

.....heard Board president Kellie Mullins recite the Elkhart Promise.

.....heard Taryn Snyder present the Moment of Pride. Miss Snyder is a senior attending Elkhart High School – School of Business and International Relations, captain of the varsity cheer team, and class president. She is involved in National Honor Society (NHS), Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council (SSAC), Startup Moxie and also has an internship at Lake City Bank.

Miss Snyder shared information about the upcoming EHS Homecoming week full of activities centered around the theme, Board Games. Homecoming activities this week include daily themed dress-up days, a dodgeball tournament, a class Olympic games night, and a senior class sunrise breakfast. Miss Snyder invited the Board members and community to attend the Homecoming parade beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by the football game on Friday, September 30, 2022. Homecoming court will be presented during half-time. Saturday evening is the semi-formal Homecoming dance.

In response to Board inquiry, Miss Snyder informed the Board she plans to attend college after high school and major in Business Finance.

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

Minutes – September 13, 2022 – Public Work Session  
Minutes – September 13, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$8,274,349.13.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Gift Acceptance: Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$20,000 from Patrick Industries to Daly Elementary School to purchase classroom materials as well as clothing to be distributed by the school nurse and \$1,000 from Welter Foundation to Elkhart High School to be used for football “Staff Buddy” t-shirts.

Submission of the following grants: STEM Integration Grant hosted by Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) from Elkhart High School (EHS) – Engineering, Technology, and Innovation School of Study in the amount of \$100,000 and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Grant hosted by PLTW from EHS – Health and Public Safety School of Study in the amount of \$2,400.

Conference Leave Requests

Personnel Report:

Administrative appointment of the following certified employee: Shirley Elliott, supervisor of special programs at ESC.

Two (2) agreements regarding services.

One (1) agreement regarding increased student loads.

Employment of the following four (4) certified employees: Brent Curry, special education intern at West Side; Dianna Nauman, special education intern at West Side; Jason Rivich, career readiness at Pierre Moran; and Robert Sommer, art at Freshman Division.

Maternity leave for the following certified employee: Mariah Srmek, special education at PACE.

Parental leave for the following certified employee: Jennifer Miller, grade 2 at Cleveland.

Medical leave for the following certified employee: Brett Cramer, special education at Elkhart Academy.

Resignation of the following three (3) certified employees: Anthony DeFelice, math at North Side; Rebecca Herington, special education at Cleveland; and Jason Rybinski, grade 6 at Cleveland.

Employment of the following five (5) classified staff: Tricia Antonio, secretary Elkhart High; Christian Donovan, security at North Side; Gabriel Fillio, security at Pierre Moran; Tamika Hines, secretary at Roosevelt; and Leslie Kauffman, food service at Elkhart High.

Resignation of the following two (2) classified staff: Christina Heise, technical assistant at Bristol and Sanara Warren, bus driver at Transportation.

Unpaid leave for the following classified staff: Vantha Seth, custodian at Beck.

Reassignment of the following classified employee to a certified position: Brent Curry, secretary at Elkhart High.

Termination of the following two (2) classified staff: John Collins, bus driver at Transportation and Preston Morris, truck driver at Commissary.

.....Dr. Mindy Higginson, director of elementary instruction, presented information about this year's Savvas Assessments which are used by teachers to guide student instruction. This assessment was new last school year; therefore, the test window was much longer to allow teachers to familiarize themselves with the platform. This school year, a shorter testing window was used and each building created their own test schedule within that window. The district continues to review the types and number of test questions, and continues to refine them further to focus on the essential standards connected to ILEARN. This year's Savvas scores are lower than last year's scores. Dr. Higginson contributes some of this variance to the longer testing window used last year as students would have been learning some of the standards prior to being tested on them. Now that a benchmark is set for students, teachers will align their instruction with the data in order to maximize student achievement. Dr.

Higginson looks forward to reporting student progress to the Board following the mid-year testing window.

In response to Board inquiry, Superintendent Steve Thalheimer agreed to provide Board members and the public a summary of each school's goals.

Dr. Thalheimer shared the NWEA test results for kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 2. Again, results are skewed due to the extended testing window used last year but the administration expects to see a large increase in the January mid-year test window. Dr. Thalheimer also shared the new Teaching & Learning Dashboard populated with the first data from NWEA checklists from this school year.

Tara White, director of literacy, informed Board members about the work completed in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) on the eLearning day. Elementary teachers focused on math and met in grade level teams. Per teacher requests, the administration extended the grade level meetings into the afternoon. Their primary focus was aligning math resources, essential standards and assessments. They had great collaboration to improve instruction. In response to Board inquiry, Mrs. White agreed to consider having each grade level collaborate with the grade level below and above. This could provide great insight for all.

Dr. Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, informed Board members about the work completed in PLC's at the secondary level on the eLearning day. The primary focus was to wrap up the essential standards and move on to the creation of Common Formative Assessments (CFAs). Content area specialists led this work and are continuing to build the master curriculum repository. Instructional technology was available virtually to help teams with standards and creation of CFAs in an effort to improve instruction. Math and ELA for grades 9 – 12 were provided direct in person support from the instructional coaching teams; this support will continue on all eLearning days for the remainder of this school year.

Rhiannon Harrison, director of English learners, shared a SIOP lesson plan rubric and training video with Board members. The goal is for 80% of all teachers to be implementing SIOP lessons which target EL students but utilize good teaching strategies for all students. She also will be working with teachers to create a library of videos in order to provide more resources for teachers.

.....was presented proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation GDBA-10 – Miscellaneous Position Pay Schedule for final review. Doug Thorne, district counsel/chief of staff, informed Board members that WVPE has added an intern position for an Elkhart High School student and proposes offering a stipend of \$750 per semester. The intern has already begun working for WVPE and station manager, Anthony Hunt, reports the intern is already bringing value to the station while gaining a solid understanding of all aspects related to the operation of the radio station.

.....was presented with proposed revisions to Board Policy 5516 – Student Hazing for initial consideration. The administration has been meeting with a parent bullying prevention group which prompted review of this policy. A preliminary draft has been shared with the parent group as well as administrators for further comment and review. The administration plans to bring the Student Hazing policy for final approval during the October 11, 2022 Board meeting.

- .....was presented proposed new Administrative Regulation JFCF – Hazing Investigation Procedures for initial review. During the review of the current hazing policy, it was realized a hazing investigation procedure was not a part of the policy; therefore, a specific hazing investigation procedure was developed. A preliminary draft has been shared with the parent group as well as administrators for further comment and review. The administration plans to bring the Hazing Investigation Procedures for final review during the October 11, 2022 Board meeting.
- .....was presented proposed new Administrative Regulation JFH – Student Complaint Procedures for initial review. During the review of the current Student complaints policy, it was realized a formal complaints investigation procedure was needed. A preliminary draft has been shared with the parent group as well as administrators for further comment and review. The administration plans to bring the Complaint Investigation Procedures for final review during the October 11, 2022 Board meeting.
- .....approved a Resolution Recognizing Elkhart Community Schools’ commitment to the State Proficiency Goal of 95% on the IREAD-3 Assessment by 2027 after amending the resolution to include the following statement: “Whereas, in Elkhart Community Schools, thirty-five percent (2 in 5) of our students have not yet mastered foundational reading skills by the end of third grade.”
- .....approved the topics for examination through the district feasibility process.
- .....was presented the monthly financial report.
- .....was presented the monthly insurance update.
- .....heard audience member request further explanation of the Full Service Community Schools Grant which was approved for submission at the September 13, 2022 Board meeting.
- .....heard Maggie Lozano, director of human resources, provide information about total postings, certified positions filled, and support staff positions filled from the same time period during 2021 vs. 2022. In response to an audience members request, Ms. Lozano will provide a breakdown of employees who left the district, i.e. retired, resigned, and were terminated over the same period of time.
- .....heard Board member encourage community members to volunteer their time to Real Mentors Read which is a program where a volunteer goes into a school and reads to a classroom across a four (4) week period. If interested, contact Jill Yoder, volunteer engagement coordinator for United Way, at [yoderj@crossroadsuw.org](mailto:yoderj@crossroadsuw.org). Ms. Lozano added Spring into Reading is another great opportunity for volunteering with the district.
- .....heard Board member highlight the success of the Art Depot grand opening at the Freshman Division.
- .....heard Board member remind the community of the parent group meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Woodland Elementary School.