

..... heard Board President Troy Scott recite the Elkhart Promise.

..... heard Mr. Scott review the invitation to speak protocol for Board meetings.

..... heard from SSAC member Hayden Dinehart, who is a sophomore at Elkhart High School (EHS) and active member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC); varsity cheer; Student Government (secretary); Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC); and Move to Stand. She informed the Board the SSAC recently worked with the administration to incorporate walkways in the student parking lot due to traffic safety concerns. These walkways have helped to keep students safe making students more visible to drivers. Miss Dinehart then congratulated her cheer team for earning their spot at the UCA National Competition; they will be heading to Disney next month to compete. The team, Coach Warstler, and Coach Marianne have all been working hard in preparation for the event. Miss Dinehart told the Board about the upcoming Military Ball which the cadets have been busy planning; Sergeant Rutledge and Major Dorman have played a supporting role but have allowed the cadets to plan the event. They are still working to raise funds for the event; it is an amazing program and she enjoys being a part of it. Move to Stand has been working to help students with their mental health as school can become overwhelming at times. Student Government has been busy planning their community service projects and staff appreciation which includes all staff members.

All Board Members congratulated and thanked Miss Dinehart for presenting at the Board meeting. They look forward to experiencing this year's Military Ball and encouraged everyone to donate to the AFJROTC in support of their Military Ball.

..... heard Board Members express their thanks and gratitude for Dr. Bruce Stahly, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, who came out of retirement to provide administrative support for Elkhart Community Schools (ECS) while searching for a new superintendent.

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

Minutes – January 9, 2024 – Public Work Session

Minutes – January 9, 2024 – Annual Organizational Meeting

Minutes – January 9, 2024 – Annual Board of Finance Meeting

Minutes – January 9, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$8,012,161.01.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Gift Acceptance:

Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): \$600 from Edward F. Camp Wealth Management to Elkhart High School (EHS) Cheerleading Team to be used to assist with the growth and development of the team; \$1,750 from Michael and Marcia Doering to be used to assist with the growth and development of the team; \$500 from Get Wet for A Vet to the AFJROTC to be used to purchase supplies, snacks, and equipment for the cadets and Military Ball; donation of miscellaneous automotive supplies, with an owner estimated value of \$244,793, to be used in the Automotive, Technology, and Diesel Technology classes; \$2,836 to EHS Cheerleading

Team from Haley Warstler to be used to assist with the growth and development of the team; \$25,000 from the Knight Foundation to be used to support the expansion into local journalism at WVPE; \$25,000 from the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County (CFSJC) to be used to support the expansion into local journalism at WVPE; \$27,000 from an anonymous donor to EHS Athletics to be used to assist with the cost of improvements and upgrades to the soccer fields, including dugouts and backstops; and \$10,000 from an anonymous donor to EHS Athletics to be used to assist with the cost of improvements and upgrades to the soccer fields, including dugouts and backstops.

#### Conference Leave Requests

#### Personnel Report:

Consent agreement regarding unpaid time.

Resignation of the following one (1) certified staff: Bruce Stahly, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction at ESC.

Extension of leave for the following one (1) certified staff: DeVetta Farrow, Assistant Principal of Pierre Moran.

Agreement regarding services.

Employment of the following seven (7) classified employees: Keiasha Bowen, Food Service at Freshman Division; Stephanie Crothers, Food Service at Feeser; Donisha McBride, Bus Helper at Transportation; Kimberly Schrader, Food Service at Riverview; Laura Tarazona Hinestroza, Food Service at Monger; Ashley Treece, Registered Nurse at West Side; and Perla Vazquez, Paraprofessional at Beck.

Extension of leave for two (2) classified employee: Janie Halliburton, Custodian at Elkhart High and Yalunka Washington, Paraprofessional at North Side.

Unpaid Leave for the following one (1) classified employee: Cynthia Miller, Food Service at Daly.

Retirement of the following two (2) classified employees: Edry Danner, Bus Driver at Transportation and Loretta Dass, Custodian at Cleveland.

Resignation of the following two (2) classified employees: Gregory Dybas, Jr., Bus Driver at Transportation and Tyler Troyer, Custodian at Monger.

Termination of the following one (1) classified employee: Jeremy Henderson, Food Service at Woodland.

..... heard Doug Thorne, District Counsel/Chief of Staff, present proposed revisions to Board Policy 2271 – Enrollment in College and University Programming Not Offered by Elkhart Community Schools. Mr. Thorne informed Board members that this policy provides authority for students to enroll in post-secondary courses beyond those offered by ECS through Dual Credit, Advanced Placement, and Academic and Career Planning (ACP) courses.

- ..... heard Mr. Thorne present proposed new Administrative Regulation IKFC – Enrollment in College and University Programming Not Offered by Elkhart Community Schools. Mr. Thorne informed Board members this administrative regulation establishes procedures to be followed by students who avail themselves of opportunities available pursuant to Board Policy 2271.
- ..... heard Mr. Thorne present proposed revisions to Board Policy 3121ACS – Personal Background Checks and Mandatory Reporting for initial consideration. Mr. Thorne informed Board members these policy changes bring the district's process for performing criminal background checks into alignment with legislation enacted during the 2023 legislative session.
- ..... 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 the creation of the position, Assistant Manager of Transportation, as well as changes to the compensation for teachers and support staff providing support to students during afterschool programming.
- ..... heard Mr. Thorne present proposed revisions to Board Policy 8510 – Wellness and requested the Board waive second reading. Mr. Thorne informed the Board the proposed changes address concerns raised by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). Pam Melcher, Director of Food Service, explained these revisions have been in place and are in ECS's current wellness booklet; the IDOE wanted the language detailed in our Board policy. In response to Board inquiry, Mrs. Melcher, confirmed ECS does serve a protein and "protein" could be added to the policy.

Board member Kellie Mullins made a motion to amend the revisions to Board Policy 8510 to include the word "protein" to the list in section A-9 and Board Secretary Anne VonDerVellen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Mullins made a motion to vote on Board Policy 8510, as amended, and Mrs. VonDerVellen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved Board Policy 8510 as amended.

- ..... Board member Jeff Bliler publicly disclosed potential conflict of interest.
- ..... approved the Elkhart Community Schools Innovative Learning Grant in Collaboration with Five Star. Kelly Carmichael and Tervonda Goins, Principals at Cleveland and Pinewood Elementary Schools respectively, were introduced and available for questions. Mrs. VonDerVellen expressed her excited about this opportunity for students and encouraged participating principals to have students write about what they learned following their visit. In response to Board inquiry, Dr. Stahly confirmed the programming will begin in the Spring and the program is fully funded for a three (3) year period.
- ..... approved a Resolution of the Board of School Trustees of the Elkhart Community Schools taking action regarding a proposed Ninth Amendment to Lease and approving the issuance of Bonds by the Elkhart Community School Building Corporation and matters related thereto. The hearing is set for February 27, 2024.
- ..... received the monthly financial report.
- ..... received the monthly insurance update.

- ..... heard Superintendent Mark Mow remind Board members their next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be at Monger Elementary School on February 13, 2024.
- ..... the Instructional Leadership team revealed the new banner for the new district-wide elementary reading initiative, "Elkhart Builds Readers, Dreamers, and Inspiring Leaders."
- ..... heard all Board members thank Dr. Stahly for coming out of retirement and sharing his talents, guidance, and leadership with the district through this transition period.
- ..... heard Mrs. VonDerVellen thank Dr. Stahly and Barb Cripe, Director of Elementary Curriculum, for their work in getting the elementary reading innovative up and running.
- ..... heard Mrs. Cripe add a special thanks to Lindsey Walters, District Media, and the Elkhart Public Library for their help with the reading initiative.