

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

..... heard Amy Stine, lead teacher at Elkhart High School (EHS) School of Arts and Communication share a Moment of Pride. First she thanked Board members for approving their fundraiser and invited them to attend the event which will be held in conjunction with the 45<sup>th</sup> Madrigal dinner on December 3, 2022. The Arts and Communications Market, named and created by the students, will feature local vendors and student showcases across all content areas. All funds raised will be used to provide positive behavior incentives for students. Currently they have ten (10) outside vendors and seven (7) student groups who have committed to the event, and they expect more to come.

Brittany Townsley, language arts content area specialist at EHS School of Arts and Communication, shared that teachers have been planning during PLC time for the Arts and Communication Market, working to create an all-inclusive PBL event across all content areas. Several teachers also attended the recent Ford PBL training and have brought back ideas to the PLC. Some of the PBL projects being done include the following: art students are making pieces to sell; music students are putting on the main event; journalism students are writing about the event; digital design created flyers; and advanced composition made a commercial; a flyer and commercial were shared with the Board.

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

Minutes – October 21, 2022 – Special Public Work Session  
Minutes – October 25, 2022 – Public Work Session  
Minutes – October 25, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$7,334,810.14.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Gift Acceptance: Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): winter coats, with a value of \$1,190.80, from Brolyn Auctions for the students at Monger Elementary School.

Conference Leave Requests

Approved overnight trip request for Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana on December 6 – 10, 2022 for the National Finals – Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Engine Challenge; Elkhart High School (EHS) to travel to Massillon, Ohio on September 8 – 9, 2023 for a football game and visit to the Football Hall of Fame; and EHS to travel to Logansport, Indiana on February 10 – 11, 2023 for a gymnastics invitational competition.

Submission of the following grant: Gametime Playground Grant from Gametime in the amount of \$49,570.36.

Personnel Report:

Certified agreement regarding High Ability licensure.

Two (2) certified agreements regarding services.

Employment of the following three (3) certified employees: John Moran, science at West Side; Muhammad Shabazz, social studies at Pierre Moran; and David Walker, social studies at Pierre Moran.

Maternity leave for the following certified employee: Lyndsey Mullins, language arts at Elkhart High.

Change to Parental leave for the following certified employee: Elizabeth Byler, grade 4 at Woodland.

Medical leave for the following certified employee: Nakara Murray, cosmetology at Career Center.

Resignation of the following certified employee: Kathryn Broman, technology integrator at ESC.

Employment of the following sixteen (16) classified staff: Jessica Bouie, technical assistant at West Side; Erin Byers, paraprofessional at Cleveland; Kathleen Davis Stowell, paraprofessional at Eastwood; Linda Delgado, bus helper at Transportation; Desiree Diliberti, food service at West Side; Sharon Dutkowski, transition specialist at ESC; Jose Gonzales, bus driver at Transportation; Megan Jones, food service at Daly; Ginger Knox, technical assistant at North Side; Brandon Kratkoczki, communication specialist at ESC; Erin Kroeger, technical assistant at Cleveland; Kimberly Phelps, paraprofessional at Freshman Division; Derria Pratcher, bus helper at Transportation; Dawn Proctor, food service at Monger; Tiki Twiehaus, paraprofessional at Woodland; and Louise Young, bus helper at Transportation.

Unpaid leave for the following classified employee: Nicolette Andert, paraprofessional at Daly

Extension of unpaid leave for the following classified employee: Laura Walterhouse, paraprofessional at Roosevelt.

Resignation of the following six (6) classified staff: Elizabeth Delks, secretary at Elkhart High; Emily Grimes, secretary at Cleveland; Zoe Hellman, paraprofessional at West Side; Jakob Lazzaro, senior reporter and assignment editor at WVPE; Rachel Orpurt, food service at Elkhart High; and Carolyn Wheeler, food service at Daly.

Termination of the following classified employee: Shauntel Rohrer, bus helper at Transportation.

..... heard Superintendent Steve Thalheimer update Board members about the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and their efforts to reduce the academic standards by

twenty-five percent (25%) in response to changes in State law. Recommended standard reductions are to be presented to the Indiana State Board of Education for review by June 2023 for grades 9 – 12 and June 2024 for grades K – 8. The results will then change State assessments for grades 9 – 12 for the 2024 – 2025 school year and K – 8 for the 2025 – 2026 school year. Content Connectors are also being reduced/reviewed for all grade levels and be implemented for the 2025-2026 school year.

In 2018, the IDOE revised standards breaking them down into skills which made it feel as if they created more standards/expectations. It was determined there were too many standards and not enough instructional time to adequately cover them which led to the “essential” standards movement. ECS currently uses essential standards in the PLC process, as teachers identified these standards to ensure students know and can do said standards by the end of the school year, created common formative assessments (CFA) around these standards, and provided support to those students who have not mastered these standards and extensions for those who have.

The IDOE has already created an ILEARN blueprint defining the essential content measured on the assessment and identifying the critical standards that will more than likely be covered on the test. Since the pandemic, they have also identified standards, containing both content and skills essential for students’ success, for which data shows students are performing below expectations state-wide. ECS can now take this information and compare it with the essential standards they have identified in their PLCs to help further direct their instruction.

The IDOE is looking to speed up the original timeline for seeking approval of standards reductions and STEM Standards to June of 2023 for all of K - 12; June – December of 2023 they will work in committee and allow public comment for Content Connectors; December 2023, SBOE meets to approve Content Connectors; and January – May 2024 vendor will update documents, guidelines for standards and Content Connectors. Everything will roll out in the 2024-2025 school year including revised ILEARN assessments.

In closing, Dr. Thalheimer informed the Board as the IDOE works to reduce the standards there will be opportunities for ECS to review, provide feedback and contribute to the work throughout the process. He expects the first opportunity for further to provide feedback around April or May, prior to June approval from the SBOE.

Dr. Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, provided an update on the resource adoption committees. This year’s adoptions include Social Studies and World Languages curriculum materials. The initial meeting to explain the process has already been held for both committees. The content area specialists for Social Studies and the committee for World Languages are in the process of creating a rubric for the committee to review. Material will begin to arrive shortly. After the rubrics are approved by the committee, they will begin reviewing materials and identifying which vendors they would like to come and present to the group in January. Brenda Kolbe, director of communications, will help to communicate the process providing all stakeholders an opportunity to review materials and provide feedback. Dr. Sheppard will continue to update the Board as the committees move through this process.

..... approved Elkhart Area Career Center Agreements for 2022–2023 with the following feeder schools: Baugo Community Schools, Bremen Public Schools, Concord Community Schools,

Edwardsburg Public Schools, Goshen Community Schools, Middlebury Community Schools, Penn-Harris-Madison Schools, School City of Mishawaka, and Wa-Nee Community Schools.

- ..... authorized Tony Gianesi, chief operating officer, to approve an easement for AEP along County Road 2 at the Farm for electrical work. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Gianesi informed the Board AEP would be moving the electrical wires/poles twenty feet from the road which will benefit the Farm.
- ..... authorized the submission of a Petition to the Indiana State Board of Education for an advance from the Common School Fund in the amount of \$1,119,877.
- ..... heard Dr. Thalheimer inform Board members that SchoolIQ has sent surveys for their review. He will be sending them out this week broken down by stakeholder groups.
- ..... heard Dr. Thalheimer inform Board members the key committee list will be sent to SchoolIQ and they will be sending out invitations for the first committee meeting scheduled for December 1, 2022.
- ..... heard Board member congratulate EHS cross country team for their efforts at semi-state.
- ..... heard Board member congratulate EHS cross country alumni, Teagen Rodriguez, for making All Conference and qualifying for Nationals in his division.
- ..... heard Board member ask for an update on the next steps for the social workers' request. Dr. Thalheimer informed Board members this will be a two-step process. As a first step, the administration is meeting with the social workers next week to discuss adjustments to their current policy. To follow, the administration will work with them to determine how to best bridge social workers' current compensation policy to something similar to the bargaining unit's compensation plan.
- ..... heard Board member invite community members to the dedication of the statue, "Testing the Waters," at the Elkhart Aquatics Center on November 15, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.