

..... heard Board Vice President Doug Weaver recite the Elkhart Promise.

..... heard April Walker, Principal of Monger Elementary School, introduce the Monger staff and share some "Monger" Moments of Pride. Mrs. Walker began with Monger's vision, through high expectations for teaching and learning, all students will demonstrate academic and behavior excellence. Next, she outlined Mongers collective commitments including to provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for all students and families; be consistent in expectations for learning and behavior for ALL students and ALL staff; utilize teamwork, collaboration, and best practices to ensure all students learn at high levels; and believe all students can learn, no excuses! This all feeds into the Monger motto, Work Hard, Be Kind, Expect Excellence, words to live by at Monger.

Monger is the fourth smallest elementary school at Elkhart Community Schools (ECS) and has 416 students; 87.8% free and reduced lunch status but all students receive both breakfast and lunch; 33% English Language Learners (ELL), and 87% minority. Last school year, Monger welcomed 107 new students due to redistricting while undergoing building renovations during the school year. This was a lot for students and staff but both pushed through the chaos remembering to breathe and focus on the things that could be controlled. Monger staff were amazing, always managing to be flexible and find grace throughout the renovations.

Monger's School Improvement Plan (SIP) set goals for students in both Language Arts and Math and teachers and students rose to the challenge. In 2023, Monger's goal for English Language Arts was students will read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently. Students exceeded SIP goals in English Language Arts with 65% meeting their projected growth on NWEA from fall to spring; increased proficiency rates on ILEARN by 3%; and doubled the percentage of English Language Learners who grew one level or more on WIDA ACCESS assessments, from 14% to 28%. Monger missed their pass rate IREAD goal of 80%, coming in at 72%. In Math, Monger's goal was students will be critical thinkers and mathematical problem solvers. Again, Monger students prevailed with 81% of students meeting their projected growth on NWEA from fall to spring as well as increasing the passing rate by 5% for students in grades 3 – 6 on ILEARN.

A few more Monger accomplishments for the 2022-2023 school year included exceeding the State average for projected growth on ILEARN in ELA; exceeding the State average for projected growth on ILEARN in Math; passing proficiency in Math topped the State average; passing percentages in both ELA and Math surpassed the State average for students on free and reduced lunch and ELL; passing percentages for all subgroups was higher than the State average in Math; Monger was one of two schools in ECS earning a "meets expectations" rating on their Federal Report Card; students meeting or exceeding projected growth on NWEA is at or above national norms for both ELA and Math; and Monger sixth graders exceeded the State's 2030 growth targets for ILEARN in 2023. The hard work and dedication of Monger staff and students has demonstrated a positive trend in ILEARN data across the past three years. Areas in need of improvement include attendance and third grade reading scores as both have dropped below the State average in both categories, not having recovered since COVID.

In an effort to build on Monger's successes, their action plan includes increasing teacher capacity through the Literacy Cadre Cohort 3 for 2024-2025 (Science of Reading); a book study – *Explicit Instruction*; and continuation of Professional Learning Communities. To address attendance and third grade reading, Monger will be integrating student supports through the Full Service

Community Schools Grant, with expanded and enriched learning opportunities outside of School and active engagement of family, community, and partnerships.

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

Minutes – January 23, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$13,049,390.28.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Accepted the following extra-curricular purchase requests: Elkhart High School (EHS) Athletics Extra-Curricular Fund to purchase tarps for track, baseball, football, and soccer totaling \$8,618.75.

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$185.21 from Cindy Hostetler to Osolo to be used to pay negative balances; \$1,000 from Elkhart Education Foundation (EEF) to Pierre Moran to be used for supplies for the Hoopla event; \$750 from HRP Construction, Inc. to EHS in support of the ElkLogics Robotics and will be used to purchase supplies, equipment, and competition entry fees; \$150 from Bring Change 2 Mind to Pierre Moran to be used towards the cost of supplies for the Bring Change 2 Mind event; \$245.59 from VFW Post 88 Auxiliary to Mary Feeser and Eastwood to be used to pay negative balances; \$500 from Julie Weaver to the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (AFJROTC); \$725 anonymously donated to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS) to pay negative balances; and \$1,000 anonymously donated to ECS to pay negative balances.

Conference Leave Requests

Approved overnight trip request for EHS Boys' Swim Team to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana to participate in the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) State Swim Meet on February 23 – 24, 2024; EHS ElkLogics Robotics Team to travel to Plainfield, Indiana to compete in the FIRST Indiana Robotics Plainfield District Event on March 22 – 24, 2024; EHS AFJROTC Drill and Color Guard Teams to travel to Dayton, Ohio for the annual regional Drill/Color Guard Competition and Air Force Museum visit on March 8 – 10, 2024; EHS Wrestling Team to travel to Fort Wayne, Indiana to compete in IHSAA Semi-State Tournament on February 9 – 10, 2024; and EHS Wrestling Team to travel to Evansville, Indiana to complete in IHSAA State Wrestling Tournament on February 15 – 17 2024.

Submission of the following grant: Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Adult Education Grant Competition RFA IELCE Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) hosted by the Indiana DWD in the amount of \$190,500 which would fund programming and staff to deliver the required services of the grant i.e. assist immigrants and other ELL to improve comprehension and language skills, acquire an understanding of the American systems government, citizenship and freedom, and assist with workforce skills for employment and economic self-sufficiency and DWD Adult Education 2024 Grant Competition RFA – Adult Basic Education (ABE) hosted by the Indiana DWD in the amount of \$717,100 which would be used to provide ABE for skill building and High School Equivalency (HSE) for diploma preparation classes.

In response to Board inquiry, Brandon Eakins, Director of Elkhart Area Career Center, explained this an annual Adult Education competitive grant focused on the English Learners (EL) population and Adult Basic Education/certification based training in an effort to help make the people of Elkhart County more employable. There is currently a large wait list for EL classes and a huge need in Elkhart for this program; therefore, ECS has continued to pursue funds to maintain and grow the program. Many ECS teachers and retired ECS teachers staff this program; Concord Community Schools would like to open this opportunity to their teachers as well.

Personnel Report:

Employment of the following two (2) certified staff: Lateena Pettis, Special Education at North Side and Heidi Trowbridge, Grade 1 at Osolo.

Retirement of the following three (3) certified staff: Janie Boyden, Physical Education at Elkhart High; Christine Ganger, Intervention at Beardsley; and LuAnne VanKirk, ENL at Daly.

Resignation of the following one (1) certified staff: Janice Fuller, Grade 2 at Pinewood.

Unpaid leave for the following one (1) certified staff: Angela Gortney, Dental Health at Career Center.

Death of the following one (1) certified staff: Brett Cramer, Special Education at Elkhart Academy.

Employment of the following nine (9) classified employee: Kimberly Brayton, Receptionist at ESC; Lenzy Davis, Custodian at Roosevelt; April Garner, Food Service at North Side; Edward Hiar, Permanent Substitute at Elkhart Academy; Ayline Ramirez Solano, Permanent Substitute at Monger Richard Stahley; Custodian at Woodland; Jordynn Stepp, Food Service at Commissary; Jayla Rae Stewart, Paraprofessional at Woodland; and Willow Wilson, Food Service at Pinewood.

Reassignment of the following classified employee: Lateena Pettis, Paraprofessional at North Side.

Unpaid leave for the following three (3) classified employees: Geoffrey DiPiro, Registered Behavior Technician at Hawthorne; Ja'Quana Ingram Matthews, Bus Helper at Transportation; and Lynn Reed, Bus Helper at Transportation.

Retirement of the following one (1) classified employee: Jeanetta Thompson, Bus Driver at Transportation.

Resignation of the following six (6) classified employees: Ashley Colon, Food Service at Woodland; Yanet Coria, Social Worker at Daly; Latisha Freeman, Food Service at Woodland; Megan Kline, Registered Behavior Technician at Eastwood; Michael McGee, Food Service at Pinewood; Wenzday Thimons, Registered Behavior Technician at Cleveland.

Termination of the following two (2) classified employees: Mercedes Alvarez, Food Service at Commissary and Stacy Essex, Secretary at Food Service.

- approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 2271 – Enrollment in College and University Programs Not Offered by Elkhart Community Schools as presented during the January 23, 2024 Board meeting.
- reviewed proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation IKFC – Enrollment in College and University Programming Not Offered by Elkhart Community Schools as presented during the January 23, 2024 Board meeting. There were no further questions or comments.
- approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 3121ACS – Personal Background Checks and Mandatory Reporting as presented during the January 23, 2024 Board meeting.
- heard Doug Thorne, District Counsel/Chief of Staff, present proposed revisions to Board Policy 3142.01A – Non-Renewal of Administrative Contracts which governs procedures related to the non-renewal of contracts for Assistant Superintendents, Principals, and Assistant Principals. The revisions provide direction to the Superintendent related to the issuance of preliminary notification of consideration of contract non-renewal to administrators holding any of these positions.
- approved the recommendation to award a contract in the amount of \$53,000 to CORE Construction Indiana, LLC for pre-construction services for the EACC, EACC Annex, and Health and Wellness Center projects per recommendation from J. Lake Architecture.
- heard Superintendent Mark Mow thank Mrs. Walker and the Monger staff for being outstanding champions for children. He also reminded Board Members their next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on February 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the J.C. Rice Educational Service Center.
- heard all Board members express their gratitude to Mrs. Walker and the Monger staff for all the wonderful work they do for the children of Monger. It truly is a testament to the love of teaching and the impact it has on student learning.