

- heard Board member Jeff Bliler recite the Elkhart Promise.
- had a moment of silence remembering the loss of an Elkhart Community Schools' student and their family.
- heard from Lindsey Brander, assistant superintendent of student services, who introduced Aaron Ball, cofounder of Rio's Rainbow, and Shelley Poindexter, team leader – Elkhart child and adolescence skills at Oaklawn. Mr. Ball spoke of the awesome group of parents, students, and community members who have come together with the goal of building a strong resilient community in Elkhart County, Elkhart Community Schools, and beyond; this community answered that call. Rio's Rainbow has been working tirelessly and as of November 2022, the Elkhart community responded by raising over \$20,000 to bring programming to North Side and Pierre Moran in honor of Rio Allred, Building Hope Week by Week. The work is not done and will probably never be done, but Rio's Rainbow's will be here to continue to provide help to our community's children and families. They are proud of the ECS students who participated in Building Hope Week by Week as well as the parents who wanted their kids to participate. They are proud of the collaboration and effort among Rio's Rainbow, Oaklawn, Elkhart Community Foundation, and especially Elkhart Community Schools; and most importantly, they are proud of Elkhart County.

Ms. Poindexter has worked with Rio's Rainbow, Elkhart Community Schools, and numerous partners to implement Building Hope Week by Week, which includes hope and resiliency groups at both Pierre Moran and North Side. These groups meet weekly for eight weeks creating a positive safe environment for students to focus on the concept of hope and resiliency, building social emotional skills and connections with each other. Topics include relationships, belonging, decision making, building confidence, and building hope. All of these topics/discussions help provide students with tools for their "toolbox".

They collect data in order to evaluate the program. A pre-test and post-test is given to students and by far, all students exhibit more knowledge and gain helpful tools at the end of the eight weeks. They are finding students enjoy the time with each other, don't want it to end, and are often checking in on each other to see how they are doing by the end of the eight weeks.

In response to Board inquiry, Ms. Poindexter told Board members they currently do not have a "phase 2" of the program but would love to take seventh graders to a phase 2 during their eighth grade year. They also make an effort, through the school social workers, to connect students with other organizations/support groups. Board member Jeff Bliler thanked Ms. Poindexter and Mr. Ball for their efforts and thanked Ms. Brander for being a supportive liaison for ECS. He encouraged them to extend this type of programming to all age groups across the district. Ms. Brander added she looks to allocate resources from the Community Schools Grant and Project Aware Grant to help facilitate these programs across the district.

- approved the following items under a consent approval:

Minutes – March 28, 2023 – Board Work Session
Minutes – March 28, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting

Minutes – March 31, 2023 – Special Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$7,411,016.21

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Accepted the following extra-curricular purchase requests: Elkhart High School (EHS) Athletics to purchase a pole vault standard to be used for girls'/boys' track and field totaling \$3,745.

Gift Acceptance:

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): 1998 Ford F150 to be used in the Elkhart Area Career Center's (EACC) Automotive cluster for training purposes and \$600 to Elkhart High School (EHS) Athletic Department from Jeffrey and Julie Gaff to be used to assist with the growth and development of the boys' track and field team.

Conference Leave Requests

Personnel Report:

Certified agreement regarding incentive pay.

Certified agreement related to compensation and skill development.

Employment of the following one (1) certified staff: Betty McNeal, grade 4 at Cleveland.

Retirement of the following three (3) certified staff: Elaine Fiwek, special education at Beardsley; Heidi Krusenklau, career coordinator at EACC; and Christopher Scalise, assistant principal at North Side.

Resignation of the following four (4) certified staff: Elizabeth Byler, grade 4 at Woodland; Jordan Deuel, special education at Daly; Renee Ruocco, grade 1 at Daly; and Kyle Sears, business at Elkhart High.

Parental leave for the following one (1) certified staff: Molly Jo Moosa, grade 2 at Monger.

Extension of leave for the following one (1) certified staff: DeVetta Farrow, assistant principal at Pierre Moran.

Employment of the following six (6) classified employees: Shamara Allen, bus helper at Transportation; Elvira Antonio, technical assistant at Bristol; Arick Dashel, custodian at Feeser; Kiana Dietz, campus security at Elkhart High; Jesse Hollis, promotions manager at WVPE; and Ramon Trevino, custodian at Elkhart High.

Resignation of the following five (5) classified employees: Sierra Benner, food service at North Side; Ashley Colon, food service at Woodland and Elkhart High; Denise Finn, bus driver at Transportation; Christene Parks, bus driver at Transportation; and Amber White, food service at West Side.

Rescission of resignation for one (1) classified employee: Makyia Banks, bus helper at Transportation.

Change to unpaid leave for one (1) classified employee: Tina Helbling, bus driver at Transportation.

..... heard superintendent Steve Thalheimer provide an update on the Feasibility Study. The Key Committee reconvened following spring break on Monday and Wednesday of both this week and next. They will be continuing to have those difficult conversations about the conditions of buildings, current debt on buildings, capacity, and grade level configurations. Information is available on ECS's website at <https://www.elkart.k12.in.us>. The public can also reach out to committee members with questions and concerns.

..... approved proposed changes to Board Policy 3422.04S – Bus Helper's Wage Schedule. The main changes included adjustments to the attendance incentive plan, equivalent to the program in place for the bus drivers, for the coming school year as well as a change in the calculation of overtime.