

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

.....heard Cory Hausbach present the Moment of Pride. Mr. Hausbach is a sophomore attending Elkhart High School – School of Business and International Relations who highlighted how EHS students celebrated Black History Month daily by honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans across the history of the United States during the morning announcements. Mr. Hausbach spoke of the accomplishments of the following groups: EHS Cheer advanced to Nationals in Orlando, Florida; EHS Varsity Winter Guard were WGA Indianapolis Regional Champions; two (2) EHS swimmers moved on to State; two (2) EHS divers moved on to Regionals; one (1) EHS wrestler placed sixth at State; and EHS girls’ varsity basketball made it to the Sectional Championship game and lost to Penn.

Mr. Hausbach also shared some upcoming events including the Coffee House Talent Show; SSAC freshman orientation; and Matilda The Musical which is taking place on March 11 and 12 at 7:00 p.m. and March 13 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students.

In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Hausbach reported SSAC meets with Superintendent Thalheimer once a month to discuss concerns students may have and then he works with the students to resolve those concerns. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Hausbach informed the Board he plans to pursue a career in business. In response to Board inquiry, Superintendent Thalheimer reported the 2021-2022 SSAC membership includes carryover members from the previous year as well as additional representation from each School of Study, including the Freshman Division; membership consists of 12 to 15 students who attend regularly.

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

- Minutes – February 8, 2022 – Public Work Session
- Minutes – February 8, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting
- Minutes – February 18, 2022 – Public Work Session

Claims in the amount of \$5,794,561.29.

Gift Acceptance:

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$500 from Mrs. Julie Weaver to EHS AF JROTC for the Military Ball; \$2,500 from LCI for the EHS cheerleading program; \$1,000 from the Elkhart County Symphony Orchestra to the EHS orchestra in support of clinicians and private lessons; \$750 from P.E. Robbins Engineering, care of Mr. Ed Robbins, to EHS ElkLogics robotics team for expenses related to robot construction and attending competitions; \$1,000 from John Himschoot to the EHS volleyball program for continued growth and progression of the program; donation of five (5) Craftsman tool cabinets, eight (8) tape measure box cutter combos, and three (3) packages of screwdrivers valued at \$1,500 from Lowes, care of Scott Hackett, to ETI; \$25,000 from The Liegl Family Foundation, Inc., care of Pete Liegl, for the ETI building fund; \$37,500 from Thor Industries, Inc. for the ETI building fund; \$1,000 from Get Wet for a Vet, Inc. to the AF JROTC for the purchase of supplies, snacks, and equipment for students’ in the program; and \$500 from Coulter Specialty Painting and Finishing to Osolo for their angel tree gift giving.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Submission of the following grants: American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth Relief Fund hosted by the IDOE from Student Services in the amount of \$93,500 and the Perkins Assessment Grant hosted by Indiana Governor’s Workforce Cabinet for the EACC in the amount of \$8,600.

Conference Leave Requests

Personnel Report:

Employment of the following three (3) certified staff members for the 2021-2022 school year: Thomas Dosmann, business education at EHS; Larry Kissinger, math at EHS; and Rebecca Milnes, art at Pierre Moran.

Retirement of certified staff member Daniel Burton, music at Pierre Moran.

Resignation of the following two (2) certified employees: Nicole Gray, grade 2 at Daly and Brooke Patterson, kindergarten at Beardsley.

Change in maternity leave for certified staff member, Jordan Deuel, special education at Daly.

Employment of the following nine (9) classified employees: Staci Childs, food service at Cleveland; April McBride, data specialist at Technology; Austin McBride, support tech at Technology; Lakayla Moore, bus helper at Transportation; Anna Prawat, paraprofessional at North Side; Collette Sharp, BCBA at Eastwood; Lorna Smith, paraprofessional at West Side; Katie Wallace, secretary at EHS; Tiffany West, registered behavior technician at EHS.

Resignation of the following four (4) classified employees: Naily Luzardo Soto, paraprofessional at Hawthorne; Michael Schmidt, paraprofessional at Riverview; Charlotte Sutton, food service at Freshman Division; and Wenzday Thimons, registered behavior technician at Cleveland.

Retirement of classified employee Elizabeth Decker, secretary at ESC.

Termination of the following two (2) classified employees: Adrian Murray, bus helper at Transportation and Chantyle Zilm, food service at Osolo.

Leave for classified employee, Lisa Swartzell-Guerra, food service at Riverview.

..... Dr. Thalheimer reported COVID numbers have drastically reduced to a handful of cases over the past two weeks. The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) has changed their COVID reporting requirements effective February 23, 2022 and ECS will align their protocol with the new recommendations. The main points include no longer having to contact trace; exposed students and employees do not need to quarantine; students and employees who test positive must isolate for five (5) days and must be fever free for twenty-four (24) hours; and ECS will continue to be mask optional, including on transportation. ECS will continue to trace positive cases internally.

The Board agreed Superintendent Thalheimer will not have to provide COVID updates during the Board meeting going forward.

..... approved the RFP for Demographic and Feasibility Study including changes discussed by the Board during the Work Session on February 18, 2022. In response to Board inquiry, Dr. Thalheimer explained the RFP will enable ECS to hire a firm to 1) analyze ECS's enrollment, 5 and 10 year projected enrollment trends, impact of the economy, changes in census, impact of school choice; 2) evaluate the building and classroom capacity and utilization of ECS's school buildings; 3) analyze ECS's boundaries, its impact on enrollment/building capacity and what might be needed to balance resources; and 4) miscellaneous information, other things ECS should know about the district to help make informed decisions. The administration will send the RFP directly to three (3) to four (4) specific firms specializing in this type of project as well as advertise through professional associations. The cost is difficult to determine as this particular RFP is much larger in scope than any others the administration has seen in the past; those have ranged in cost between \$9,000 - \$15,000.

..... was presented proposed revisions to Board Policy 5340.01 – Student Concussions and Sudden Cardiac Arrest for initial consideration. Doug Thorne, district counsel/chief of staff, informed the Board changes made were driven by changes in State law. The main change was the addition of marching band and other activities to the cardiac arrest protocols used for athletics. Also included was the use of electronic signature for parents signing such permission slips and/or waivers. All changes mirror Indiana Code 20-34-7-8. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Thorne clarified ECS, to his knowledge, has not had issues with initially receiving verbal parent permission to return to play but said changes could certainly be made to require written permission prior to returning to play. Further, a form could be created acknowledging the potential risks. Per Board inquiry, Mr. Thorne acknowledged knowing who should sign said forms/waivers can often be difficult when parents are separated; if uncertain, a court order on record could provide clarification. Court orders are in PowerSchool but are often not up to date which causes a constant challenge for the district. Per Board inquiry, Mr. Thorne explained required training for the automated external defibrillator was taken out because it is managed by the athletic trainers. The Board requested this wording be kept in policy as well as adding language to specify which parents can sign forms and requiring both parents to sign if there is joint custody. Marching band will utilize the same packet used by the IHSAA.

..... was presented proposed revisions to Board Policy 5540 – The Schools and Governmental Agencies for initial consideration. Mr. Thorne informed the Board this policy covers when DCS, the police, or other outside government agency requests to interview a student involving a non-school related incident. The school administration is to attempt to notify parent(s) unless otherwise told not to by the agency. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Thorne said language could be added to define "representative" i.e., building administrator, social worker, or guidance counselor; to notify parents in all circumstances unless otherwise asked not to by the agency; and define when it is appropriate for an agency to interview a student in accordance with State law. All documents in relation to such an interview are maintained in student services, not in the student's file.

..... was presented proposed revisions to Board Policy 7540.03 – Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety for initial consideration. Mr. Thorne informed the Board this policy addressed students and teachers using technology of ECS. The additional language further defines inappropriate use of technology. In response to Board inquiry, the school does have filters in place but a filter cannot prevent a student from taking an inappropriate picture with their iPad.

..... was presented the monthly financial report for the period of January 1 – 31, 2022.

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

.....heard audience member speak about the future of Hawthorne and the community's concern over what will go into the repurposed building. The Hawthorne community has a lot of love for their community and is watching to see what ECS does moving forward. Also noted, the Hawthorne community is sixty (60) percent Spanish speaking which should be considered when making decisions.

.....heard audience member speak about the difficult time Hawthorne teachers, students, and community members are having right now and asked the Board for more time to allow for input from stakeholders.

.....heard audience member share that she thinks it is good for the Board to go through with the study of the district. She understands the district has lost money due to a drop in enrollment, but asks them to also review the stability rates for each school. Hawthorne has always had a better stability rate compared to other schools on the south side of the town. If you want to retain students, you need to consider stability rates and the culture of the school; otherwise, you will continue to lose more students.

.....heard audience member share that she has been going door to door throughout the Hawthorne community and finding many people do not know or understand what the district is doing with Hawthorne. They have a fear of change and a lot of unanswered questions. She is asking the Board for more time, more information about how the community will be impacted by transportation changes, and more informational meetings in the community.

.....heard Superintendent Thalheimer thank the Indiana Black Expo for recognizing the accomplishments of ECS's Black students.

.....heard Superintendent Thalheimer express he knows this is not easy and understands these conversations about Hawthorne are difficult. The administration is listening and putting information together in order to make the best decision.

.....heard Board member ask audience members with signs to bring them forward so Board members could read them.

.....heard Board member announce March Madness begins next Tuesday evening at North Side gym where EHS will be playing Concord.

.....heard Board member share information about deadly fentanyl laced marijuana and the impact it is having on our community. He encouraged parents to educate their children and spread the word as this is impacting Elkhart across all demographics.

.....heard Board member thank audience members for their active dialog and assured them the Board would do their best when making a decision. Their voices have helped to restore her faith in the people.