

.....heard Board member Mike Burnett recite the Elkhart Promise.

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

Minutes – March 14, 2023 – Public Work Session
Minutes – March 14, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$7,025,750.21.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Gift Acceptance:

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$750 to Elkhart High School (EHS) ElkLogics Robotics from HRP Construction, Inc. to be used to purchase supplies, equipment, and competition entry fees; \$500 to EHS ElkLogics Robotics from S.A. Comunale Company, Inc. to be used to purchase supplies, equipment, and competition entry fees; \$250 patron sponsorship to EHS Theatre department from Braden and Kathryn McCormick to be used to purchase supplies, costumes, set construction, decorations, and student snacks for the upcoming production; and \$25,000 to Engineering, Technology, and Innovation Building Fund from Patrick Industries, Inc.

Conference Leave Requests

Approved overnight trip request for EHS boys' track and field to travel to Bloomington, Indiana on March 24 – 25, 2023 for the Indoor Track HSR Finals.

Personnel Report:

Certified agreement regarding unpaid time.

Employment of the following one (1) certified staff: Andrew Danik, college and careers at Pierre Moran.

Retirement of the following one (1) certified staff: Cynthia Pinkowski, autism coordinator at Educational Services Center (ESC).

Resignation of the following six (6) certified staff: Rachel Kline, grade 4 at Cleveland; Shana Lipsky, art at Pinewood; Allysa Romano, grade 1 at Riverview; Alexandria Roskos-Neilson, physical education at Beck; Megan Screes, grade 6 at Beck; and Brittney Shipe, grade 6 at Woodland.

Employment of the following four (4) classified employees: Yanet Coria, social worker at Daly; Tevin Jackson, custodian at Pierre Moran; Sara Paholak, paraprofessional at Feeser; and Lillian Posey, food service at EHS.

Unpaid leave for the following five (5) classified employees: Christina Green, bus driver at Transportation; Tina Helbling, bus driver at Transportation; Tunisia Hunt, bus driver at Transportation; Tameka Pittman, bus driver at Transportation; and Kathryn Bobson, registered behavior technician at Eastwood.

Retirement of the following two (2) classified employees: Ann Henderson, paraprofessional at Roosevelt and Debra Scott, academic trainer at Bristol.

Resignation of the following six (6) classified employees: Makyia Banks, bus helper at Transportation; Roxan Guggenmos, registered nurse at North Side; Tunisia Hunt, bus driver at Transportation; Michael Popyk, custodian at Building Services; Latell Washington, custodian at Osolo; and Debra Watson, food service at Roosevelt.

Termination of the following one (1) classified employee: Lisa Swartzell-Guerra, food service at Riverview.

Authorization to execute any settlement documents on behalf of ECS related to litigation by this school corporation, subsequent to review of the same by members of the Board of School Trustees.

.....heard Superintendent Steve Thalheimer provide an update on the Feasibility Study. April 10 and 12, 2023, the Key Committee will be meeting to further to explore building capacity, enrollment, and changes in grade configuration. Information is available to the public on ECS's website at <https://www.elkhart.k12.in.us>. The public can also reach out to committee members with questions and concerns.

.....heard Brad Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction, speak about the middle school taskforce consisting of middle school principals, teachers and district administrators. This group was convened in an effort to get the middle schools close to the same schedules while keeping the best interest of the students in mind. Sara Jackowiak, principal of North Side, informed Board members North Side's first and primary focus was to get live teachers in the classroom for students. In order to make this happen, they have adjusted to a six (6) period day beginning the second semester of this school year. This schedule offers ten (10) additional instructional minutes for each period, more electives for students than if there were only five (5) periods, band/orchestra/choir students are able to earn their physical education credit, three (3) lunch periods instead of four (4); and a thirty (30) minute intervention/advisory period. With North Side's current enrollment and staffing numbers, Mrs. Jackowiak explained a five (5) period trimester schedule would increase average class sizes beyond thirty-five (35) students and music students would not get electives; therefore, this was determined to not be in the best interest of North Side students.

Frank Serge, principal of Pierre Moran, informed Board members that Pierre Moran adjusted to a five (5) period trimester schedule this school year. This decision was made to ensure a teacher was in-person for every class and allows for more instructional time, intervention time within the school day, fewer subjects for students to focus on, fewer passing periods/less disruptions which has quickly provided stability for both students and staff. Class sizes have increased and there are fewer electives offered, but having a live teacher in the classroom had to take priority. If Pierre Moran is able to get additional teachers for the next school

year, schedules would be adjusted to a six (6) period semester schedule in order to reduce class sizes and offer more electives for students.

Kerry Leader, principal of West Side, informed Board members that West Side has adjusted to a six (6) period semester schedule effective second semester of this school year. This schedule adjustment allows for ten (10) additional minutes of instruction per period, three (3) lunch periods instead of four (4), elimination of Elevate allowing for a live teacher in every class, and teachers to get their prep time back. West Side also houses the high ability program for the district in which the majority of those students participate in music. Moving to a five (5) period trimester would greatly limit choice of electives for these students.

Dr. Sheppard concluded the district would continue to monitor and make changes as necessary. Final decisions for the 2023-2024 school year will be made no later than June 1, 2023 and the best interest of students will continue to be the priority.

Next, Rhiannon Harrison, director of English learners, provided an update on Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), a research-based and validated instructional model which has proven effective in addressing the academic needs of English learners throughout the United States. The district's goal for this academic year focuses on the first component of SIOP, lesson preparation, and aims for eighty (80%) percent of teachers to be implementing SIOP lesson preparation at a basic or higher level within one subject/course daily; this goal requires a score of two (2) or three (3) in each of the following six (6) categories (percentage of teachers meeting this goal currently is reflected in parenthesis following each category): content objectives (71%); language objectives (58.2%); content concepts are appropriate for age and background level of students (88.6%); supplementary materials (71.3%); adaption of content for Levels 1.0 – 4.9 (65.1%); and meaningful activities provide opportunities to practice the four (4) language domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing (74.8%). In response to Board inquiry, Mrs. Harrison explained building administrators were provided a rubric for SIOP lesson preparation in order to create some standardization across the district when evaluating teachers for this goal. This current data has created a baseline which will be used to measure progress going forward. Mrs. Harrison will be sharing this data with principals soon and set the expectation for them to talk and encourage their staff to continue to implement SIOP. Teachers who scored a zero (0) or one (1) will be provided an opportunity for additional professional development and support. A second snapshot will be done later in the year. In response to Board inquiry, the district started implementing SIOP in 2018. ECS has had a lot of new staff/turnover; therefore, teachers across the district are at varying levels of implementation which can skew the data. The implementation of SIOP is expected to correlate with the district's WIDA results, which preliminary results will be received late April, early May; certified results in August. An audience member mentioned this was the first year for SIOP to be a part of teachers' evaluations. Many teachers may be implementing these practices but not have visible evidence present in their classrooms. She looks for this to change as teachers are provided feedback through the evaluation process. SIOP is also a part of the PLC process. Mrs. Harrison will report back to the Board after the next program evaluation is completed.

.....unanimously approved proposed changes and waived second reading of Board Policy 3421.01A - Professional Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans (Administrators).

-unanimously authorized the submission of a Petition to the Indiana State Board of Education for an advance from the Common School Fund in the amount of \$1,086,877.
-received the monthly financial report and found everything to be in order.
-received the monthly insurance report.
-heard two (2) audience members express concerns about the Transportation department.
-heard Superintendent Thalheimer wish everyone a safe and relaxing spring break.
-heard Board secretary Doug Weaver speak about the Military Ball and what an impressive event the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) put on.
-heard Board member Kellie Mullins recognize the Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) for holding mock interviews for their students. It was great to see so many business partners supporting ECS students.