

Highline Public Schools | 2020.12.16.Board.Meeting

You're good to go.

Good evening, everybody. Welcome to our school board meeting on Wednesday, December 16 at 2020. Can we all please stand up for the Pledge of Allegiance?

OK. I pledge allegiance to the flag of United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

OK, Kyle. Can we get the roll call please?

Director Dorsey?

Here.

Director Garcia?

Here.

Director Bradford?

Here.

Director Van?

Here.

And President Alvarez has an excused absence this evening. And welcome, everybody. Do we have any changes or additions to the agenda this evening? Oh, I see people shaking their heads so that's a no. And we have no scheduled communications this evening so we're going to roll in to our superintendent's update. Dr. Enfield?

Thank you, Vice President Van. So welcome to our final board meeting of 2020. So the next time we meet, it will be 2021. And I don't know about you but 2021 sounds good to me.

So I'm going to make a few comments about the governor's press conference today and then just wish everybody a really safe, happy, healthy holiday. Sandy Hunt and I spoke earlier. And Sandy was busy responding, I think, to a lot of questions this afternoon so didn't get a chance to write up her usual comments for the board. But I assured her that I would share what she and I discussed in

response to Governor Inslee's press conference today.

So as you know, the governor shared some pretty significant changes in the guidance that we have around school opening, especially around the number per 100,000 that has been guiding us. And it is clear that he very much-- along with many people-- wants to see especially our youngest learners return to school, as do we.

I think, however, the timing of this announcement right now has caused a lot of angst for many in our communities-- teachers, families, and others-- just because the rates are high right now. And I know that people are feeling anxious and exhausted because it's that time of year.

And so the message that I want to send to our Highline community right now-- and Sandy and I are locked arms in this-- is that here's what has not changed-- our commitment to the health and safety of our staff, which we have worked collaboratively with all of our labor partners throughout the last several months to make sure that the plans that we put in place keep health and safety at the forefront.

We also have a shared commitment to getting our students back in school as soon as we can, as safely as we can. That said, as you know, I have been very clear that we do not have a return date. However, I have set a deadline for our planning process to have our return plan, what our hybrid model will look like for elementary students of February 1st so that we are ready when that date comes to welcome our youngest learners back.

So we will have our plan fully developed, we will have staff and family webinars in January to share those plans. So before anything is rolled out, people will have a chance to ask questions and get more information. So we are going to continue doing the work that has actually been happening for several weeks now. The announcement today doesn't change that.

I have a superintendents meeting with superintendents from King and Pierce County on Friday, our ESD meeting. And I'm sure this will be the topic of conversation. But at this point, I just want to remind staff that this does not accelerate any of the work that we were already doing. And we will continue to follow DOH, public health guidance, and coordinate with our other districts here in South King County so that we can be in as much alignment as possible.

So I know that these are challenging times right now for people and again, that this news might have caused some angst. I just want people to take a breath. I will model it right now.

[DEEP BREATH]

And just know that we have a break coming up and that that will allow us, I hope, for many in our community and our system to get a well-deserved break. I know how tired everybody is, but please know that in my-- I try to practice gratitude daily. That's one of the things I'm doing for my own well-being.

And I am deeply grateful for this school board, for this staff, for our students, and for our families, and every staff member in Highline Public Schools. You are exceptional human beings, and you are doing exceptional work even on the days when it doesn't feel like it.

So with that, I wish you all a heartfelt, happy, safe, and healthy holiday season. And I really do look forward to seeing you for real, I hope, in 2021 when we can safely be together again with masks. But with that, please get some well-deserved downtime.

And Sandy and I will continue to talk and likely be putting out some additional information to staff before the end of the week. So with that, I will turn it back to Vice President Van.

Thank you so much, Dr. Enfield. Next up is our school board reports-- legislative reports. Director Dorsey? Director Garcia? Anything in regards to our legislative reports?

I don't have anything additional. I did finally sign up for-- Arón sent out the table last meeting about who wanted to meet when. And so I did finally populate that, so apologize for the delay, Arón.

It's all good. Yeah, I'll be working to get some invitations out pretty soon, so just keep an eye out for that.

Arón, I--

Did I populate that? Arón? Did I populate that? I don't remember.

Yeah, you jumped it. Yeah, thank you.

[INAUDIBLE]

I totally forgot about it, Arón. So I'm going to get on it after this and sign up. So--

Sweet. Awesome. Thank you.

All right, moving on to directors reports. Director Bradford?

I have nothing.

Thank you. Director Dorsey?

Same answer.

OK. Director Garcia?

I'll keep the streak going. I got nothing to report.

Thank you. And myself, I'm going to break the streak actually. I just want to wish everybody a happy holiday. Like Dr. Enfield says, please get some rest. Self-care is very, very important right now.

This afternoon-- or actually this morning, we received a letter-- or an email from our district in regards to our annual report on equity report card. That is a great report. If you guys can go take a look at it, it shares there are some things that we got to work on. But I think having that report out there for our community to see is vital.

In addition to showing-- watching the video of our rising grad rates, that's really great stuff. So thank you, our communications team, for putting that out there for our community to see.

Thank you. Thank you.

One last thing. So on Monday, I was having a bad-- what was it? Sunday I was having a pretty bad day. I woke up at 3:30 on Monday morning and I got an email from a substitute teacher. A YouTube. I was like, man, I really don't want to watch a YouTube video right now but I'm going to do it.

And it was Alicia Keys' "Good Job". I know I sent it to cabinet and quite a few of our building leaders. If you guys get an opportunity, please take 3 and 1/2 minutes, watch it. It'll make you tear, as it did me. And I just want to say good job and thank you to all of our staff and to you guys for what you guys are doing and how you guys are taking care of our kids. So thank you.

With that, we're going to move on to our consent agenda. Can I get a motion to approve our consent agenda, please?

I move we--

[INAUDIBLE]

Go ahead, [INAUDIBLE].

I make a motion to approve the consent agenda.

A second.

Thank you. Kyle, Director Bradford moved. Director Dorsey second it. All in favor?

I.

I.

I. Any opposed? I hear none. All right. We're not removing anything from our agenda. Let's move into our intro and action item. Motion to approve the award contract for purchase of furniture, fixtures, and equipment for our new Highline High School. Any questions or comments?

Will it all be purple and gold or-- Kidding. Never mind.

And Scott jumped off. He didn't want to talk about it.

I'm still-- I'm doing it from my phone so it's a little funky here. But for some reason, my computer didn't work out. There will be plenty of purple and gold mixed in.

Thank you. So Scott, I do have one question on this. I know this is for furniture and fixtures. When will we be getting our technology added? Because in the past, wasn't our fixtures and technology all packaged as one in the past?

So we actually-- I believe it was last board meeting, maybe the board meeting before-- did portions of CTE, which included some of the technology that you're talking about, but we finalized that order working with Mark today. And so it's made it through all of the paperwork process, timed appropriately to arrive, ready to install. I can't remember the exact number of screens that are going in but it's in the neighborhood of 70 plus. And that's a high dollar ticket to leave sitting outside, so we want to time it to be ready to go directly into the building to be installed.

Thank you very much.

Joe, we have not purchased the laptops for teachers yet, or for students. That will be coming.

All right. Thank you. Any other questions from board directors?

I just wanted to echo-- or not echo this. I have never said it before, but if there's a way to start looking into ways that we can support local vendors and go through this process, I would love that

opportunity. Just like little things like if we could buy garbage cans through local folks. And I know that there's a whole process, but it seems like, you know, how can we leverage the funding that we're getting from our community to--

We do work hard. We do work hard to purchase as locally as possible-- actually, to both hire and purchase locally. Our contractors, part of the original contract for the project was to hire by zip code. So when they advertised to fill open positions and actually the hiring happens from that zip code out. Those job sites-- zip code out.

We also do as much local purchasing as possible. There are some scale issues when we get into some of the larger purchases that the smaller vendors can't-- it just won't make it through their system. So we have to take those to the already-bid state project vendors.

Thank you, Scott.

Mm-hmm.

And Garcia. Any other questions? OK, I move that the Highline School Board approve the award of contract to school specialty to provide furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the new Highline High School in the amount of \$1,854,533.91 plus Washington state sales tax of \$185,453.39 for a total of \$2,039,987.30.

I'll second.

Director Dorsey seconded. Can I get a roll call, please?

Director Bradford?

Yea.

Director Dorsey?

Yea.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Director Van?

Yea.

This motion passes four to none.

Thank you very much. Now we're going to move into intro item 8.1, motion to approve new policy 4300, limiting immigration enforcement in schools. Any questions or comments? OK, I hear none, so we'll move that to our next board meeting.

I'm just going to wait because it's only been 15 minutes in.

But you can move the record.

This could really be a reflection of your leadership so--

No, we're going to wait. No. If we don't have anything else, guys, that is our agenda for this evening.

Can I get a motion to adjourn?

I move we adjourn.

Can I get a second?

Second.

All right, all in favor?

I.

I.

I.

Thank you, everybody, so much.

Happy holidays.

Happy holidays, everybody.

Happy holidays.