Board president Dacey Davis speak about a live streaming preview of May 12th's Standing Together to Stop Bullying Anti-Bullying Assembly for Parents at 6:30 on Thursday, April 28, 2022.
-in response to Board inquiry, Tony Gianesi, chief operating officer, informed the Board and audience a bus tracking transportation app would be up and running in August of 2022.
- heard Board secretary Doug Weaver explain he had requested the Board meetings be held in the high school auditorium to accommodate a larger crowd and to make the audience more comfortable.
- heard Board member Kellie Mullins tell audience members their voices are powerful and she looks forward to working with them, the schools, and the administration.