

..... heard Board president Dacey Davis recite the Elkhart Promise.

..... heard Ms. Davis present outgoing Board member, Roscoe Enfield, with a plaque thanking him for his service to Elkhart Community Schools. She went on to commend Mr. Enfield for his good heart and always basing Board decisions on what was best for the kids of Elkhart Community Schools. Mr. Enfield's presence on the Board will be greatly missed.

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

Minutes – December 19, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$12,673,081.94.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Gift Acceptance: Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$200 from an anonymous donor to pay negative balances at Osolo; \$940 from an anonymous donor to pay the negative balances throughout the Corporation; and \$704 from Mary Church to pay negative balances at Bristol, Pinewood, Eastwood, Daly, Feeser, Riverview, Cleveland, North Side, West Side, and Pierre Moran.

Conference Leave Requests

Personnel Report:

Employment of the following three (3) certified staff: Victor Castillo, world language at Freshman Division; Samantha Pairan, kindergarten at Pinewood; and Amber Teall, grade 3 at Bristol.

Administrative appointment of the following one (1) certified staff: David Burden, assistant principal at Bristol.

Retirement of the following two (2) certified staff: Laurie Ritchie, grade 2 at Daly and Steve Starzyk, social studies at Elkhart High.

Leave for the following one (1) certified staff: Rebecca Milnes, art at Pierre Moran.

Resignation of the following three (3) certified staff: Kellie Heuermann, science at North Side; Shawn Johnson, assistant principal at Pierre Moran; and Alexandra Sturgill, grade 5 at Roosevelt.

Employment of the following two (2) classified employees: Andrea Garcia, secretary at ESC and Latell Washington, custodian at Osolo.

Retirement of the following one (1) classified employee: Thomas Labuziensi, development director at WVPE.

Unpaid leave for the following two (2) classified employees: Viola Flicker, food service at Elkhart High and Lisa Swartzell-Guerra, food service at Riverview.

Resignation of the following three (3) classified employees: Jennifer Geers, registered nurse at Elkhart High; Katherine Gilpin, bus driver at Transportation; and Elizabeth Gilvin, food service at Elkhart High.

Termination of the following one (1) classified employee: Joanna Pizana, bus driver at Transportation.

..... heard Superintendent Steve Thalheimer inform the Board that Savvas elementary assessment data is currently being compiled by Dr. Mindy Higginson, director of elementary education. Dr. Higginson will present the results of the mid-year assessments during the January 24, 2023 Instructional Report.

Dr. Thalheimer also shared with the Board that Elkhart High School's graduation rate reported in December 2022 was 93.4%, second highest in Elkhart County. He explained this rate includes those students who completed their graduation requirement during the summer of 2022 and were reported through October 1, 2022. The high school administration will share how they achieved this graduation rate, the role of pathways, high school on-track goals for graduates and the freshman as a part of the District Dashboard, as well as their efforts to maintain the graduation rate for the class of 2023 during the January 24, 2023 Instructional Report.

..... heard the administration request the removal of the Contract Nonrenewal Resolution from the agenda. By unanimous action, the Board approved the removal of the Resolution from the agenda.

..... heard Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, present the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar for initial review. Dr. Sheppard noted the first day of school is a week later than what ECS normally starts which pushes back Parent Teacher Conferences and Fall Break by a week as well. The last day of school will be May 31, 2023, following the Memorial Day holiday.

In response to Board inquiry, Dr. Thalheimer clarified the scheduled eLearning days will be asynchronous and will require the district to seek approval through the Indiana Coalition of Continuous Improvement School Districts (CCISD) consortium which Elkhart Community Schools is a part of its initial cohort or the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) 1003 Waiver application.

In response to Board inquiry, Dr. Sheppard confirmed transportation will be provided for students participating in the SAT School Day.

In response to Board inquiry, Dr. Sheppard confirmed the number of days within each semester were not balanced which impacts the high school the most. Because of this, Dr. Sheppard worked with high school administrators and teachers prior to presenting the calendar to the Board and it was determined they could make it work.

..... heard one (1) audience member speak of the benefits of the new Stop Finder app since its rollout but would like to see more communication to increase parent utilization.

..... heard Dr. Thalheimer welcome students and staff back after the New Year. He also congratulated the high school for achieving a 93.4% graduation rate.

..... heard Board member Doug Weaver thank the new Board members for their service and express the importance for all school Board members to uphold the constitution.