

..... heard Board Secretary Doug Weaver recite the Elkhart Promise.

..... heard Tony England, Assistant Superintendent of Exceptional Learners, share some numbers to demonstrate exactly how special Willow Townsend is during the Moment of Pride. There are 7.3 million students with a disability in the United States, there are 3 million students who are gifted, and if you combine both of these student groups together, there are only 300,000 students who are twice exceptional. Willow Townsend is one of those students. Every year, the Council for Exceptional Children in Washington DC identifies twelve students across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico who have a disability, are outstanding in six categories, and most likely future leaders. This year, Willow is being recognized as one of the two students for academic champion and will be celebrated in San Antonio, Texas on March 15, 2024. Willow is also going to be featured on WNIT.

Willow shared with the Board that she recently won the "Yes I Can" award; she worked really hard and it paid off. She also was a Braille Challenge finalist which is an academic competition for any blind or visually impaired students across the United States, Canada, and United Kingdom; the top fifty students with the highest scores are invited to the finals. Willow got to travel to California to compete in the final round.

Willow was named Freedom Scientific's December Student of the Month winning a \$300 gift card to Amazon, a desktop computer to use at home, and a five-year license to JAWS which "is a really big deal!" Willow explained that JAWS is the computer screen reader program she uses in school. She likes JAWS a lot because it makes her computer more accessible and her life a lot easier.

Mr. Walt, Mrs. Walt, and Ms. Fitch were also present to celebrate Willow.

In response to the Board and Superintendent inquiry, Willow said her favorite subject is music. She enjoys playing musical instruments including many percussion instruments and the piano. She also aspires to be a chef in Italy or a producer.

All Board Members congratulated Willow on all of her accomplishments and they look forward to reading about her as she makes her way through life.

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

Minutes – November 28, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$9,058,457.82

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Accepted the following extra-curricular purchase requests: Elkhart High School (EHS) Baseball Special Fund to purchase a PitchLogic PRO 4 Membership Package totaling \$1,100.

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$1,000 from Cien and Kimberly Asoera to EHS Boys Basketball Team to be used to assist with the growth and development of the team; \$800 from Darrell and Jennifer Higgins to EHS Girls Basketball Team to be used to assist with the growth and development of the team; \$1,000 from Noah's Landing Pet Care Clinic LLC to EHS Boys Basketball Team to be used to assist with the growth and development of the team; and a donation of feminine hygiene products, health and beauty care items, glassware/dishes, household decorations, two (2) wedding dresses, shows, and an assortment of clothes with an estimated value of \$947 from Steve and Andrea Thalheimer to EHS Freshman Division to be used to assist students and adults in need within the ECS's community.

#### Conference Leave Requests

Approved overnight trip requests for the EHS Choirs to travel to Fort Wayne, Indiana to participate in the Indiana Choral Directors Association All-State Choir on January 12 – 13, 2024; North Side Middle School Choir to travel to Fort Wayne, Indiana to participate in the Indiana Music Educators Association "Indiana Middle School All Honor Choir" on January 11 – 12, 2024; and West Side Middle School Choir to travel to Fort Wayne, Indiana to participate in the Indiana Music Educators Association "Indiana Middle School All Honor Choir" on January 11 – 12, 2024.

Approval of one (1) certified agreement related to unpaid time.

Employment of one (1) certified staff for the 2023/24 school year: Kristin Weaver, Special Education at Eastwood.

Resignation of the following one (1) certified staff: Grace Combes, Art at Freshman Division.

Unpaid leave for the following one (1) certified staff: Emma Irvine, Grade 2 at Roosevelt STEAM Academy.

Revision to the effective date for an administrative appointment of the following one (1) classified employee: Zachary Quiett, Chief Financial Officer at ESC.

Administrative appointment of the following one (1) classified employee: Erin Wagler, Director of Communications at ESC.

Approval of an agreement for services.

Employment of the following twelve (12) classified employees: Candice Bufkin, Bus Helper at Transportation; Tristyn Cataldo, Registered Behavior Technician at Freshman Division; Marian Yohanna Cruz Manzanares, Translator/Parent Liaison at Osolo; Latisha Freeman, Food Service at Woodland; Christina Manley, Food Service at West Side; Michael McGee, Food Service at Pinewood; Sashia Norment, Technical Assistant at Cleveland; Karen Penn, Food Service at Freshman Division; Jefferson Pineda, Bus Driver at Transportation; Susan Raifsnider, Paraprofessional at Bristol;

Deborah Sherwood, Adult Ed Coordinator at Adult Education; and Chana Zweig, Paraprofessional at PRIDE Academy.

Unpaid leave for the following three (3) classified employees: Laura Baier, Technical Assistant at Freshman Division and West Side; Deondra Nelson, Bus Driver at Transportation; and Jennifer Roberts, Food Service at Elkhart High.

Resignation of the following five (5) classified employees: Latosha Jones, Custodial Pool at Building Services; Melisa Machowiak, Registered Behavior Technician at Eastwood; Austin McBride, Support Technician at Technology; Stephanie Sharpe, Food Service at Daly; and Drew Weiler, Custodian Night Supervisor at North Side.

Termination of the following two (2) classified employees: Elton Bock, Bus Driver at Transportation and Rachael Brown, Food Service at Elkhart High.

Hiring of the following three (3) classified employees: Darlene Arnett, Custodian Substitute at Building Services; Steven Balk, Volunteer at ECS; and Darrian Dotson, Substitute Teacher at ECS.

..... approved the 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented during the November 28, 2023 Board meeting.

..... approved a request for partnership between ECS and the Elkhart Miracle Baseball Team. The Elkhart Miracle Baseball Team has agreed to upgrade the baseball diamond at the Freshman Division in return for a place to play. The upgrade to the field will take place immediately and field lighting will be added over a period of three years. ECS has field priority when scheduling.

..... Dr. Bruce Stahly, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, presented the following proposed new course offering for Board review: Small Business Operations – Course 7147.

..... heard an audience member introduce herself as the new Elkhart Library Board Member appointed by the ECS Board.

..... heard Superintendent Mark Mow remind Board members their next meeting will be held on December 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.