

..... heard Board member Anne VonDerVellen recite the Elkhart Promise.

..... heard Cary Anderson, executive principal of Elkhart High School (EHS), express his appreciation for Adriana Alvarez and Jennifer Kemble (who was not able to attend), Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) specialists at EHS, as they shared a Moment of Pride highlighting the JAG program. Ms. Alvarez informed Board members the JAG program is a State based, national non-profit organization dedicated to helping students who may have experienced challenging events achieve success through high school graduation. Participants learn employability skills and are provided post-secondary education and career advancement opportunities; they also receive adult mentoring while in school and follow-up counseling one-year post graduation. EHS JAG program received the National 5 of 5 Award and was the only program in the state to earn the JAG Indiana New Standard 6 of 6. The EHS’s program outcomes ranked above the national goals in all categories including graduation rate, job placement, total in full-time jobs, total full-time outcomes, and further education rate. Ms. Alvarez recognized Ms. Kemble for being named a National JAG Outstanding Specialist this summer and noted EHS has two (2) Outstanding Specialists being recognized at the National level, both Ms. Kemble and Ms. Alvarez. The EHS JAG program participated in the JAG Career Development Conference and had ten (10) regional winners and 3 state competitors. Some other JAG opportunities include JAG Summer Academy at Vincennes University helping students to prepare to enter the workforce after graduating at Vincennes University. The program is a big proponent of community service participating in Habitat for Humanity of Elkhart County, Ukraine Refugee Clothing Drive, Elkhart Health Department Tobacco Control and Voice, and Riley Children’s Hospital to name a few. Estrella Rios-Rodriguez, second year senior student, spoke about how the program pushed her out of her comfort zone and helped her learn to speak clearly. She also made it to State in the Career Development Conference. Sergio Fernandez, a follow up student/class of 2022 graduate, stated JAG is the best program, spoke about how Ms. Kemble cares about her students and is the most genuine teacher. Yensenia Avalos, follow-up student/class of 2022 graduate, said she was so grateful for the resources provided by the program and how it helped her to build a better life for herself. She was also gifted a car which she described as “a blessing in disguise”.

In response to Board inquiry, Ms. Alvarez said there are approximately 200 students in the program this year, adding the program provides students with a sense of belonging and helps students explore all the options they have.

Gail Draper, director of counseling, and Michele Tibbs, early college counselor, informed Board members they attended the Educational Excellence Gala with six (6) other teachers and administrators. EHS was recognized for their summer dual credit push, enrolling 188 students in the program. As a result of these efforts, ECS was awarded \$500,000 to use towards the continued promotion of the dual credit program. Further details will be forthcoming from the State.

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

- Minutes – August 23, 2022 – Public Work Session
- Minutes – August 23, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$12,589,018.97.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Accepted the following extra-curricular purchase requests: West Side 8th Grade Academics Account to purchase the 2022-23 Department of Student Programs School Membership, Junior Academic Spell Bowl, and Junior Academic Super Bowl totaling \$507.

Gift Acceptances:

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$310 from Culver's to Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) Ag/Motorcycle/Outdoor Power Technology class for student related activities; \$50,000 from NIBCO, Inc., care of Rex Martin, for Elkhart High School - Engineering, Technology, and Innovation School of Study (ETI); Pickleball equipment from Mark and Debbie George to Bristol Elementary School valued at \$1,850 to be used in physical education classes; \$1,000 from Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children to be used towards operating expenses and supplies for the EACC Teenage Parent Program; and two (2) 2016 Subaru Outback 2.5i Premiums from Subaru of Indiana Auto, Inc. to the EACC Automotive cluster with an estimated value of \$22,000 each.

Submission of the following grants: STEM Innovation Grant hosted by National Association of Rocketry from Elkhart High School (EHS) in the amount of \$2,000; Title I, Part A Grant hosted by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) from ECS on behalf of nine (9) Title I schools in the amount of \$3,543,364.43; Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) Grant hosted by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) from ECS, on behalf of six (6) schools, and Concord Community Schools (CCS), on behalf of two (2) schools, in the amount of \$9,879,090 over five (5) years; and Title II, Part A Supporting Effective Instruction Grant hosted by the IDOE from ECS in the amount of \$524,046.10.

In response to Board inquiry, Beth Williams, director of federal programs, provided some background to the Full Service Community Schools Grant. This grant is a 5-year competitive grant submitted on behalf of Beardsley, Beck, Daly, Monger, Roosevelt, and Pierre Moran as well as two (2) Concord Community Schools. The purpose of the grant funds will be to partner with several community partners who will help provide additional support to our students, i.e. high quality early childhood education; high quality in-school and out-of-school programming; support for student transitions from pre-k to elementary, elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school, and high school to post-secondary education/the workplace; family and community engagement supports for students learning at home; and social, health, nutrition, and mental health services and supports. Ultimately, it aims to take care of the whole child. The grant includes outlines of specific measurable outcomes which will be reviewed by an external evaluator which has been written into the grant.

Accepted an Innovation Grant awarded to ECS from the Elkhart Education Foundation (EEF) for Mary Beck Elementary in the amount of \$5,000 and Extra-curricular Grant awarded to ECS from EEF for the EHS Freshman Division in the amount of \$5,000.

Conference Leave Requests

Personnel Report:

Two (2) Agreements regarding services.

Employment of the following eight (8) certified employees: Laura Blair, veterinary at EACC; Matthew Brown, music at EHS; Ryan Drummond, physical education at Pierre Moran; Kellie Heuermann, science at North Side; Daniel Houck, science at Pierre Moran; Ashley McQueen-Ghafflar, grade 4 at Roosevelt; Barbara Outka, special education at Pinewood; and Jason Rybinski, grade 6 at Cleveland.

Retirement of the following two (2) certified employees: Denise Wappes, principal at Roosevelt and Jana Wilde, speech pathologist at PACE.

Resignation of the following four (4) certified employees: Viressa Davis, principal at Pierre Moran; Julie Kline, special education at Cleveland; Daniel Loth, science at EHS; and Nanci Tarantino, grade 5/6 split at PRIDE Academy.

Employment of the following four (4) classified employees: Alex Allard, head grounds at Freshman Division; Sherman Bailey, custodian at Building Services; Dayenerra Johnson, bus driver at Transportation; and Debra Watson, food services at Roosevelt.

Resignation of the following five (5) classified employees: Bryanna Charlesworth, secretary at ESC; Jamie Greenway, paraprofessional at Cleveland; Richard Murray II, paraprofessional at Elkhart Academy; Tori Patterson, custodian at North Side; and Lynda Thorpe, food service at Pinewood.

Termination of the following employee: Anntionette Cotton, custodian at Woodland.

Administrative appointment of the following classified employee: Jennifer Lee, supervisor of accounting, audits, and investments at ESC.

..... Rhiannon Harrison, director of English learners, presented a mock EL data analysis which each school will use as a guide to track and monitor their EL data which will be used to inform instruction. A specific emphasis will be placed on "bubble" kids to ensure they progress to the next level. Mrs. Harrison also shared a lesson preparation rubric used to quantify the data on SIOP lesson preparation to make sure it is being implemented in the classroom through the evaluation process.

Superintendent Steve Thalheimer updated Board members about assessments and data. In 2019, Dr. Thalheimer ran an analysis to see a correlation between NWEA and ILEARN scores. He provided the same type of data this school year and provided research from NWEA as well

Next, Dr. Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instructional leadership, and Dr. Mindy Higginson, director of elementary instruction, shared with Board members what their respective schools will be doing on the first eLearning day.

Secondary teachers will be focusing on curriculum work as they meet by content area in the morning to continue building the curriculum repository for each course of study using the

following steps: essential standards, scope/sequence, course overview, common formative assessments, common summative assessments, UbD units, interventions and extensions. In the afternoon, teachers will return to their home schools for building level meetings/work.

Elementary teachers will be meeting by grade level to determine the district math essential standards following the same process used last year for the language arts essential standards. Building administrators will be leading these teams. Their goal is for the district math essential standards to be determined by the end of the day.

Dr. Thalheimer informed Board members the Data Dashboard is under review by the district leadership team. The first data from NWEA checklists will be entered and shared during the September 27, 2022 Board meeting.

- approved and waived second reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy 3422.12S – Employees in Miscellaneous Positions Compensation Plan. In response to Board inquiry, Brandon Eakins, director of the Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC), explained the position of Education and Engagement Coordinator and how it has evolved over the years. This coordinator position used to be about getting teachers certified to teach dual credit classes as well as managing business partnerships. Now that most of our teachers are already credentialed, it has become more about expanding EACC partnerships, which Perkins V legislation has emphasized greatly. In order to implement this change, Mr. Eakins is requesting this position be added to the Employees in Miscellaneous Positions Compensation Plan enabling the EACC to utilize this position to focus on the development of their partnerships.
- heard Dr. Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, present a proposed new course offering for the 2022-2023 school year: Elective Physical Education.
- approved the Student Fees for Curricular Materials for 2022-2023.
- heard five (5) audience members express concern about Elkhart Community Schools teachers’ pay.
- heard one (1) audience member voice concern about there being too much testing for students.
- heard Jon Chevalier, director of transportation, provide a Transportation update. They are still working to get bus drivers trained and have two (2) who will be on the road by the end of the week. He is also in weekly contact with Stop Finder and expects to introduce the app following fall break. Transportation has a new assistant supervisor joining the team, Michele Ernsberger, and she will be working directly with Stop Finder.
- heard Superintendent Thalheimer thank all the staff who participated in the bilingual family event, Welcome: We are Elkhart, on September 8, 2022 at the Freshman Division.
- heard Superintendent Thalheimer provide an update on enrollment and noted the official count day is Friday, September 16, 2022.

- heard Superintendent Thalheimer encourage attendance at the community meeting for the Feasibility/Facility Study Introduction with SitelogIQ and School IQ at 6:30 p.m. on September 14, 2022 at the Elkhart High School auditorium.
- heard Board member encourage everyone to attend the grand opening of the Art Depot on Monday, September 19, 2022.
- heard Board member express her gratitude for teachers and for having the courage to attend the meeting and be candid with the Board members.