

- heard Board Member Mike Burnett recite the Elkhart Promise.
- heard Board President Troy Scott review the invitation to speak protocol for Board meetings noting Public Comment was moved to the beginning of the meeting agenda.
- heard an audience member express concerns about the proposed new Board Policy 9130 – Public Complaints and Concerns.
- heard Erin Wagler, Director of Communication, share some of the wonderful things happening in Elkhart Community School (ECS) during the Excellence of Elkhart highlighting Academics, Arts, and Athletics.

In the area of Academics, great things continue to happen in Elkhart including the Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) hosting a mock interview event for nine hundred (900) students. Local business professionals volunteered to lead over one thousand two hundred (1,200) interviews. ECS is also home to the leading K-12 Ag program in the State of Indiana and had over four hundred (400) students who were excited to experience Ag Day at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds this year. Elkhart Schools is closing in on the championship round of the district's reading initiative, "*Elkhart Builds Readers, Dreamers, and Inspiring Leaders*". Finish strong Elkhart!

In the area of Arts, the Elkhart High School (EHS) Symphony had the amazing opportunity to perform alongside the Elkhart County Symphony, creating a wonderful community event. The EHS Winter Guard performed at the Indiana High School Color Guard Association (IHSCGA) State Finals and finished in fifth place. Last but not least, students across Elkhart Schools continue to earn Gold ratings in Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competitions. Way to go Elkhart!

In the area of Athletics, ECS has offered elementary sports for 5th and 6th grade students for decades; this year, Eastwood Elementary won the 2024 Elementary Girls Basketball Championship. Elkhart is also proud of their alum, Christian Mejia, who won the NCAA Division II National Championship in wrestling. Elkhart spring sports are underway and schedules can be found online. Come out and support Elkhart athletics!

Future happenings in Elkhart Schools include a community-wide Solar Eclipse educational presentation on March 28, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at ETI; Kindergarten Roundup will be held on April 11, 2024 from 6 – 7 p.m.; summer trip opportunities for high school students include a Marine Biology trip to Massachusetts/Maine and Earth Science trip to Colorado; and Elkhart will be hosting the Disability Resource Fair on April 13, 2024. For more information about Elkhart Schools, follow us on social media and the ECS website.

- heard from SSAC member Alaina Mendoza who reported ECS chess teams from EHS, West Side, North Side, Daly, Roosevelt and Feeser competed at State; EHS Symphony Orchestra performed alongside the Elkhart County Symphony Orchestra; EHS Student Government held their annual Blood Drive collecting 69 units, saving 207 lives; EHS National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony is on April 21, 2024; and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) attended the Indiana FBLA State Conference in Muncie with eight (8) Lions qualifying

for Nationals. Mr. Anderson was pleased to report EHS has experienced success with the new dismissal times/procedures leading to improvement in student behavior in the halls as well as grades.

Miss Mendoza is on the EHS Cheer Team and they have had one of their best seasons yet, placing 1st at the UCA Hoosier Nationals which provided them a bid to UCA Nationals at the ESPN Center in Orlando, Florida; they took 8th place out of thirty (30) teams in their division. The EHS Cheer team not only works hard to compete, but also to play a leadership role in the community by welcoming Riverview students in the morning, participating in pep rallies, and cheering at basketball games as well as the Sunburst Race at Notre Dame.

..... heard Tony England, Assistant Superintendent of Exceptional Learners, share that he was pleased to announce two employees and one student from ECS were the recipients of three out of the ten awards being presented by the Indiana Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC). Elizabeth Hausbach, District Translator, was awarded Advocate of the Year and David Bird, Principal of EHS – Engineering, Technology, and Innovation School of Study, was awarded Administrator of the Year. Congratulations and thank you both for all you do for Elkhart students and families. Aayden Hajdaj, a 4th grade student, was Bristol’s YES I CAN! Award winner and went on to win the YES I CAN! Student Award from the ICEC. This honor recognizes students and youth with exceptionalities whose hard work and dedication have allowed them to excel. Staff members describe Aayden as being a warrior both academically and in speech therapy. He is persistent, putting forth his best effort in everything he does. When he does struggle, he works hard to overcome and persevere. Aayden is an honor roll student and was named one of Kiwanis’ 4th grade representatives. He is well on his way to achieving his educational goals. Congratulations Aayden! You truly are amazing and ECS is very proud of you.

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

Minutes – March 12, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting

Claims in the amount of \$7,954,536.15.

Proposed school fundraisers in accordance with Board policy.

Gift Acceptance: Accepted with appreciation the following donations made to Elkhart Community Schools (ECS): 2009 Ford 6.4 Diesel engine core form with an owner estimated value of \$1,250 from Mikel Farms, care of Ryan Mikel, to Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) to be used in the Motorcycle/Outdoor Power Technology classes; thirty (30) Laryngeal Mask Airways, thirty-one (31) Anesthesia Circuits, and thirty-five (35) X-large drapes from Unity Physicians Hospital, care of Jennifer Medich, to EACC to be used in the Surgical Services Program; \$1,000 from Elkhart Education Foundation to Pierre Moran to be used for the upcoming Hoopla Event; \$1,000 from DBA Brian’s Tree Services, care of Brian Ketchum, to EHS Unified Track Team to be used to assist with the growth and development of the program; \$4,000 from Linda Homo to EHS Boys/Girls Track and Field teams to be used to assist with the growth and development of the program; \$4,000 from Linda Homo to EHS Boys Track Team to be used to assist with the growth and development of the program; \$1,000 from Passionately Purple to EHS Boys Track and Field Team as well as ELH Boys XC Team to be used to assist with

the growth and development of the program; and \$4,000 from First Federal Savings Bank to EHS Boys and Girls Track and Field Teams to assist with the growth and development of the program.

Conference Leave Requests

Submission of the following grant: Perkins Basic Grant hosted by Office of Career and Technical Education in the amount of \$848,556 to be used for equipment, professional development, staff salaries, and career guidance and AWS Foundations Grant hosted by AWS Foundation of Fort Wayne in the amount of \$65,770 to be used to purchase ARIS Language Builder, Academic Readiness Intervention System (ARIS) Early Autism Curriculum by Stages Learning as a supplemental resource for student who are not yet ready for traditional school, paper-based learning, or making gains using the current Intense Interventions curriculum, Unique Learning Systems.

Personnel Report:

Administrative Appointment of the following one (1) certified staff: Laura Christophel, Assistant Principal at Eastwood.

Retirement of the following one (1) certified staff: Jeanne Davidson, Special Education at PACE.

Resignation of the following four (4) certified staff: David Freel, Math at Elkhart High; Mackenzie Hill, Grade 3 at Daly; Larissa Lomeli, ASL at Elkhart High; and Carl Rust, Grade 3/4 Split at Roosevelt.

Correction to Unpaid Leave of the following one (1) certified staff: Brittany Choler, Social Studies at West Side.

Employment of the following eight (8) classified employees: Rachuel Emerson, Custodian at Feeser; Angela Jones, Food Service at Osolo; Lisa McFarland, Food Service at Elkhart High; Andrew Overmyer, Bus Helper at Transportation; Shawna Reyes, Food Service at Daly; Olivia Roberts, Paraprofessional at HELC; Kelsey Stone, Food Service at Woodland; and Desiree Wright, Bus Driver at Transportation.

Unpaid Leave for the following four (4) classified employees: Tanita Bynum, Food Service at Osolo; Janie Halliburton, Custodian at Elkhart High; Priscilla Rodriguez, Paraprofessional at North Side; and Constance Warner, Bus Driver at Transportation.

Retirement of the following one (1) classified employees: Debra Brick, Food Service at Roosevelt.

Resignation of the following four (4) classified employees: Rochelle Alberding, Food Service at Feeser; Emily Lewandowski, Social Worker at Monger; Palmira Salazar, Secretary at Pierre Moran; and Melissa Smith, Paraprofessional at PACE.

Termination of the following two (2) classified employees: Nikita Belt, Bus Helper at Transportation and Stacy Swoverland, Production Coordinator at Food Service.

..... postponed consideration of Board Policy 9130 – Public Complaints and Concerns until April 23, 2024.

..... received the monthly financial report.

..... received the monthly insurance update.

..... heard Superintendent, Dr. Larry Huff speak of how proud he was of the outstanding students who were at the Board meeting this evening, Alaina Mendoza and Aayden Hajdaj. They are wonderful reminders of the importance of investing in Elkhart students.

Dr. Huff congratulated the Board for attaining the Commendable Level of the Indiana School Boards Association and thanked them for their leadership.

Dr. Huff congratulated and thanked retiring Chief Financial Officer, Kevin Scott, for being a steward to the district for many years. He will be greatly missed.

Dr. Huff reminded audience members of the Solar Eclipse Program at the ETI Building on March 28, 2024 which is open to the public.

Dr. Huff gave a shout out to ECS teacher, Peggy DeLanghe. Ms. DeLanghe is being recognized by Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) as the 2024 recipient of the Excellence in Leadership Award for her work as a student. Ms. DeLanghe currently works at the Elkhart Area Career Center (EACC) in Early Childhood Education.

In closing, Dr. Huff wished all teachers and staff a relaxing Spring Break and reminded the Board their next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on April 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Riverview Elementary School.

..... heard Board Vice President Doug Weaver speak about the Military Ball and what a wonderful event it was for the Elkhart High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AF JROTC) cadets. Board Member Kellie Mullins added the guest speaker was ECS's very own Maggie Lozano, Director of Human Resources, who participated in a JROTC program when she was in high school. It was a great night for all.

..... heard Mrs. Mullins share that this year was her third year participating on the Employability Panel at the EACC and how impressed she was with the professionalism of the students.

Mrs. Mullins encouraged the Board and audience members to check out the March 16, 2024 interview with Tracy Weirich about the ECS music program; it can be found on the ECS website. Mrs. Mullins congratulated all the band, choir, and orchestra middle school students who participated in Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competitions. Also, the Winter Percussion is holding a community preview night on March 28, 2024.

..... heard Board Member Jeff Bliler thank Mrs. Wagler for doing a great job informing the Board and community about the Excellence of Elkhart and what makes Elkhart exceptional.

..... heard Board President Scott thank Mr. (Kevin) Scott for the many years of service he has given to ECS. As a Board member, he expressed his gratitude for the great fiscal condition Mr. Scott left the district in at his tenure which will enable ECS to continue to do good things for the children of Elkhart.