

..... heard Board president, Dacey Davis, recite the Elkhart Promise.

..... heard Tony England, assistant superintendent of exceptional learners, present the Moment of Pride. Mr. England highlighted several of his employees who have received special recognitions. He congratulated Trisha Hutchison, para job-coach (intense), who was the recipient of the Advocate of the Year award from the ICEC (Indiana Council for Exceptional Children). Next he shared a video recognizing Julene Fitch, visual impairment teacher, who received the Starfish Award from PATINS (Promoting Achievement through Technology and Instruction for all Students). Mr. England also commended the following staff who have taken on leadership roles in their field on a state-wide level: Traci Henn, special education-secondary teacher, named president elect of ICEC; Lindsey Brander, supervisor of special services, named representative assembly for ICEC; Lindsey Cox, supervisor of special services, named PR representative NER for ICASE (Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education); and Lisa Ernsberger, director of high ability, named committee representative for IAG (Indiana Association for the Gifted). Mr. England expressed pride in his staff and how they continue to stretch themselves to give ECS students their all.

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

Minutes – January 25, 2022 – Public Work Session
Minutes – January 25, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$7,286,136.92.

Gift Acceptance:

Donation of \$25,000 from Patrick Industries, Inc., care of Todd Cleveland, to the ETI Building Fund and 250 heavy duty winter stocking caps, with a donor value of \$2,500, from Steve Szklarek to Woodland Elementary School.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Submission of the following grants: INSWWA Mini-grants and Scholarships hosted by INSSWA from Community Projects Regarding Blacks and Suicides in the amount of \$2,000.

Overnight Trips: approved overnight trip requests for EHS girls' swimming and diving team to travel to Indianapolis, IN on February 11 – 12, 2022 for state competition; EHS girls' gymnastics team to travel to Logansport, IN on February 11 – 12, 2022 for gymnastics invite; EHS wrestling team to travel to Fort Wayne, IN on February 11 – 12, 2022 semi-state competition; EHS varsity winter guard to travel to Indianapolis, IN on February 12 – 13, 2022 for competition; EHS wrestling team to travel to Indianapolis, IN on February 18 – 19, 2022 for state competition; EHS boys' swimming and diving team to travel to Indianapolis, IN on February 25 – 26, 2022 for state competition; and EHS AFJROTC drill team to travel to Dayton, OH on March 11 – 13, 2022 for competition.

Conference Leave Requests

Personnel Report:

Approval for the recommendations of the Superintendent, made pursuant to Board Policy 3421.01A, for administrator compensation. The proposed increases and/or one time payments are all within the ranges set forth in the aforementioned policy.

Employment of certified staff member, Lauren Schmidt, internship coordinator at EHS.

Resignation of certified staff member, Michelle Neukom, grade 2 at Cleveland.

Employment of the following three (3) classified employees: Jennifer Gonzalez, paraprofessional at Pinewood; Amber Lundgren, paraprofessional at Pinewood; and Tyler Troyer, custodian at Monger.

Resignation of the following four (4) classified employees: Dawn Bonney, food services at Beardsley; Carla Raeder, food services at Bristol; Charlena Thompson, bus driver at Transportation; and Louise Young, bus helper at Transportation.

Retirement of the following two (2) classified employees: Rebecca Crockett, bus driver at Transportation and Martha Ramos, technical assistant at Beardsley.

Leave for classified employee, Jennifer Geers, registered nurse at EHS.

Rescind resignation for classified employee, Danae Brenneman, bus driver at Transportation.

..... Dr. Thalheimer reported COVID numbers were very high last month, but have since improved greatly. We are currently back to levels similar to that of the end of November, which has helped to relieve staffing issues.

..... was presented proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation KI – Application for Fundraiser Approval as initially presented at the January 25th regular meeting. Doug Thorne, district counsel/chief of staff, informed the Board that the business office was researching online payment providers approved by the State Board of Accounts. Kevin Scott, chief financial officer, clarified the district does currently offer online payment, on a limited basis, but needs to work through components to ensure proper internal controls are in place. When additional revisions are made, the administration will bring the administrative regulation again for Board review.

..... adopted a resolution regarding the Use of Benefit Time for Support Staff Employees in Relation to Inclement Weather eLearning Days.

..... approved proposed revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy 3421.01A – Professional Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans (Administrators).

..... approved proposed revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy 3421.04A – Professional Staff Fringe Benefits (Administrators).

- approved proposed revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy 3430.01A – Leaves of Absences.
- was presented a proposed Request for Proposal for Demographic and Feasibility Study for initial consideration. Board members offered several suggestions and determined there was a need for further discussion in a future meeting.
- heard audience member speak against the repurposing of Hawthorne Elementary School.
- heard audience member speak against the repurposing of Hawthorne Elementary School as well as express concerns about transportation.
- heard Superintendent Thalheimer express appreciation for the City Council’s support of education via a resolution in opposition to HB1134.
- heard Board member, Rocky Enfield, recognize the EHS wrestlers heading to semi-state competition this weekend; the EHS swimmer advancing to state competition; and the EHS girls basketball team currently playing in sectional game.
- heard Board president, Dacey Davis, thank parents for coming out to the public meetings regarding Hawthorne and stress what they think and feel is important. She reiterated Board members just want to do right by their constituents.
- heard Board member, Kellie Mullins, share that the EACC Culinary students are partnering with Nourish Produce in Granger and selling tasty snacks from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. this Saturday.
- heard Board member, Doug Weaver, speak against HB1072 regarding referendums and the requirement for those school districts that pass a referendum have to share referendum dollars with charter schools in their district.
- heard Board member, Doug Weaver, recognize Joey Shane, Memorial graduate, who was named the general manager for the New York Giants.