

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

..... heard Mrs. Kara Sears, Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) teacher at Elkhart High School (EHS) – Health and Human Services School of Study, present an overview of the Attract, Prepare, and Retain (APR) Grant’s area of focus called Passion, Practice, and Pathways during the Moment of Pride. This consisted of a three-part introduction to teaching for ECS high school students across three days. Students enrolled in Early Childhood Education and Education Professions as well as students, nominated by teachers who were considered to be strong candidates for the teaching profession were invited to participate. The first day students spent time at Saint Mary’s College and engaged in the first part of the workshop, “Passion”. Students attended presentations led by Saint Mary’s College Professors about the teaching profession as well as a class where they learned about reading a book to children and created a game. The second day focused on “Practice” where students engaged in an all-day session at Woodland Elementary School and actually applied the teaching strategies they learned at Saint Mary’s. Day three consisted of a college fair format where students learned about the specific next steps they must take to become a teacher.

Jessica Warren, a senior at EHS, thanked the Board for the amazing opportunity. Her favorite part was the hands-on experience she had at Woodland, working with the kids all day. McKenzie Smith, sophomore at EHS, thanked the Board for the experience. She would like to be a social worker or counselor. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience and loved working with the kids. She also had an opportunity to speak with the social worker and learned more about the profession. She closed saying the college fair also provided great information and let her know she was on the right track.

Mrs. Sears informed the Board that ECS is working with Goshen College to offer an introduction to teaching for students interested in secondary education next school year.

..... heard Sarah Parcell, FACS teacher at EHS – Health and Human Services School of Study, present a Project Based Learning (PBL) project her Principals of Fashion and Textiles class completed. Students sewed and designed quiet books, which are books made out of fabric. These books were designed to teach early education students their ABC’s, counting, and as well as other tasks. All of the quiet books were interactive, full of color, textures, and shapes. Ms. Parcell shared that the students were amazing, taking the idea and running with it. Paige Hager, a junior at EHS, made a quiet book about the ABC’s and how to put them in order as well as how to sort laundry. She thought it was interesting how she had to train her mind to think like a young kid when creating the books. Miss Warren added that it was amazing to watch the kids as they received the quiet books; they were so excited and absolutely loved them.

..... heard Leslie Crothers-Wood, assistant director of human resources, thank everyone for coming to honor the Distinguished Support Staff nominees. The ECS’ support staff are all those who are working behind the scenes to ensure the district runs smoothly, including bus drivers, bus helpers, maintenance, custodians, mechanics, paraprofessionals, secretaries, therapists, food service, and nurses. Tonight is their night to be highlighted and appreciated for everything they bring to Elkhart Community Schools. The Distinguished Support Staff

recognition was a result of nominations by their peers and broken down into four (4) groups as follows: District – any district wide employee who is not a teacher or administrator and who does not work in a specific elementary or secondary building; Certified – any certified employee who is not assigned to a building or who otherwise would not be eligible for consideration for the Teacher of the Year award; Elementary – any elementary employee who is not a teacher or administrator and works in an elementary building; and Secondary – any secondary employee who is not a teacher or administrator and works in a secondary building.

Distinguished Support Staff – District

- David Paulson, Building Services
- Dwight Rhoades, Tech Services
- Jacob Gabaree, Tech Services

Distinguished Support Staff – Certified

- Theresa Harmon, Cleveland
- Aileen Hurd, Monger
- Kimberly Varga, Monger
- Adrienne Bashore, Elkhart High
- Heidi Elonich, Elkhart High
- Ivette Sifuentes, Elkhart High
- Lauren VanGoey, Elkhart High
- Teresa Zinich, Woodland
- Cory Watt, Career Center

Distinguished Support Staff – Elementary

- Margaret Schnippel, Beardsley
- Channa McGee, Mary Beck
- Jenny Souter, Mary Beck
- Kayla Turpin, Mary Beck
- Laura Tucker, Mary Beck
- Alexia Smith, Bristol
- Jamie Woodfin, Bristol
- Erin Byers, Cleveland
- Stephanie Whitehead, Cleveland
- Sheila Mravec, Cleveland
- Charles Gietzen, Mary Daly
- Christine Moskowitz, Mary Daly
- Cynthia Weaver, Mary Daly
- Laura Miller, Eastwood
- Christina Buss, Mary Feeser
- Crystal Gayle-Stump, Mary Feeser
- Jessica Scholfield, Mary Feeser
- Kristine VanZile, Mary Feeser
- Lori Clifford, Mary Feeser
- Mary Baker, Hawthorne ELC
- Cristal Chanon, Monger
- Jennifer Glover, Monger
- Kristin Whitaker, Osolo

- Sherriann Gard, Osolo
- Stacy Maxwell, Osolo
- Emily Grant, PACE
- Amber Lundgren, Pinewood
- Matthew Manley, Pinewood
- Joseph Temple, PRIDE
- Ann Henderson, Roosevelt
- Ciara Green, Roosevelt
- Ernie Ferland, Woodland
- Lisa Rose, Woodland
- Ruth Weldy, Woodland

Distinguished Support Staff – Secondary

- Corina Romero, Pierre Moran
- Gabriel Fillio, Pierre Moran
- Heather Bowers, Pierre Moran
- Renee Strieby, Pierre Moran
- Kathleen Enfield, West Side
- Lamont Doanthen Jr., West Side
- Tami Zonker, Elkhart High
- Matt Washington, Elkhart High
- Dana Hunt, Elkhart Academy
- Jamie Bontreger, Elkhart Academy
- Antoinette Schmucker, Career Center
- Dalton Bogaert, Career Center
- Elsa Verde-Zamudio, Career Center
- Ivis Perez, Career Center
- Kim Fultes, Career Center
- Lorna Suggs, Career Center
- Mark Wood, Career Center

The winners by category were Jacob Gabaree, Distinguished Support Staff – District; Kimberly Varga, Distinguished Support Staff – Certified; Christina Buss, Distinguished Support Staff – Elementary; and Jamie Bontreger, Distinguished Support Staff – Secondary. All winners are invited to attend the Teacher of the Year Banquet.

Board member Anne VonDerVellen thanked the support staff for all they do and recognized them for the enormous impact they have on our students.

Board member Kellie Mullins added that she just loves our support staff.

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

Minutes – April 25, 2023 – Board Work Session
 Minutes – April 25, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$6,885,498.48.

Accepted the following extra-curricular purchase requests: EHS Athletics to purchase Track Record Boards to be used for boys'/girls' track and field totaling \$3,785.

Gift Acceptance:

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$250 to EHS boys' track and field team from Dicor Corporation to assist with the growth of the boys' track and field program; \$1,000 to EHS ElkLogics Robotics extra-curricular activity from Lippert Components, Inc., care of Michilah Grimes, to be used to purchase supplies, equipment, and competition entry fees; donation of various school supplies to Eastwood from Lippert Components, Inc., care of Carley Mayer, to be used at Eastwood; any extra supplies will be offered to other ECS elementary buildings as well as the summer school program at Pinewood.

Conference Leave Requests

Approved overnight trip request for Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) to travel to Atlanta, Georgia on June 19 – 24, 2023 for the SkillsUSA Nationals Conference.

Submission of the following grants: School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) hosted by United States Department of Justice (DOJ) in the amount of \$400,000 to be used for updating the aging card access system and allow for real-time notifications and monitoring as well as additional features tying into the recently implemented Singlewire Informacast System which alerts schools during emergencies such as an active shooter or severe weather; Henkin Grant hosted by Elkhart Education Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 to be used for the purchase of new light bulbs for the Freshman Division Auditorium; Using Technology in the Instrumental/General Music Classroom (grades 3-6) hosted by Elkhart Education Foundation in the amount of \$11,000 to be used for the purchase of equipment to support SEL, Music, Technology/Digital Audio Workstations, and additional performance and learning opportunities; and STEM Grant hosted by Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) in the amount of \$25,000 to be used for the purchase of MakerSpace STEM lab equipment for non-Title I schools.

Personnel Report:

Certified Agreement related to compensation.

Certified agreement related to unpaid time.

Employment of the following one (1) certified staff: Clara Hadley, language arts at Freshman Division.

Retirement of the following one (1) certified staff: Bradley Sheppard, assistant superintendent of instruction at ESC.

Resignation of the following two (2) certified staff: Tami Eder, world languages at Elkhart High and Dolly Lozano, special education intern at Roosevelt.

Correction of parental leave for the following one (1) classified staff: Emily Lewandowski, social worker at Monger.

Unpaid leave for the following one (1) certified staff: Jane Farrand, special education at Bristol.

Employment of the following twelve (12) classified employees: Carl Burgess, bus driver at Transportation; Harvey Gluck, permanent substitute at Pride Academy; Tabitha Harvey-Kiner, paraprofessional at North Side; Gerri Hernandez, bus driver at Transportation; Rosa Jaramillo, paraprofessional at Beardsley; Darren Leem bus driver at Transportation; Cynthia Peters, food service at Freshman Division; Tashon Rockett, bus driver at Transportation; Nicole Talley, food service at Elkhart High; Janyth Tidwell, bus helper at Transportation; Elizabeth Willis, food service at Elkhart High; and Jeremy Young, bus helper at Transportation.

Reassignment of the following one (1) classified employee to a certified position: Clara Hadley, language arts at Freshman Division.

Resignation of the following six (6) classified employees: Dana Davila, food service at Woodland; Tina Iavagnilio, food service at Elkhart High; Laura Kusnierek, technical assistant at Riverview; Monet Malone, secretary at ESC; Susan Raifsnider, paraprofessional at Bristol; Paul Taylor Jr., bus driver at Transportation.

Revision of the following one (1) classified resignation on the February 28, 2023 Board Report: Laurie Crysler, secretary at Food Services.

Retirement of the following one (1) classified employee: Mae Sims, social worker at HELC.

Unpaid leave for the following one (1) classified employee: Tiffany Fisher, food service at Osolo.

Termination of the following one (1) classified employee: Louise Young, bus helper at Transportation.

..... heard Phil Ehrhardt and Steve Griesbach, from BWP & Associates, provide an overview of the superintendent search process to date. In an effort to provide guidance in the search for a new superintendent, BWP & Associates conducted Board interviews, focus groups, community open forums, and a stakeholder's survey. Using the information collected, they developed a superintendent leadership profile for Elkhart Community Schools to be used as a basis in the review of applicants. Key qualities included a leader with successful experience leading diverse schools and communities; a strong decision maker who is consistent and acts with integrity; an experienced leader who consistently holds others accountable for their performance; a strong communicator who listens to others and organizes systems to keep everyone in ECS and the community on the same page; a relationship builder who can develop trust across ECS and establish and maintain strong partnerships with community businesses, organizations, and local government; a team builder who can recruit and retain staff at all levels of the organization and implement systems to support efforts towards a common vision for excellence; and an educator who can lead academic performance initiatives and career pathways programming for all students. Next steps include the following timeline: May 12 – Candidate Slate/Board Workshop; May 19 and 20 – Board Interviews First Round Candidates; May 22 and 24 – Board Interviews Finalists; and early June – Board Hires New Superintendent.

- heard Dr. Thalheimer present proposed changes to Board Policy 5430 – Class Rank for initial consideration.
- heard Dr. Thalheimer present the proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation IKAB – Reporting Student Progress to Parents for initial consideration.
- heard five (5) audience members express concerns about Transportation.
- heard Dr. Thalheimer acknowledge that it was Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked all educators, as well as support staff, for all they do for our students.
- heard Board secretary speak of a teacher who celebrated fifty (50) years of service in education and has no interest in retiring from the profession.