

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

..... heard Kevin Deary, President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club (BGC) of Elkhart County, present the Moment of Pride. Mr. Deary thanked the Board for the thirteen-year partnership between BGC and Elkhart Community Schools (ECS). He highlighted the BGC Homework Help Club currently operating at Beardsley Elementary School, servicing both Beardsley and Osolo Elementary Schools' students. The primary focus of this program is math and reading comprehension. All students are referred by either their teacher, principal, or parent as working below grade level. A pre-test is given to each student prior to the start of tutoring sessions. After the pre-test, each student participates in thirty (30) homework sessions; some of these sessions are one-on-one and others are small groups. They also integrate all aspects of math into other club activities such as cooking, sports, etc. After the students have completed thirty (30) sessions, they take a post-test to measure their progress. Mr. Deary is pleased to report the 2021-2022 post-test average for Elkhart students showed a gain of 290% in reading comprehension and 370% in math. These results are amazing and could not have happened without the partnership between BCS and ECS as well as the incredible support from teachers.

In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Deary shared there were fifty-seven (57) students who were pre/post-tested. All tutoring sessions start as one on one and then transition to small groups. When possible, BGC staff also have conversations with parents to provide them with ideas of how they can help their students at home.

All Board members thanked Mr. Deary and BGC for their partnership and all they do for ECS, specifically Beardsley and Osolo students.

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

Minutes – October 11, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$7,410,389.27.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Gift Acceptance: Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$2,500 from The Don Wood Foundation, care of Laura Macknick, to the Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) to be used towards student scholarships for classroom lab fees, uniforms, field trips, etc.; oil, lubricants, and other miscellaneous automotive supplies with an owner estimated value of \$6,435 from Kem Krest, care of Brian Oakes, to be used in the Automotive Technology and Diesel Technology classes at the EACC; \$700 from Competitive Edge Sports and Spine LLC to the Elkhart High School (EHS) Athletics department to be used to assist with the growth of athletic programs; \$250 from John and Judy Miller to EHS Girls Basketball team to assist with the growth of the girls basketball program; \$750 from Shield Restraint Systems, care of Lori Pallo, to the EHS ElkLogics robotics team to be used for team expenses related to robot construction and attending competitions; and \$1,000 from

NIVA Volleyball to Pierre Moran Middle School (PMMS) Athletics department to be used to support and grow the athletic program.

Conference Leave Requests

Approved overnight trip request for EHS and EACC FFA to travel to Trafalgar, Indiana on November 4 – 6, 2022 for chapter bonding/leadership building.

Submission of the following grant: American Electric Power (AEP) Teacher Grant hosted by AEP from EHS Rocketry Team in the amount of \$500.

Personnel Report:

Employment of the following three (3) certified employees: Michael Lile, math at North Side; Amber Rowland, special education at Cleveland; and Donald Shafer, social studies at West Side.

Resignation of the following certified employee: Jordan Bienz, special education intern at PACE.

Classified agreement regarding severance.

Employment of the following fifteen (15) classified staff: Shannan Asbury, secretary at EHS; Lucas Brownsberger-Keyes, paraprofessional at PRIDE Academy; Jessica Buckley, paraprofessional at Cleveland; Paul Detwiler, bus helper at Transportation; Derick Dickerhoof, paraprofessional at North Side; Angel Gates, bus helper at Transportation; Kristine Hembree, paraprofessional at PACE; Sharon Kirkpatrick, food service at Freshman Division; Elsie Logan, food service at Riverview; Alexandria Nelson, bus helper at Transportation; Anaruth Palacios, secretary at ESC; Sekeba Qaiyim, technical assistant at EACC; Jeffrey Riehl, campus security at Freshman Division; Keri Roberts, paraprofessional at Hawthorne; and Dimitri Sanders, food service at Freshman Division.

Reassignment of the following certified employee to a classified position: Jordan Bienz, registered behavior technician at PACE.

Resignation of the following six (6) classified staff: Teresa Garcia Ponce, social worker at Daly; Tricia Hutchison, paraprofessional at Freshman Division; Diane Kramer, registered nurse at Daly; Elizabeth Landeros, food service at Bristol/Woodland; Caitlin Mangrum, custodian at ETI; and Tashni Westall, custodian at Pierre Moran.

..... heard Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, share information about putting curriculum into action through project-based learning (PBL). Some content area specialists, lead teachers, and School of Study principals participated in two (2) days of training presented by Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL). PBL is long-term investigations driven by real questions connected to the real world resulting in authentic projects that show students learning (Steven Wolk, Northeastern Illinois University). The central characteristics of PBL include productive talk, visible thinking, exciting creativity and are structured and purposeful. They can include long-term or short-term projects, covering multiple standards, where students spend half their time on research and the other half on product design and

creation. When comparing traditional teaching to PBL, a traditional lesson may include 5 weeks of direct teacher instruction and 3 days of students creating a project i.e. poster, whereas PBL might include 3-4 lessons to build background knowledge and vocabulary, make connections to the real world, and help students care about the topic; the rest of the time students research, create, and present their projects.

Alex Holtz, math teacher at EHS, attended the training and was able to provide a teacher's perspective. The training was excellent and gave him a better understanding of PBL, as well as ideas of how PBL can bring to life something that is generally boring for students. Mr. Holtz gave an example of measuring the braking distance of a wheeled object where students explore speed and how long it takes to stop. This particular project not only covers standards but provides a public service/safety message of good information for students to know and understand. Now, it's a matter of figuring out how to balance classroom time to ensure all standards are covered; this is something that can be addressed during professional learning community (PLC) time.

Matt Werbiensky, principal of EHS – School of Business and International Relations, attended the training as well and provided a principal's perspective. Mr. Werbiensky's biggest takeaway as a building administrator was the need to properly support and implement PBL across the building. Currently, teachers and administrators are at different levels of training for PBL. He plans to break down the PBL training into sections/blocks so as not to overwhelm teachers. This also enables the training to meet the teacher where they are in the training process. He will be working with Dr. Sheppard and the other School of Study principals to begin planning professional development next week.

Mr. Werbiensky shared the PBL process is also incorporated in their School Improvement Plan serving as a key component to help improve Tier 1 instruction. The long-term goal is for PBL to become the instructional culture of EHS.

In response to Board inquiry, Dr. Sheppard explained PBL is not taking the place of traditional learning but an additional tool for teachers to use. Superintendent Steve Thalheimer added students are learning the same essential standards but through another means of learning. PBL engages students and provides them with a voice and choice. Teachers use mini lessons to build background knowledge, vocabulary, and real world connections, then students choose a PBL to apply and demonstrate what they have learned.

In response to Board inquiry, Rhiannon Harrison, director of English learners, added PBL is an amazing tool that will link EL students to the curriculum as it allows them to apply the standards to something more tangible.

In response to Board inquiry, Dr. Thalheimer informed Board members that Capstone, CTE, and other senior level courses may require a Capstone project; but this is not a requirement across the district.

Mrs. Harrison updated the Board on the district's EL professional development. First she shared information from Dr. Jenner's weekly newsletter, which listed the number of EL learners by school districts across Indiana; Elkhart was sixth (6th) in the state which reaffirms the district's decision to make EL students a priority.

Currently, the district is in the middle of rolling out the fourth (4th) component of lesson preparation. Mrs. Harrison shared a rubric for teachers to use as a self-assessment which will inform them of how they are progressing. There is also an informal tool/rubric for administrators to use which can provide a snapshot of how their teachers are progressing. Both of these tools will help schools track their progress towards the goal of 80% of teachers using/implementing these SIOP tools by the end of the school year.

- approved proposed 2023 Board Meeting schedule as presented in the October 11, 2022 Board meeting with the addition of dates for the February Board retreat.
- ratified the tentative agreement with the Elkhart Teachers Association for a new collective bargaining agreement.
- approved proposed revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy 3422.12S – Employees in Miscellaneous Positions Compensation Plan.
- approved the 2023 Capital Projects Plan, 2023 School Bus Replacement Plan, 2023 Budget and associated resolutions. Kevin Scott, chief financial officer, reviewed each document prior to a vote.
- was presented the monthly financial report.
- was presented the monthly insurance update.
- heard two (2) audience members speak about student bullying, trauma, and overall concern for students.
- heard an audience member speak about the parents’ role.
- heard Superintendent provide an update regarding ECS social workers’ desire to join the bargaining unit. The ECS social workers plan to join the bargaining unit for the 2023-2024 school year. In the meantime, the administration will review the social workers’ current salary schedule and bring changes to the board for approval that mirror the certified hiring schedule in the 2022-2023 Master Contract.
- heard Board member thank the administration for working with the social workers to resolve their issues with their compensation schedule.
- heard Board member remind the community about the Track or Treat event at the Freshman Division this Sunday, October 30, 2022 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.