

.....heard Board member, Kellie Mullins, recite the Elkhart Promise.

.....heard Dan Burton, band director at Pierre Moran Middle School, present the Moment of Pride. He began by introducing Dean Ferguson, Elkhart Municipal Band, who shared the story of how it all began. A member of the band left the band money which they used to form a not-for-profit to support the city’s band program. The original idea started when Candy and Craig Henkler, members of Grace Lutheran Church, and Mr. Ferguson came up with the idea to share their love of music by providing instruments and weekly private lessons to Pierre Moran students. Currently there are ten (10) students and three (3) teachers participating in the program. Grace Lutheran Church offers a place to hold the lessons as well as adult supervision for every lesson. Mr. Ferguson then schedules teachers (Vickie Marshall, Steve Allen, and Jeanine Bilik) from the Elkhart Municipal Band to provide the private lessons for students once a week. Each participating student must sign a commitment form and have a parent/guardian to transport them to and from their lessons. Paige VanNevel, 7th grade flute player at Pierre Moran, shared that the lessons were fun, have improved her playing and she sounds so much better. Mr. Burton hopes to expand the program as he retires and expressed his appreciation for all who make this program work.

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

- Minutes – February 22, 2022 – Public Work Session
- Minutes – February 22, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting
- Minutes – February 24, 2022 – Public Work Session
- Minutes – February 25, 2022 – Public Work Session

Claims in the amount of \$6,406,442.91.

Gift Acceptance:

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$25,000 from Bob and Amy Martin to the ETI Building Fund; one (1) Roth violin and bow valued at \$900 from Dale Billet to the ECS music department; one (1) Roth violin valued at \$750 from Kathryn Freehafer to the ECS music department; miscellaneous automotive supplies valued at \$4,500 from Kem Krest, care of Brian Oakes, to the Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC); \$10,000 from NIVA to Elkhart High School (EHS) athletics to help with the continued growth and progression of athletic programs; and \$1,000 from Passionately Purple, The Sarah Crane Foundation, to the EHS track program to help with the continued growth and progression of the boys and girls track program.

Grant Submissions:

Submission of the FCC’s Emergency Connectivity Funds Grant hosted by the Federal Communications Commission for ECS in the amount of \$185,910 (round 1) and \$800,000 (round 2).

Overnight Trips:

Approved overnight trip requests for EHS ElkLogics Robotics Team to travel to Columbus, Indiana on March 18 – 20, 2022 for the FIRST Indiana Robotics Columbus District Event; EHS ElkLogics Robotics team to travel to Lafayette, Indiana on March 24 – 26, 2022 for the FIRST Indiana Robotics Tippecanoe District Event; EACC students to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana on April 8 – 9, 2022 for the SkillsUSA State Conference; and EHS orchestra and marching band to travel to Cocoa Beach and Orlando, Florida on April 2 – 7, 2022 for a unique performance venue, clinic experience, cultural experience, and educational opportunity.

Conference Leave Requests

Personnel Report:

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

Agreement regarding services as interim principal.

Employment of certified staff member, Scott McDougall, physical education at Pierre Moran (PMMS).

Retirement of the following two (2) certified staff members: Reginald Hicks, social studies at EHS and Denise Uitdenhowen, grade 5 at Hawthorne.

Maternity leave for the following two (2) certified staff members: Taylor Bryant, special education at Beck and Victoria Taylor, speech pathologist at Osolo.

Resignation of the following four (4) certified staff members: Darcy Burns, ENL at Freshman Division; Tiara Corkins, dean of behavior at PMMS; Steven McGrath, math at PMMS; and Elizabeth Price, grade 5 at Hawthorne.

Employment of the following fourteen (14) classified employees: Cathy Bell, food service at PMMS; Alexia Bennett, food service at Riverview; John Collins, bus driver at Transportation; Russell DeFord, paraprofessional at EHS; Arturo Gil-Vergara, food service at Roosevelt; Kylr Jones, paraprofessional at North Side; Chad Kersten, food service at Monger; William Linn, secretary at ESC; Jessenia Macias-Flores, secretary at Hawthorne; Deborah Moriarty, registered nurse at Beardsley; Tatiana Ponce-Acevedo, food service at Cleveland; Allison Smith, social worker at Hawthorne; Catrina Sutterby, food service at Beck; and Lisa Wig, bus helper at Transportation.

Resignation of the following two (2) classified employees: Thomas Louiselle, bus driver at Transportation and Elizabeth Matteson, paraprofessional at Cleveland.

Rescission of a resignation for classified employee, Wenzday Thimons, registered behavior technician at Cleveland.

Retirement of the following two (2) classified employees: Deborah Keller, secretary at EHS and Kimberly Raymond, custodian at EHS.

Termination of the following three (3) classified employees: Tonci Haynes, food service at Freshman Division; Dewayne House, food service at Roosevelt; and Michael Kutz, custodian at Beck.

Change in Unpaid leave for classified employee, Jennifer Geers, registered nurse at EHS.

.....postponed consideration of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 5340.01 – Student Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest until March 22, 2022.

.....approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 5540 – The Schools and Governmental Agencies including Board recommendations from the February 22, 2022 Board meeting.

.....approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 7540.03 – Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety as presented at the February 22, 2022 Board meeting.

.....was presented revisions to Administrative Regulation JC – School District Boundaries for initial consideration. The proposed boundary changes are only necessary if the repurposing of Hawthorne is approved. In response to Board inquiry, Doug Thorne, district counsel/chief of staff, responded that the schools impacted are Beardsley, Beck, Daly, Hawthorne, Monger, Riverview, and Roosevelt. Superintendent Thalheimer informed Board members that EHS’s boundary description would be updated for the second reading on March 22, 2022.

.....approved proposed revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy 3422.06S – Secretarial/Business Compensation Plan. Mr. Thorne informed Board members that the revision reclassified an executive assistant position to a secretary class 5 position which brings it in line with other departments. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Thorne informed the Board that checks and balances are in place to control the use of overtime, per Board policy, as all overtime must be authorized by Kevin Scott, chief financial officer.

.....approved proposed revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy 3430.01A – Leave of Absence – Mr. Thorne explained the revisions bring administrator personal business benefits in line with the Master Contract language allowing for benefits to accumulate.

.....was presented proposed new Board Policy 3432.01ACS – Family Care Leave – Mr. Thorne informed the Board this policy is specifically for those employees who may not have benefits available to them, are not entitled to FMLA, or may work less than four (4) hours. This will enable an employee to take an unpaid leave versus having to resign and reapply for a position. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Thorne noted it is initially for a thirty (30) day period but the employee would have the option to reapply up to a maximum of sixty (60) days. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Thorne responded that allowing for intermittent days is very difficult to track, but can be considered. Mr. Thorne will work with payroll and human resources and bring back the policy for a second reading on March 22, 2022.

.....Board president Dacey Davis suspended the Board meeting and opened the 1028 hearing. Mr. Scott provided information about the projects as well as the funding of said projects. Board president Davis asked for public comment and there was one speaker. Following

public comment, Board president Davis closed the hearing and resumed the Board meeting.

.....adopted a Resolution Confirming the Lease Approving the 2022 Bonds and Related to Matters – Monger and Mary Daly Elementary Renovation Project.

.....adopted Additional Appropriation Resolution and Related Matters – Monger and Mary Daly Elementary Renovation Project.

.....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 concerns about the possibility of changes in the population in the future which could cause overcrowding in the schools. She feels it would be cheaper to invest in Hawthorne now.

.....heard audience member speak against the repurposing of Hawthorne Elementary School and the impact it will have on students and families.

.....heard audience member read a letter against the repurposing of Hawthorne Elementary School and the impact it will have on the students, families, and community.

.....heard audience member speak about Hawthorne Elementary School being the heart of the community and called on the administration to hear all of the community concerns prior to making a decision. In the end, he hopes whatever decision is made will be good for the kids and Elkhart.

.....heard audience member speak against the repurposing of Hawthorne Elementary School and expressed concerns as to why building improvements were not done to Hawthorne over the years.

.....heard Superintendent Thalheimer speak about working with the Board to schedule an informational meeting next week regarding the repurposing of Hawthorne Elementary School and the revised district boundary lines. The administration will advertise via social media, local news, and communication through the schools.

.....heard Superintendent Thalheimer inform the Board he spoke to a couple of the vendors who gave him an estimate of six (6) to eight (8) months to complete the RFP study of the district.

.....heard Board member Doug Weaver speak about the AF JROTC Drill and Color Guard Competition on March 11 – 14, 2022.

.....heard Board member Weaver speak about the AF JROTC formal.

.....heard Board member Babette Boling share that it was International Women’s Day. May we be them. May we raise them.