

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

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

Minutes – August 22, 2023 – Public Work Session
Minutes – August 22, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$7,284,922.87.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Accepted the following extra-curricular purchase requests: West Side Extra-Curricular Athletics Account to purchase reconditioned football helmets for the Elkhart West team totaling \$3,906.75; Elkhart High School (EHS) Extra-Curricular Athletics Account to purchase a Pro II+ Sport Radar Carrying Case for the baseball team totaling \$1,450; and West Side Extra-Curricular Drama Account to purchase a show kit (thirty (30) actor books, a director’s book, performance CD, and choreography DVD); thirty (30) additional actor books and a digital logo pack; and a video license for Elf, Jr. the Musical through Music Theater International (MTI) totaling \$1,019.

Gift Acceptance

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): thirteen (13) dozen pairs of safety glasses and three (3) boxes of ear plugs from Elkhart Development Corporation of Elkhart County, care of David Damerow, to Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC); \$600 from Elkhart Athletic Club to EHS Boys Tennis team to be used to assist with the growth and development of the program; \$800 from Linda Homo EHS Athletics to assist with paying the timing officials for cross country; \$500 from Phyllis Tubbs to the EHS Girls Golf team to assist with the growth of the program; \$3,837.35 from Medallion Plastics, Inc., care of Jason Obendorf, to the Pierre Moran Volleyball team to help with the purchase of Under Armour court shoes, knee pads, travel bags, and shorts to aid in the continued growth of the program; \$1,000 from Simonton Sales, Inc. to EHS Girls Soccer team to assist with the growth and development of the program; \$900 from West Side Middle School to EHS Volleyball team to show appreciation for the team working the Middle School Volleyball Tournament; school supplies valued at over \$500 from Hydro Elkhart Extrusion North America, care of Norma Moseley, to be distributed to ECS students; and \$3,000 from NIBCO, Inc. to EHS to be used for field trip transportation, admission, and lunch for students.

Conference Leave Requests

Submission of the following grant: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) STEM Classroom Grant hosted by AIAA in the amount of \$500 to purchase rocket supplies for the Rocketry team and Indiana Sports Corp Youth Grant hosted by Indiana Sports Corp in the amount of \$5,000 to be allocated to various areas of the youth soccer program at Mary Daly.

Personnel Report:

Approval of one (1) agreement for services.

Approval of one (1) agreement for unpaid time.

Authorization for District Counsel/Chief of Staff to execute any settlement documents on behalf of ECS related to litigation initiated by ECS, following review of the proposed settlement by the Board of School Trustees.

Employment of four (4) certified employees for 2023/24 school year: Jason Chrapliwy, Social Studies at Freshman Division; Erick Martinez, Special Education at EHS; Alyssa Varacalli, Physical Education at West Side; and Joseph Wheeler, Alternative Programs at PRIDE Academy.

Resignation of the following six (6) certified staff: Umile Belmonte, English Learners at EHS; Amanda Davis, Language Arts at Pierre Moran; Michelle Huff, Intervention at ESC; Haleigh Jenks, Kindergarten at Bristol; Jennifer Webber, Grade 3 at Riverview; and Tara White, Director of Literacy at ESC.

Unpaid leave for the following two (2) certified employees: Katie Hertsel, Special Education at Freshman Division and Mackenzie Hill, Grade 3 at Daly.

Appointment of the following one (1) classified administrator: David Bowman, Director of Transportation at Transportation.

Employment of the following nine (9) classified employees: Ruby Flores, Support Technician at Tech Services; Maria Gonzalez Alvarado, Secretary at School Without Walls; Hannah Harmon, Site Coordinator at Daly; Ja'Quana Ingram-Matthews, Bus Helper at Transportation; Lisa Lopez, Food Service at Woodland and EHS; Steven McCarty, Bus Driver at Transportation; Mary Powell, Site Coordinator at Beck; Priscilla Rodriguez, Paraprofessional at North Side; and Seth Semancik, Site Coordinator at Pierre Moran.

Retirement of the following three (3) classified employees: Michelle Ivey, Bus Driver at Transportation; Teresa McLain, Secretary at ESC; and Michele Piper, Bus Driver at Transportation.

Reassignment of the following one (1) classified employee to a certified position: Erick Martinez, Communication Specialist at ESC.

Unpaid leave for the following three (3) classified employees: Luella Hanks, Paraprofessional at North Side; Deondra Nelson, Bus Driver at Transportation; and Sesalie Nelson, Paraprofessional at Daly.

Resignation of the following ten (10) classified employees: Shanel Bevier, Food Service at EHS; Heidi Brewton, RBT at Freshman Division; Ciera Chandonia, Bus Driver at Transportation; Rafael Colindres II, Bus Helper at Transportation; Kimberly Kratzer, Food Service at North Side and Osolo; Hannah Losee, Substitute Teacher at Elkhart

Academy; Regina Malkowski, Paraprofessional at Woodland; Christina Stewart, Technical Assistant at Pinewood; Payton Tessely, Paraprofessional at Freshman Division; and Kristin Whitaker, Technical Assistant at Osolo.

- unanimously approved proposed revision to the 2023-2024 School Calendar waiving second reading. The revision consisted of canceling the eLearning day on April 16, 2024 due to the ILearn test window and instead, having a regular in-person school day for all of ECS students and staff.
- unanimously approved revisions and waived second reading to Board Policy 3220.01C – Teacher Appreciation Grant.
- unanimously approved Resolution I.C. 23-17 Monger Property authorizing transfer of vacant property adjacent to Monger Elementary School, owned by Elkhart Community Schools, to the City of Elkhart in Indiana.
- unanimously approved Resolution I.C. 23-17 Pinewood Property authorizing transfer of vacant property adjacent to Pinewood Elementary School, owned by Elkhart Community Schools, to the City of Elkhart in Indiana.
- heard Mr. Mow introduce Dan Walsh, Science teacher at EHS - Engineering, Technology, and Innovation School of Study, who was recognized by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) at the second annual Educational Excellence Awards Gala and named Collaborative Educator of the Year. This honor recognizes an educator with more than three (3) years' experience and maximizes support for students through strategic collaboration with various partners. This individual engages in identifying needs and expanding student access of future opportunities through the implementation of relevant partnerships.

Mr. Walsh spoke about people and how they truly want to help, it's just a matter of finding those people or organizations to do so. A few of Mr. Walsh's greatest accomplishments at ECS include three years of Summer STEM Camp; student participation in paid research at Notre Dame; partnering with Engineering Tomorrow, providing free STEM labs to our students; and being picked up by Ivy Tech enabling ECS students to receive dual credit.

Another opportunity to educate ECS students about science, while keeping them safe, is the upcoming fifty percent (50%) solar eclipse taking place on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Mr. Walsh will be meeting with principals to provide them with resources. Then, on April 8, 2024, there will be another solar eclipse which will take place during the school day for middle and high school students, offering an awesome opportunity to educate our students about what a solar eclipse is and teach them about our own star and its impact on the population.

Mr. Walsh has also been selected to be a part of the NASA/Space Science Institute's Eclipse Ambassador Educational Outreach Program. With this comes additional resources and kits which will be pushed down to principals, including solar eclipse glasses to engage all ECS students.

Mr. Mow and all the Board members thanked Mr. Walsh for all the amazing things he does for ECS students and congratulated him on all his accomplishments.

..... heard Mr. Mow invite Brandon Eakins, Director of Elkhart Area Career Center, to come to the podium to answer questions the Board may have about the construction ECS wants to do at the EACC. There were no questions but Board member Anne VonDerVellen thanked Mr. Eakins for his thorough explanation of her questions prior to the meeting and expressed her gratitude for the efforts made to explore options, and move things around in order to create more programs for kids.

..... heard Mr. Mow remind Board Members of their next Board Work Session beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 26, 2023.

..... heard Ms. Davis read a statement providing a status update about the search for a new superintendent.

The Elkhart Community Schools Board of Trustees has reopened its search for a new superintendent. We understand the importance of this position to the future of our schools, and all of the Trustees are committed to working together to identify and hire the best candidate to lead and serve our students, staff, and community.

This is not easy work. As we move through this process, we anticipate having some tough conversations. We are passionate about our schools and community, and only want the best for our students and staff.

The ideal candidate for the Elkhart Community Schools will have a strong record of accomplishments as an instructional leader in improving student achievement, with outstanding communication skills, a collaborative leadership style, and the ability to engage with all stakeholders to improve student learning.

Applications are being accepted until October 22 by BWP & Associates, a national firm that specializes in assisting public school districts find new leadership. The Board anticipates naming its next superintendent by January 1, 2024, with the new superintendent beginning work no later than July 1, 2024.

For additional information about the superintendent search, please visit the ECS website.