

..... Board president Dacey Davis recommended a motion to remove two agenda items under new business, Hawthorne Elementary Repurposing and Administrative Regulation JC – School District Boundaries. Ms. Davis asked for Board comment. The motion was approved by Doug Weaver and seconded by Kellie Mullins. The motion passed by a vote of 6 – 0.

..... heard Board member Rocky Enfield recite the Elkhart Promise.

..... heard Board secretary Doug Weaver present the Moment of Pride. Mr. Weaver spoke about the AF JROTC drill and color guard team competition in Dayton, Ohio over the weekend. The varsity team was amazing to watch walking away with a third place trophy. They also had two individuals earn a third and seventh place finish in an individual competition consisting of two hundred plus cadets. The team got to visit the Air Force Museum prior to heading home.

Mr. Weaver shared his experience in attending the AF JROTC Military Ball and how wonderful it was to see the cadets in their dress formals. Many came with their mothers and grandmothers as their dates. What a testimony of how this program has built the confidence and self-esteem within these cadets. Watching them embrace and support one another was simply amazing to see.

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

Minutes – March 8, 2022 – Public Work Session

Minutes – March 8, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$5,996,481.51.

Gift Acceptance:

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): several bags of gently used clothes for distribution to our students from Jon and Kelli Rogers; \$750 from MORyde International, Inc. to the ElkLogics Robotics extra-curricular club/team for the purchase of supplies, snacks, and equipment for team students; \$10,000 from Richard and Babette Boling to the ETI building fund; sixteen (16) reels of 3D filament with an owner estimated value of \$6,300 from L&W Engineering, care of Luis Sanchez, to the Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC); and \$646.01 given anonymously to pay ECS students' negative lunch/breakfast balances.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Accepted the following extra-curricular purchase requests: Elkhart High School (EHS) Athletic Department EC Fund to purchase eight (8) Kwik Goal Academy Soccer Goals in the amount of \$9,875 and EHS Athletic Department EC Fund to purchase Dr. DishCT – Shooting Machine in the amount of \$6,470.

Submission of the following grants: Community Investment Grant hosted by Community Foundation of Elkhart County from West Side Middle School (WSMS) in the amount of \$3,000; Community Foundation of Elkhart County Mini-Grant by Community Foundation of Elkhart County from Student Services in the amount of \$3,500; Connect Parents to Instructional Technology hosted by Indiana Michigan Power from Student Services Department Parent Outreach in the amount of \$5,000; PLTW School Grant hosted by Project

Lead the Way from EHS – School of Engineering, Technology, and Innovation in the amount of \$2,400; IDOE Digital Learning Grant hosted by Indiana Department of Education for District Special Education Assistive Technology in the amount of \$49,680; Indiana Adult Education – IELCE hosted by Indiana Department of Workforce Development from Adult Education Program in the amount of \$126,748; Indiana Adult Education – ABE hosted by Indiana Department of Workforce Development from Adult Education Program in the amount of \$444,095; PLTW Biomedicine hosted by Project Lead the Way from EHS – School of Health and Public Safety in the amount of \$2,400; Perkins Basic Grant hosted by Governor’s Workforce Cabinet from EACC in the amount of \$748,143; and Data Action Mini Grant hosted by the SOURCE from Student Services administration in the amount of \$2,000.

Approved overnight trip request for EHS Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana on March 17 – 18, 2022 for a competition at JAG’s State Career Development Conference.

Conference Leave Requests

Personnel Report:

Consent agreements regarding unpaid time for a certified staff member.

Employment of the following three (3) certified staff members for the 2021-2022 school year: Wiaan deBeer, language arts at Freshman Division; Linda Ponterio, psychologist at ESC; and Shannon Simon, art at Freshman Division.

Leave for two (2) certified staff: Amanda Balk, grade 2 at Bristol and Renee Ruocco, grade 1 at Daly.

Resignation of the following three (3) certified employees: Taylor Feller, kindergarten at Roosevelt; Joshua Shattuck, social studies at EHS; and Paul Steury, science at Elkhart Academy.

Retirement of certified staff member Elizabeth Keiling, grade 4 at Beck.

Administrative appointment of classified employee Leslie Crothers-Wood, assistant human resources director at ESC.

Retirement of classified employee Judith Lund, paraprofessional at Pinewood.

Employment of the following three (3) classified employees: Clara Hadley, permanent substitute at Elkhart Academy; Marquisha Perry, bus helper at Transportation; and Mary Kathryne Taylor, paraprofessional at Beardsley.

Resignation of the following four (4) classified employees: Catherine Boudreau, food service at EHS; Linda Harper, bus driver at Transportation; Deborah Moriarty, registered nurse at Beardsley; Gayle Sotelo-Martin, bus driver at Transportation; Christina Stewart, paraprofessional at Pinewood; and Iesha Young-Cates, food service at Woodland.

Reassignment of classified employee Shannon Simon, secretary at Freshman Division to a certified position.

- approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 5340.01 – Student Concussions and Sudden Cardiac Arrest as presented during the March 8, 2022 Board meeting with an additional change in language allowing for the notification of parents, regardless of age, when a student experiences symptoms of cardiac arrest. Doug Thorne, district counsel/chief of staff, also informed the Board he is working with the athletic department to develop a training protocol on the use of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). In response to Board inquiry during the previous meeting, the district health coordinator is responsible for the maintenance of these machines across the district.
- approved proposed revisions to new Board Policy 3432.01ACS – Family Care Leave with additional suggestions made during the previous Board meeting. Mr. Thorne informed the Board that language was added to allow a thirty (30) calendar day continuous leave or a twenty (20) day intermittent leave which will be based on the employees needs at the time.
- approved the cash tuition rates for the 2022-2023 school year. Kevin Scott, chief financial officer, stated the rate for students in grades K-12 will be \$6,900.
- was presented the monthly financial report.
- was presented the monthly insurance update.
- heard seven (7) audience members voice concerns of student bullying across the district and the lack of action from the administration to effectively address complaints of bullying.
- Superintendent Thalheimer recognized the impact a student death has on all members of the school community. In response to those asking what is being done, Dr. Thalheimer reported bullying protocols were a large part of the previous week’s leadership team meeting. Based on the current vulnerability of students, the district is looking to add an additional layer of risk assessment for those students who report being bullied. Dr. Thalheimer reported on March 23 there will be a principal meeting to review bullying investigation processes and to share successful interventions for bullying. The district is also looking at how to better spell out and teach expectations for behavior, including bullying. Dr. Thalheimer also said the district is revising crisis response and communication plans in response to staff or student suicide which will be embedded in school safety plans. Lastly, Dr. Thalheimer reminded families that if a building is not responsive to a bullying report or a parent/guardian feels the investigation into bullying was not conducted satisfactorily, then they should report this to Student Services or the Superintendent’s Office.
- Board President Davis explained the repurposing of Hawthorne was removed from the agenda allowing for further consideration and conversations before making a final decision. As the administration moves through the review process, updates will be provided.