

- heard Board Secretary Anne VonDerVellen recite the Elkhart Promise.
- heard Board President Troy Scott review the invitation to speak protocol for Board meetings.
- heard from SSAC member Maria Artigas, who is a sophomore at Elkhart High School (EHS) and active member of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council (SSAC); Sigma Beta Upsilon (SBU); Latino Union; Society for a Better Earth; Student Government; and Move to Stand. Miss Artigas shared the history behind SBU which translates to Sisters and Brothers United. This club originated in 1990 when a group of students desired to promote African-American History during Black History Month in order to promote Black culture and cultivate better environment through educational and social programs. There was a brief period of time SBU was inactive; however, it has resumed thanks to the supportive staff at EHS. Some of the activities the group participated in this year have been Breast Cancer Awareness Month raising almost \$1,000; Annual School-wide Can Food Drive, donating over 200 cans/items; and Marine Corps with a School-wide Toys for Tots Drive.

Some upcoming events Board members may be interested in include the Dollars for Scholars Campaign which closes the end of the week; upcoming ISMAA season with band, choir, and orchestra students busy preparing; *"Sponge Bob" the Musical* is March 8 – 10, tickets can be purchased through gofan.com; Coffee House Talent Show coming up in March; Spring break is April 1 – 5, 2024; Prom is scheduled for Saturday, May 11; and EHS Graduation is June 5.

In response to Board inquiry, Miss Artigas shared she plans continue her studies to become a Biomedical Engineer. Board Members congratulated Miss Artigas and thanked her for presenting at the Board meeting.

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

Minutes – February 13, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$7,268,002.56.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Accepted the following extra-curricular purchase requests: EHS Theatre Extra-Curricular Fund to purchase a Bubble Haze Machine for the upcoming production of *"Sponge Bob" the Musical* totaling \$539.99

Gift Acceptance:

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$100 from an anonymous donor to be used to pay student meal accounts at Cleveland, Eastwood, and Osolo in honor of Brett Cramer; \$50 from an anonymous donor to be used to pay student meal accounts at Cleveland in honor of Brett Cramer; \$500 from Boutique Bounce, LLC to be used to support fall conference registrations, dues, and SLC in relation to the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) program; \$150 from Drew Danik to be used to purchase supplies for the upcoming Pierre Moran

Hoopla Event; donation of a 2005 Jeep Liberty Sport from Sherry Dixon, with an owner estimated value of \$6,000, to be used for training purposes for student in the Automotive Technology classes; \$250 from Hoover Automotive, LLC, care of Jeremy Hoover, to be used to support fall conference registrations, dues, and SLC in relation to the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) program; \$500 from J&E Utilities, LLC to support fall conference registrations, dues, and SLC in relation to the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) program; \$2,000 from Kevin Segner to EHS Athletic Department to be used to assist with the growth and development of the Elkhart Health and Strength Facility; and donation of a Tobi Dynavox device, valued at \$17,000, from James Fuehrmeyer in honor of his late wife, Jean Fuehrmeyer, to be used by the Special Education Department.

Tony England, Assistant Superintendent of Exceptional Learners, thanked Mr. Fuehrmeyer for this amazing donation which will be utilized by ECS's special education students. Mrs. Fuehrmeyer was a double major in French and Russian and was also certified to teach both elementary and secondary levels, spending thirteen (13) years teaching as a gifted program teacher for grades 4 – 8. Her love of language later drove her to take Spanish classes which became useful as she devoted much of her time to community service, tutoring English Language Learners. Mrs. Fuehrmeyer was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in March of 2022 and passed on November 25, 2023.

Board Member Mike Burnett personally thanked Mr. Fuehrmeyer for his donation sharing how this equipment can provide a *voice* for those students who have none, including his daughter; what a wonderful gift.

Conference Leave Requests

Approved overnight trip request for EHS's FBLA to travel to Muncie, Indiana to participate in the State Leadership Conference Competition on March 15 – 17, 2024 and Pierre Moran's FBLA to travel to Muncie, Indiana to participate in the State Leadership Conference Competition on March 15 – 17, 2024.

Personnel Report:

Two (2) Consent agreements regarding unpaid time.

Employment of the following one (1) certified staff: James McClain, Math at Freshman Division.

Retirement of the following two (2) certified staff: Patricia Heitzmann, Grade 3 at Pinewood and Cynthia Whittaker, Special Education at Osolo.

Resignation of the following one (1) certified staff: DeVetta Farrow, Assistant Principal at Pierre Moran.

Unpaid parental leave for the following five (5) certified staff: Elizabeth Gerndt, Special Education at Woodland; Riley Geschke, Grade 2 at Cleveland; Taylor Ibrekic, Grade 1.

at Woodland; Jocelyn Mathiak, Grade 1 at Cleveland; and Molly Moosa, Grade 2 at Monger.

Employment of the following six (6) classified employees: Jennifer Abell, Food Service at Daly; Marco Borja, Paraprofessional at Roosevelt; Alexia Burling, Registered Behavior Technician at Roosevelt; Nicole Russell, Paraprofessional at Beck; Gabrielle Sheets, Food Service Administration at Food Service; and Nathan Taylor, Support Technician at Technology.

Extension of leave for one (1) classified employee: Cynthia Miller, Food Service at Daly.

Unpaid Leave for the following two (2) classified employees: Tina Helbling, Bus Driver at Transportation and Gloria Pace, Bus Driver at Transportation.

Retirement of the following one (1) classified employees: Jamie Woodfin, Head Custodian at Bristol.

Resignation of the following four (4) classified employees: Audriana Byers, Registrar at Freshman Division; David Griffis, Food Service at Osolo; Christina Manley, Food Service at West Side; and Gregory McMillan, Paraprofessional at Cleveland.

Termination of the following two (2) classified employees: Luella Hanks, Paraprofessional at North Side and Tevin Jackson, Custodian at Pierre Moran.

..... approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 3142.01A – Non-Renewal of Administrative Contracts as presented during the February 27, 2024 Board meeting.

..... heard Doug Thorne, District Counsel/Chief of Staff, present proposed revisions to Board Policy 2240 – Controversial Issues for initial consideration. Mr. Thorne informed Board members these policy changes provide direction to the district’s teachers when discussions of controversial topics related to instructional goals of a course of study; specifically, when a student’s understanding of a controversial issue might be expected under the State of Indiana’s Academic Standards. This policy limits the teacher’s ability to express personal opinion regarding a topic and appoints the building principal as the person who can determine if a teacher may discuss issues not covered by the course of study.

..... approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 3422.12S – Employees in Miscellaneous Positions Compensation Plan and waived second reading. Mr. Thorne explained to Board members the revisions included changes to the titles for two positions, the first being the Manager of Afterschool and Community Programming changing to Manager of Community and Family Engagement. This position is moving away from afterschool programming and focusing more on programming and partnerships with families which continuing its focus on the broader community. The second change is changing the title Lead Program Coordinator for the Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) Grant to FSCS Data Manager. As the district has progressed through the implementation of this grant, it has become increasingly clear that data gathering and reporting responsibilities are more significant than originally thought. The program management will be transferred to an outside contractor and will be fully funded through the grant. In response to Board inquiry, Mr. Thorne will make notation in Board

Policy 3422.12S that the Manager of Community and Family Engagement is partially grant funded.

..... heard Mr. Thorne present proposed new Board Policy 9130 – Public Complaints for initial consideration. Mr. Thorne explained this policy establishes orderly procedures for the processing of complaints and concerns regarding both employees and programming. In response to an audience comment, Mr. Thorne explained this policy would supersede the current administrative regulation on complaints about library materials.

..... heard Frank Serge, Director of Secondary Curriculum, present a proposed new course offering for the 2024-2025 school year: American Literature After 1865 where students surveys major American writers from the Civil War to the present and includes discussions of the major historical, cultural, intellectual, and political events which influenced the authors; and Pre-AP World History and Geography will be offered at the Freshman Division and focuses on the skills fundamental to study of history and geography in high school, Advanced Placement, and beyond. This will provide students multiple opportunities to think and work like historians and geographers as they develop and strengthen these disciplinary reasoning skills throughout their education in history and the social sciences.

..... opened the public 1028 hearing on the Health and Wellness Facility High School Addition Project. Kevin Scott, Chief Financial Officer, asked Barnes & Thornburg bond counsel Jeff Qualkinbush to share with the Board background on the structure and work of the Elkhart Schools Building Corporation, what a Lease/Rental bond is, and a brief overview of state law and how it relates to today’s requirements. Mr. Scott then outlined the Board action being requested this evening and noted that we are required to allow time for public comment. With no comments from the audience, the hearing was closed.

..... adopted a resolution confirming execution of the amendment to lease, approved the issuance of bonds and related matters with regard to the 2024 Health and Wellness Facility High School Addition Project.

..... adopted a resolution approving additional appropriation and related matters for the proposed 2024 Health and Wellness Facility High School Addition Project.

..... received the monthly financial report.

..... received the monthly insurance update.

..... heard audience member express concerns about staffing at West Side.

..... heard Superintendent Mark Mow remind Board members their next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be at Pierre Moran Middle School on March 12, 2024. Mr. Mow thanked the Board members and staff for working with him over the past seven (7) months and expressed his excitement for the future of ECS under the leadership of the incoming Superintendent, Dr. Larry Huff. He looks forward to watching ECS’s progress from a far.

..... heard Board Member celebrate students who participated in Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competitions.

- heard all Board Members thank Mr. Mow for stepping in to lead ECS during this time of transition. His graciousness; calming effect; knowledge of the district and community; and wisdom were very helpful to the Board throughout their search for a new superintendent.
- heard Board Member thank Dr. Dean Speicher, Dr. Bruce Stahley, Mr. Frank Serge, and Mrs. Barbara Cripe for their contribution throughout the transition and ongoing.
- heard Board Member announce the Black History event at Roosevelt STEAM Academy on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.