

..... heard Board Member Jeff Bliler recite the Elkhart Promise.

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

Minutes – December 12, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$6,283,920.76.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$400 in gift cards to Mary Beck from an anonymous donor to be given to four (4) Beck families for food or gifts, as the families see fit; \$500 to Elkhart High School (EHS) National Honor Society (NHS) from Martin Brothers Contracting, Inc. to be used for snacks, supplies, registrations, and transportation for students; \$1,500 to the Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) from Michianan Mustangs to be used to towards the scholarship fund for currently enrolled students in the Automotive cluster and awarded to one (1) senior in the spring; and \$300 to EHS Speech Team from Welch Packaging Group, Inc. to be used for snacks, supplies, registrations, and transportation for students.

Conference Leave Requests

Approval of an agreement for services.

Resignation of the following two (2) certified staff: Betty McNeal, Grade 4 at Cleveland and Ariana Mora Aguilar, Grade 1 at Osolo.

Reassignment of the following one (1) certified staff to a classified position: Valerie Kite, Kindergarten at Beardsley.

Employment of the following one (1) classified employee: Juan Rodriguez, Paraprofessional at Monger.

Reassignment of the following one (1) certified staff to a classified position: Valerie Kite, Technical Assistant at Cleveland.

Unpaid leave for the following one (1) classified employee: Maria Martinez, Technical Assistant at Monger.

Resignation of the following one (1) classified employee: Margo Ross, Paraprofessional at Cleveland.

Termination of the following one (1) classified employee: Amelia Larsen, Food Service at Beardsley.

..... heard Doug Thorne, District Counsel/Chief of Staff, inform the Board that on December 8, 2023, a Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Elkhart Truth, pursuant to IC 20-26-5-4.3; the notice was also posted on the Elkhart Community Schools' website. Set forth in this notice are the terms and conditions of a proposed contract for a Superintendent to take effect on March 1, 2024. The notice calls for a public hearing to take place on this date so Board members can discuss the proposed contract and hear public objections to and support for the proposed contract.

Mr. Thorne requested the regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees be suspended so a hearing on the proposed contract can be held.

..... heard Ms. Davis suspend the agenda for the regular meeting of the Board and open the meeting for the purpose of hearing any commentary from the public on the proposed contract for Superintendent to take effect on March 1, 2024. Hearing no further comments from the public, Ms. Davis closed the hearing and returned to the agenda for the regular meeting.

..... heard Mr. Thorne inform the Board and audience there would be a special meeting on December 27, 2023 to authorize the Board to enter into this contract, effective March 1, 2024.

..... approved the proposed revisions to the 2024 Board Meeting Schedule to include holding meetings in school buildings beginning in February 2024. In response to Board inquiry, Superintendent Mark Mow informed the Board there would be Board meetings in school buildings on the first meeting of each month; February 13 - Monger; March 12 - Pierre Moran; April 9 - Riverview; and May 14 - Cleveland.

Board members expressed their gratitude for returning to the tradition of holding meetings in the school buildings. Mr. Mow added, Board members will get a tour of the building and the principal will present a building report during the Board meeting. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Mow hopes this tradition will continue going forward, but that will ultimately be determined by the new Superintendent and Board.

..... awarded the bid for Fuel to Ceres Solutions, as the most responsive and most responsible bidder, for the 2024 calendar year.

..... awarded the bid for waste removal for 2024, with options for 2025 and 2026, to Himco Waste-Away, Inc. as presented by Tony Gianesi, Chief Operating Officer. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Gianesi reported five (5) RFPs were sent out and only one (1) returned a bid.

..... approved the purchase of eleven (11) new passenger buses through the State Cooperative Purchasing program. The recommended purchase includes three (3) - 72 passenger wheelchair accessible buses; three (3) - 78 passenger conventional buses; four (4) - 84 passenger rear engine transit buses; and one (1) - 15 passenger type A bus for a total of \$1,986,752.00. Twenty-two (22) buses will be traded outright reducing our fleet by eleven (11) buses.

..... approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 0144.1 - Compensation, Insurance, Expenses and Travel and waived second reading. Mr. Thorne explained the policy governs compensation

received by Board members for their service. The proposed revisions shift the manner in which compensation is determined and essentially moves it to a resolution adopted by the Board. Should the Board approve these revisions, Board member compensation will be set during the organizational meeting in January of each year.

..... approved a Resolution to Waive I.C. 20-30-2-23 and 20-30-2-2.7 for the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar.

..... received the monthly financial report and found everything to be in order.

..... received the monthly insurance report.

..... heard Mr. Mow remind Board members their next meeting will be held on December 27, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. The first Board meeting in the new year will be January 9, 2024.