

[INAUDIBLE]

Thank you, everyone, and welcome to tonight's regularly scheduled board meeting. I'd like for everyone to stand as we say the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Roll call, Kyle, please.

Director Van.

Here.

Director Howell.

Here.

Director Garcia. Here.

Director Bradford.

Here.

Director Alvarez.

Here. At this time, I'm going to call for any changes or additions to tonight's agenda.

[INAUDIBLE]

[INAUDIBLE]

Seeing none, we now move to our scheduled communications. And our first up is Andrea O'Farrell. If you can step up to the podium, please.

--crisis. During one of the weeks, we delved into the truth that we have circles of friends or spheres of influence that we can work with. I have my book club, my gardening friends, my neighbors, my family, my old-time buddies, parishioners at church, so many groups of people that I'm working to help them understand the severity of the problem to act. So which group have I left out? School. [INAUDIBLE] colleagues, the administration, the school system.

So let me explain that I taught for 26 years at Shorewood Elementary. I taught those sweet grades from grade three to five. Even when it was hard, I loved my job. My concern toward the climate crisis has been growing steadily over the years, as has the sense of puzzlement as to why there was a silence, looking away. I sometimes felt, and still do, like I'm in an alternate reality. While I see so clearly the emergency, the cause for alarm, many around me so do not.

A series of events, including Greta Thunberg's first angry, impassioned speech affected me greatly. I told my principal in November of 2019 that I would not be returning the following school year. I was going to quit and devote my time to climate action. [INAUDIBLE] and while I spent the 2020-'21 school year learning, reading, and protesting, it was hard having to stay away from school. I understood that my teacher friends were overwhelmed and hanging on.

But it's a new school year. One year has passed on that ticking clock of humanity's survival. I quote the UN secretary-general's words concerning the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [INAUDIBLE] came out this August. The report is a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence irrefutable. Greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions [INAUDIBLE]. So my school group, I implore you, as I do [INAUDIBLE], to act as though our children's lives depend on it. They do.

I quit my job because it made me sad to look at my students and think I wasn't doing enough. I had [INAUDIBLE]. I've come to understand that some of my skills are making connections, and persistence in changing people's minds. We can actually [INAUDIBLE] the intersectional crises-- COVID, warming, plastics problem, ocean acidification, [INAUDIBLE], Black Lives, feelings of insecurity, threats to health, huge levels of income inequality. These things we can use as a wake-up call. Step one is to open our hearts and minds to the scope of the problem, and the necessity to act and lead ourselves [INAUDIBLE] better future. I just wanted to open the discussion, and I'd love to talk about this further.

Thank you for your comments, Andrea. The next one is Bonnie Radelich. Thank you.

Hi. I've been a member of this community all my life. I was raised here and raised my kids here, and I recently retired from 41 years as a surgical nurse, so I'm familiar with masks, even though mine is blowing off. I'm here, however, as a concerned grandma. And I love children. I love to defend children. And I'm here to give an opinion and ask some questions.

Number one, do masks protect against viruses? At this stage of the game, every adult making decisions for our children should have asked this question and done research. Facts are out there for anyone who wants to know. I can offer one source that someone gave me that made me aware of the data. And you can ask questions. And this is [Americanfrontlinedoctors.org](https://www.americanfrontlinedoctors.org). You can ask questions to them. I feel like, in my opinion, rules should not be made out of fear, but based on facts.

Number two, if masks do not protect against viruses, why are our children being forced to wear the dirty rags on their faces seven hours a day? I call them dirty rags because that's what they become in the hands of children, especially little children. These go into backpacks. They go into pockets. They fall on the floor. They walk on them. They pick them up, they put them back on their faces. And I would like to know, if we analyzed the bacteria on these masks at the end of the day, what we would find that they are wearing on their face and breathing for this many hours, how many germs accumulate and are transferred to their face and introduced into the respiratory tract.

Number three, what other respiratory conditions will develop over the coming year? I have a photo of a friend whose daughter had four consecutive staph infections on her face and was still forced to wear the mask. I can pass this around if you want to take a closer look at it. And this, to me, is abusive.

And number four, what about proper oxygen-carbon dioxide exchange? Getting adequate oxygen intake to the brain is what our kids need for learning. They need to be able to breathe freely. And I also ask about psychological, social, and emotional consequences for our children, taking away their faces, their ability to express and communicate with others who they are, what they feel, what they need, limiting their full ability to build relationships. I believe God gave us noses and mouths to breathe out of and faces to identify and communicate with smiles, to share and encourage each other. And I want our kids to have their faces back and to be able to breathe fully.

Thank you, Bonnie. And with that, our next scheduled speaker is Deborah Lipp. Thank you.

Hello. Am I in the right place? On the dot? And we touch the microphone? I got the rules and the mask on. I've had this on for 10 hours today. It's probably paper thin by now. So here I am again. I agree, we are back to work. Scott, I'm sure, or whoever, thank you for those. Whatever we got in our workplace in every room, we have some kind of air conditioner, air purifier. Yay. Appreciate that.

Once again, these masks are useless, you guys. I'm exhausted. You've got drivers here tonight, we're exhausted. It has been 10 hours a day. Grocery store workers a year and a half ago got a \$4 an hour raise because they had to wear them all day. We are in a bus, hot. 90 kids in my bus doing a double run, because I got 105, actually. Way too many kids. Hallelujah, they're back. I have to take my mask off once in a while because a kid's scared of me because they can't see my smile. Little kindergartners crying, not wanting on the bus. I said, Miss Debbie really has a smile. I do. It's here.

You know, it's heartbreaking. These kids are suffering. If we do nothing else as a board, we are torturing the kids. We are not here for the kids. And I'm making it clear, if you're really here for the kids, you better listen to the kids, because you told all my grandkids 13 and up, go get that vax, you don't have to wear this come September. Guess what? My grandkids are obedient. They lined up. And now Grandma had to say, mm, sorry, more adults lying to you. You really got to wear it now.

No, I'm not happy, and they're not happy. You know who's going to raise up? The kids. So you better be ready because we're training them to raise up. This is getting me-- no SROs, no police. Bus drivers are asking for help at the schools. We can't get in, we can't get out. Nobody wants to help, so we just go. I'm sure some of the parents have really loved us bus drivers so far, but you gotta go.

It's really been a hard year, as you guys know. We're getting desperate. We're getting really not happy. On October 18th, anybody know what that day is? Would have been my mom's 80th birthday that died due to the COVID vaccine in January. Guess what it's going to be for me? My job's gone because I won't take the job. No, I won't take the job. I got COVID, my husband's sitting there, we both got it April through May, three weeks. We survived. We're here.

The fear needs to go. You are hurting me, my job. I'm desperate. You're going to have a whole lot of desperate people. And I'm making it clear, my son works in the Department of Corrections. You're going to get all the prisoners out? Yes, you are, because you're not going to have them covered. So this is not just the school board. This is our livelihood.

We're begging Inslee-- that's why we're here-- stop it. I know you think you can't do anything about it, but you know what? We're raising up, and we're doing something about it. So I'm pretty sure the board could start doing something about it. And then I'm going to go through verses, because I'm not sure you all know any verses.

Don't you know that you yourself are God's temple, and that God's spirit dwells in your midst? Anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person, for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple. And I'm not putting something in my body that you're making me do. Willingly, it's great. Don't make us.

That concludes our scheduled communication. And with that, we're going to move to our superintendent update Dr. Enfield.

Thank you, President Alvarez, and good evening, everybody. This is our second board meeting since the school year began, and I think that you will hear that we are having all of the joys and challenges that come with a new school year under any circumstances. Some things don't change during a pandemic, and the joys and challenges that come with a new school year remain the same. What is different, though, is that we have had to close classrooms due to positive cases. And our staff are doing an excellent job of keeping our safety measures in place. However, this virus is incredibly transmissible, and we are seeing more and more cases.

The contact tracing that our staff is doing in response to a positive case is a lot of work. And I just need the board to know, because you may very well, as we are hearing from staff that are just saying I don't know how much more we can take on, people are, I understand, very stressed, very frustrated, very tired, especially for this early stage in the new year.

So we are working hard at central office to talk with our building staff, to come up with creative solutions. I am talking with other districts-- and by the way, this is not unique to Highline, this is every district in the region, if not the state and the country, right now-- to look at alternatives for how we can support our staff when we do have positive cases, that we keep the rest of the school safe, but that also the process for documenting that is not one that is crushing our administrators and staff. And so just want you to be aware.

I think that were it not for the burden that comes with the contact tracing, because it's just so detailed-- and there's a lot at stake, you want to get it right-- I think were it not for that, people would be feeling quite positive. As you'll hear, even folks who are frustrated are happy to have our kids back in school, and we're all happy to see our kids and our staff back in school. And there will continue to be challenges.

And so the message that I have given to my team, and continue to give and to remind myself, is that we all need to be handling each other with kid gloves right now. A little extra patience, a little extra kindness, a little extra understanding will go a long way because everyone has a unique struggle right now, and everyone is struggling in some way. And I think we all do well to remember that, and remember that, even though our circumstances may be different, we are all in this together as a community, and we will come through this together as a community, in spite of those challenges.

So I just want to publicly acknowledge that. It's important for me that our staff know that we are well aware of the challenges that are happening in the classrooms, on the buses, in our schools, and that we will continue to do our best to address those. And with that, I also want to say thank you to our staff who are working so hard during this time to make sure that our students have what we all want, which is a joyful, not tearful, but a joyful return to our schools. So thank you, everybody, for that. We are grateful, very, very grateful.

I have a question, doctor.

Yes.

So is the contact tracing that we're doing consistent with what the state is doing?

Yes, that's what makes it so challenging, is we are following the DOH guidelines. And they are extensive. So we are going to see if we can talk with DOH to see if there's any way to streamline that process a little bit. We're looking-- Mark and Katie have talked about with others are there ways that we could streamline the technology side of that reporting to help. I will be honest, though, I think even if we streamline the process, it's more work on top of what our educators are already doing as their daily job.

And I'm not sure that's a sustainable way to go. So I'm also exploring the possibility can we outsource that. I don't know that that's possible, but I was in a conversation, a conversation today with superintendents from across the region, and that came up. So I'm willing to explore every avenue available to us to help with this, because it will be a part of our world for the foreseeable future, and so we've got to find a way to make it manageable. And so I just wanted to share that with all of you. And we'll keep you updated. This is going to be ongoing in the months ahead.

And so with that, we actually-- sorry that it's not a happier comment period tonight, but we also have to say goodbye to two of our treasured staff members tonight. This is the final board meeting for Rod Scheffer and Mark Finstrom. And so we are going to take a little bit of time to do that. I'm going to actually begin with Scott Logan coming up to make some remarks about Rod, and then Rod making whatever comments he'd like, and then the board making any comments they'd like.

And then Mark would like to make some comments. And of course, I'll do a little roasting of Mark, as well, to keep it a little bit light. And I also just wanted to extend Sandy Hunt's regrets. She's not feeling well, so she won't be here tonight. She wanted me to let you know. So she will see you at the next meeting. And Scott, I'll turn it over to you.

Thank you.

All right, thank you, Superintendent and board members. In the rotary club, we have a session right at the end of each meeting called Happy and Sad Book, where you bring out things that you're proud of and happy about, and also things that could make you sad and you just want to share. So this is the happy sad moment for the board meeting tonight. I wanted to take you guys on a little time travel right now.

If we go back to the year 1969, Woodstock-- I'm sure all of you at least have heard of it. I remember it.

[LAUGHTER]

The country had its first ATM, and Rod Sheffer graduated from Highline High School. Those were the three things that made the headlines in 1969. We go forward to 1975, and if you look at this area around here, the average home price was \$41,600, now it's \$544,000.

Music that was popular at the time, "Love Will Keep Us Together" by the Captain and Tennille-- I think that's a theme that Rod's lived by his whole life-- "Rhinestone Cowboy" by Glen Campbell, and Rod Scheffer applied for work at Highline Public Schools, and was hired as a temporary TV technician on February 18 of 1975.

Now, we get to move forward in time, 46 years later, and it's our opportunity to recognize Rod Sheffer for all of the great work and commitment and belief in Highline that he's brought to us for the last 46 years as he leaves his temporary position here at Highline, just after replacing the high school he went to. So, Rod, do you want to say anything?

Well, thank you for the kind words. Thanks for the kind words. And I'm really happy that the temporary part subsided and got to be full time. And I just wanted to say that it's been really great being part of the construction of the new schools, a lot of projects over the years, a lot of small projects in various different roles I've played. It's just it's always it's been great. It's been fun.

And I don't think I'd change anything if I had to start over and do it again. I can't think of anything would change. It's also been great having a great boss to work for. And I could go on for a long time, but that makes the day go a lot better. And let's see if there's anything else I wanted to say.

It's also been great to just see how things have changed over those years. Scott mentioned 1975, and I think it was \$5.30 an hour if I remember right. Something like that was what I started out at. So it's been great, and I have nothing else. Thank you, all.

Thank you, Scott. Thank you, Rod. I'd like to give our board members a chance to offer any comments, appreciation for Rod before I do. Joe, do you want to kick us off?

Sure. Rod, it has been a great pleasure. Working with you over the last five or six years has been great. All of those dates and bands that Scott mentioned, I don't know any of those.

[LAUGHTER]

Oh my god.

I'll have to Google it, look it up.

Oh my god.

Rod, you've been an instrumental part in bringing up the recent new schools and everything you've done for our community. So thank you. Appreciate it.

Open it up to others, Treasurer Garcia?

Thank you. Rod, you're a rock star. Thank you so much for all that you've done, especially with CFAC, I got to work with you. Your wealth of knowledge in the history and just everything that you bring to this work, your dedication is really appreciated. And just know that you've left a legacy. The buildings that are here is a testament to your work and dedication to the community, and you are the epitome of public service and what we should all strive for, so thank you.

Director Bradford?

Yeah, I will just share a similar thanks, as well, Rod. Thank you for your service. I can't imagine how the satisfaction of graduating from Highline High School, and then having such a big part in the new facility, and so just thank you. I do remember those songs, Joe.

[LAUGHTER]

Born the year that you graduated, [LAUGHS] but just thanks, extreme thanks to you, and good luck to your future.

Thank you, Director Howell, do you have anything?

Yeah, unfortunately I never got a chance to work with you, but I'm so excited to see the legacy that you've left. Clearly, you've had a huge impact on this community. And in my onboarding, Scott couldn't stop singing your praises. So thank you so much for your service to our school district and to this community.

And, Rod, I just want to say the same thing as-- just echo what everyone says, not just your legacy, and your way of being, and your way you just of carrying yourself. It's always been a blessing. What an amazing opportunity for Highline to have you in our district. So thank you again, and I'm sure you're not done. So I wish you well in your new endeavors.

And Rod, I'll wrap it up by expressing my gratitude, as well. And I know that actually you tried to get away a little sooner than this. And I think we-- maybe it's not too much of an exaggeration to say-- begged you to stay to help us see these projects through, most significantly your alma mater, Highline High school. And for anyone who hasn't seen the inside of the new school yet, it is nothing short of breathtaking.

And the fact that it opened on time in the midst of being built during a pandemic is a testament to not just, of course, our partners who helped get it there, but to your leadership and your tenacity in making sure that our students and staff would walk in to their school on the first day of school and have something to really be proud of. So that will always be a part, as Carrie said, of your legacy. And I just have to say, for those of you-- I've never seen rod not smiling, ever, ever, ever.

News flash I-- don't smile a lot. But Rod actually smiles all the time, and I don't pretend to understand the pressures that you were under at times, Rod, but you always maintained a sense of calm, and grace, and professionalism, but mostly just joy and pride in the work that you did. And you will be sorely missed. And I hope that you will come back and visit and let us know what life in the good life is like so that we all have something to aspire to. But, everyone, please join me in thanking Rod Sheffer for his years of service.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you, Rod. And now, I am going to ask Mark Finstrom to come up. As you all know, Mark Finstrom has been our chief technology officer for many years. And I've had the great joy and privilege of working alongside him since I first arrived in Highline in 2012. And he has made a choice, a wise choice, a brave choice to go be with his family, his mother, his wife and kids.

And so, sadly, he had to move his departure date up a little bit. Otherwise, we would have had maybe some more fanfare, but I think Mark actually prefers a lack of fanfare. So he's probably OK with this, but, Mark, I'll let you make some comments, and then we'll open it up to the board.

So this year marks 16 years. And actually, next month was when I first interviewed here, and I started February 6 of 2006 really is the date that I started. And on February 7, Rod Sheffer and Al Schmidt spent a day with me driving around the district, looking at every single property that we had. And it was one of the best days that I had here. Rod and I have been very tight, and I greatly appreciate everything that he's done.

It's true, I'm leaving because of family. I'm leaving to go take care of my mother. She's got a bad case of dementia, and it seems to be getting stronger every day, and breaks my heart. But it hurts more to leave here, so just understand you have a strong superintendent.

My peers Scott, Susanne, Holly, Kisa, Katie, [INAUDIBLE]. Steve, Zach has joined us, we're here to make sure things work. Your guidance and direction as board allows us to do that work and allows us to make a difference for kids. And I'm going to miss that. I will. There's no doubt about that. And I value the friendships that I have with all of you.

Fa'izah you've been here before. You were an employee. We spent time together. Aaron, CFAC, lots of time together. Angelica, we just have a close connection. Joe loves to give me jabs, and I like that. And, Kerry, I remember you as a teacher and spending some time in classrooms. There might be 2,800 employees here, but I think I have 2,800 friends. So that's it. I'm not saying more [LAUGHS].

Do you want to make some comments?

I'll start by saying that not only you're an amazing friend and person, son, servant at heart, but just an amazing, welcoming spirit. There's times when you feel like-- I walked into this board really not knowing anything or anyone, and always just so willing to support and help, and caring about my family, and asking about my kids and my husband.

I'm going through some really hard times, and you always took the time yourself when you were going through stuff to really ask about mine. And it's hard to come by with people with that genuine, authentic self. And you always show up that way. I feel very blessed to have gotten to know you and work alongside of you.

And just your amazing spirit to serve-- I remember when this pandemic first started, I had a couple of families who would call me. I don't know how they ended up getting my cell number, but they got my number and they said you know I don't speak English, and I don't have a way to connect-- I don't have a computer. I don't have internet. And I'm like, Marco, fix it. Let me just call Mark. And I remember calling on his personal cell, and he's like, I got a command center, what do they need?

And it wasn't, I'm too busy right now. Any time I called, you've always answered. And I know that you're pulled 1,000 ways and in different directions. And just the fact that you take the time, that means a lot. And so, like I said, it's not a goodbye, and I'm sure we'll see you. I'm sure. You're just an amazing person, so thank you for being you, and you know that I'm just a phone call away. And with that, I'll just open it up to others.

Director Van?

Oh, Mark, what can I say? Six years ago, I met you. But like Angelica said, you are a phone call away, always there to support and help out when needed, even with my own personal devices. So I greatly appreciate that. We've had-- technology has changed in the last 16 years, and you've been in the forefront, always thinking outside the box. How can this support our kids? How can this support our students? We love that.

We're in a great position because of you and your staff, and just thinking outside the box. What can we do? Your community will be forever grateful [INAUDIBLE] our friendship. You rip me all the time, and I appreciate that. It's been a pleasure. Like Angelica said, this is not a goodbye. It's I'll see you later. I'll text you, see how you're doing, see what's going on. So good luck, and thank you for all that you do.

Director Howell?

Hey, Mark. I can't say how much I appreciate the support that you give to teachers and to students in this district. And like everyone is alluded to, no problem is too small. You continue to serve students and families and teachers to really prioritize our district goals. I think sometimes IT guys get a bad rep for being kind of tunnel vision, and I can't make it work that way. And you really start with what the students need and build systems around that.

And that's really, really impressive and appreciated, and it's and it's why Highline is doing so well with technology and why the pivot to remote went as well as it did. And just in my onboarding, I really appreciate all of the answers to my many, many questions and even the little tech questions. And I do have your personal cell phone number, so I will-- [LAUGHS]-- continue to bother you even if you don't want it. So best of luck.

Director Bradford?

Sure [LAUGHS]. Mark, I probably have more thoughts and feelings than I have words to express, and I don't want to cry because I have no eyelashes on.

[LAUGHTER]

So there's that. But I just want to thank you for your personhood, the humanity that you show. I do remember conversations with you and you sharing your journey to IT. And having experienced several different roles in education really brings you to that humanity, bringing that humanity and perspective and understanding into IT. And so I just thank you.

I remember right after I was first appointed to the board and seeing you at our local Fred Meyer and the words that we had. And I appreciate that. That has stayed with me, and so I'm looking up to you right now for following the direction of your heart. And I know that you will not regret this decision. Highline will always be here. The moments that you're running to are limited. And so thank you. Thank you for your example. Thank you for your service, and we'll see you soon.

Director Garcia?

I'll echo what everyone's saying, but it's bittersweet. Your dedication to our students, your sacrifice to be in it, in the weeds, where other folks would be handing off assignments, you were there. You were doing the work. You were always willing to go above and beyond what was expected of you to do to make sure that our students were being served. It's amazing. Your modeling of putting yourself and your family first is a really, really-- that's leadership.

And your willingness to mentor me-- even before I was on the board, your willingness to give me advice about careers and things that I was doing, I don't forget that. And you took the time to talk to somebody who, it was just a community member. That showed your commitment to this whole school district.

All those moments-- hanging out in the computer lab until 10-- 11 o'clock trying to figure out boundaries, all those moments that I had with you, is something that I'm going to remember. And try to lead the way you showed how to lead. So thank you so much for being the example. And for getting us to where we are now, because you had the vision, and you got us there. So that is much love, so thank you, Mark.

Thank you, all. But it's mutual. Understand my respect and gratitude to you.

Wait a second.

We're not done.

[LAUGHS]

I'm taking boss's privilege to make the final comments here, Mr. Finstrom. So I will, of course, echo everything that our board members said in tribute to you, and just say that from the day that I first arrived here in 2012, you've been nothing but a trusted colleague and mentor-- to your point, I've learned a lot from Mark, as well-- and friend.

And I hope you leave here, Mark, knowing the indelible impact that you've had on this community, how loved you are by people in this community, every single one of us up here, but perhaps no one more than I. I have seen you give of yourself so selflessly, and I think that's been alluded to here. I don't know anyone who sacrifices on such a consistent basis as you do to serve the children and staff in this district.

And you do it while also putting up with me as your boss who sometimes can be a little needy. And so I am grateful for that. I will miss hearing, how are you doing, doc? Mark's the only person who calls me doc. So I will miss that. And you know how much respect I have in your living our mantra of putting health and family first. You are doing the right thing. And how proud your mother must be of the son that she raised and the man that you are.

And we will miss you. We love you. We wish you well, and we ask that you keep in touch. And we also thank you, not just for your service, but for the exceptional team that you have. And the fact that we have Katie Luxon stepping in and joining cabinet, and so thank you for preparing the team to continue your great work as you go. We love you, Mark. We wish you well.

[APPLAUSE]

And that concludes my comments for the evening.

Thank you, Superintendent. And with that we move to our school board reports and legislative reports. Anything Director Garcia?

You should have received a WASDA vote for the WASDA vice president and president. So if you haven't yet, please review that, and get your vote. Other than that, no update.

And we'll move on to direct reports, and I'll start with Director Bradford. Anything?

I don't have anything, thank you.

Director Garcia?

Nothing at this time.

Director Howell?

Nothing.

Director Van

One update from the Highline-- or the foundation, the Brat Trot that was supposed to be for this weekend has been moved to a virtual one. With all of the Delta variant that's going on, made the decision to have the run virtually. So the community should have received an email and notice from the foundation. So thank you. That's it.

Thank you, Director Van, and I have nothing, as well. And now, we move to our consent agenda, so I'll ask for a motion to approve our consent agenda for this evening.

I make a motion to approve the consent agenda.

I'll second.

All in favor?

Aye.

Aye.

Aye.

Any opposed? abstain? OK, so with that, we move to our action items. Our first motion is to approve resolution 1421, the De Moines Elementary acceptance of building commissioning report. Any questions or comments?

This one's for you, Rod, 71 and 72. This is final, final.

So seeing no questions or comments, I move that the Highline School Board of Directors adopt resolution 1421, Des Moines Elementary School acceptance of building commissioning report. I need a second.

Second.

Roll call, Kyle.

Director Bradford?

Yea.

Director Howell?

Yea.

Director Van?

Yea.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

This motion passes five to none.

Our next motion is-- Director Van was referencing to-- is the motion to approve resolution 1521, Des Moines Elementary School final acceptance of construction completion and final acceptance of purchase order number P181392 issued to Abser construction company. Any questions, comments, concerns?

Seeing none, hearing none, I move that the Highline School Board adopt resolution 1521, De Moines Elementary final acceptance of construction completion and final acceptance of purchase order P181392 in the amount of \$41,714,223 plus Washington State sales tax, for a total of \$45,888,645.30. I need a second.

I second.

Roll call, Kyle.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Director Bradford?

Yea.

Director Howell?

Yea.

Director Van?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

This motion passes five to none.

We have three items, an introduction and action item. And when we met this week to look at the agenda or set the agenda, we wanted to make sure that when an introduction item would be called upon, that someone would come up and explain to us. A lot of times we have intro and action, and we know we're in a hurry to do it, and we don't know why.

So we've decided that when there's an internal action item, that we would have somebody from the team come to help us understand it better. So with that being said, the first motion to approve revisions to policy 3122, excused and unexcused absences, I'll call Holly up.

Who is going to help make the microphone short for me now?

[LAUGHTER]

Thank you, Director Alvarez. Yeah, we do not normally like to bring policies forward in introduction and action. We like to have time for the board to contemplate them. This particular policy relates directly to the new attendance rules put out by OSPI for schools to use vis-a-vis COVID and what's happening right now. Unfortunately, we've got the new rules the day after the deadline to get them on the September 1 agenda, so could have done intro followed by action.

Staff is recommending that we do intro and action in one night tonight, so that we're not waiting until October to get the new policy out to schools. And we have provided them advice, and we've provided them information, but it's kind of a policy that makes it final, done, check. So that was why we were hoping to do an intro and action tonight, so we could get this out to schools on Friday. I'm happy to answer any other questions you might have?

So any questions or comments or concerns?

I don't have any questions, but thank you, you and Steve, for being available for the questions that I did have to these motions. Thank you.

Absolutely.

Just for clarification, the only major things was synchronous online instruction and asynchronous instruction, we're just adding that to the guidelines.

We're adding that, yes. We're adding the-- sorry, looking through my actual document here. Adding those new definitions, that's obviously new because-- I mean, that's obviously new. There's also some additional excused absences to use, codes to use specifically if a facility is closed. So we did not have those last year. Hopefully, we will not use those this year, but that is another ad that OSPI added.

There is also a strange change to rename community truancy boards, community engagement boards. I say it's strange because community truancy board tells you what it is. Community engagement board does not. So we're going to have to, we think, explain that to our community, to our families, to our schools as we go throughout the years because, frankly, to me, a community engagement board sounds like something very different than what they're actually talking about. But yes, that the async/sync was the biggest change.

Yeah, and I think one of the other things that I noticed from there is also that a valid excuse is if the student doesn't have necessary instructional tools, that include internet or connectivity, that is also added as an excused absence. And I thought that was huge.

Holly, what was the reason for the name change?

It was in legislation this year. We don't know why. It wasn't explained in the bill reports. So I don't know.

It sounds a little more friendly, though the other is more descriptive.

I think it's more friendly. I think it's just, again, we do engagement on lots of things, not just truancy.

Sure.

So any other questions or comments? No seeing, hearing-- seeing and not hearing none, I move that the Highline School Board approve the revisions to policy 3122. I'll need a second.

I'll second.

Roll call, Kyle, please.

Director Van?

Yea.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Director Bradford?

Yea.

Director Howell?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

This motion passes five to none.

Our next intro action item is motion to approve BEST, the Beginning Educator Support Team grant, and that would be Steve. Please come up to the podium.

You may be wondering, why is the HR guy coming up to talk about the BEST grant?

[LAUGHS]

One of the exciting things is that-- I like to say that retention is the new recruitment, that a key part of our overall HR strategy, human capital strategy, is to retain the staff that we already have, especially the diverse staff that we already have. And I want to say and signal publicly that teach and learning does this beautifully. They did this quite well when it was located within the teach and learning team. HR and teaching/learning, we really worked closely together.

So while there's been an organizational shift over to HR reflecting that retention and support to new teachers is also an HR function, we're still working very closely with the teach and learning team in all aspects of this work. Teaching/learning really drives the profile for the kinds of teachers that we want in our system, leaders that we want in our system. And HR is a partner with teach and learning around that.

Really some exciting things happening. Deena Russo continues in her role, managing this grant and the peer mentors associated with it. We are going to be creating some demonstration classrooms over at the old Sunnydale site. And so as those come up and get up and running, you may be interested in coming and seeing how we will be able to actually demonstrate for new educators what classroom setup can look like, the rationale behind that classroom set up, and the instructional strategies and techniques in real space.

So really excited about this, and appreciate the opportunity to share a little bit about it. The grant is \$253,000. Obviously, the expenses associated with our peer mentors exceed that amount. It's a piece of this. We have a board policy that grants over \$250,000 would come before you. So for that \$3,050 difference or whatever it is, we're bringing that before the board for approval.

But perhaps more importantly, I just really welcome the opportunity to share a little bit about that program, get that plug out there. Retention is the new recruitment.

I like that.

I like that. Any questions or comments, concerns that Steve can address for us? Seeing and hearing none, I move that the school board approve the BEST grant in the amount of \$253,250.

I second.

Thank you. Roll call, Kyle, please.

Director Bradford?

Yea.

Director Van?

Yea.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Director Howell?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

This motion passes five to none.

Thank you. And our last intro and action is the motion to approve Mount Rainier High School softball and baseball fields synthetic turf installation, and so, Scott, you could-- oh, there he is already. Any questions or comments-- well, first I'll let-- see if he has anything to say.

All right. Thank you, President Alvarez. And first of all, I'll own the timing of this coming in later. We actually had this project ready to go about two months ago, and I wanted to hold off until we got to the finish line on Highline to make sure we were solid on where our budgets were landing so that we didn't get ourselves backwards in any way.

We're doing very well in finishing our projects on time and under budget. So we're in a good position to be able to move forward with this, even though this will be paid out of the capital projects critical needs side of the budget. So the reason for coming to you now with intro action is to support the timelines of starting construction now and in having an end result that supports athletic programs that will be coming on board in the spring. If we get started now, we can have this ready to go. Those fields had a beetle infestation. I don't remember the name of the beetle. I'm sorry about that.

Oh, no.

But there's two ways to address it. One is a freezing process that you do to the soil, and then you go through and rebuild the soil content and then replant. And that's a short-term fix. If we do this field turf approach, where we put we put in turf fields there, we will have a system that will last for years. It's able to withstand more daily and monthly cycles without having any damage as compared to real grass.

And as we move forward into the next round of bond conversations-- and Pacific Middle School is on it. Pacific Middle School is on a small piece of property, and doesn't support adding fields to that new project. These will actually complement and be adjacent to Pacific, so it will support that new school when it's up and going.

So now, I'll open it up for any comments, questions, or concerns for that.

I do you have a couple of questions. Has the budget changed or the pricing changed from two months ago to what it is now? Or are we locked in the pricing two months [INAUDIBLE]?

So we had a quote at the very tail end of when I put the kibosh on it or the hold on it so that we didn't get a quote. So we're still at the same price.

OK, and I didn't get the chance to read through the entire proposal. But what is the warranty on both fields?

The warranty on the fields-- Rod, do you want to talk about the warranty? I don't have that off the top of my head.

[INAUDIBLE]

OK, we can talk-- OK.

We can share that information with you.

Thank you very much.

That's it.

OK.

Any other concerns are comments before I ask? No? Seeing and hearing none, I move that the Highline School Board approve Mount Rainier's High School softball and baseball field synthetic turf installation approval to contract with Field Turf.

I'll second that.

Roll call, Kyle, please.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Dr. Bradford?

Yea.

Director Howell?

Yea.

Director Van?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

This motion passes five to none.

Thank you. The only thing is that I'm still curious about the beetle, but I'm sure I can get that later.

[LAUGHS]

Just kidding. With that, that concludes our intro and action. We do have one introduction item for next time, and it's the motion to approve the highly capable students program state formula grant application, 2021-22. And is this just our annual renewal of the grant? I hear-- OK, thank you, Jennifer. Any questions or comments as we move on? Or anything that we want to move to our consent agenda?

Well, I just really want to address the board during our agenda setting one of the other things that we had discussed about these annual contracts or the annual grants that keep on coming up was the efficacy of grants. If we keep on just rubber stamping them, show us the proof, is it working? So moving forward, I believe that cabinet is going to work with us to make sure that we see the proof-- where all the data is coming from before we keep on accepting grants and stuff.

Thank you, Director Van. So with that, do we want to move this to the consent agenda or just leave it, since it's just one?

I'd like to leave it.

[INAUDIBLE]

Thank you.

Thank you. I would, too. So with that, I'll just need a motion to adjourn our meeting.

I make a motion we adjourn.

I'll second that.

All in favor?

Aye.

Aye.

The meeting is adjourned.

Thank you, everybody.

Thank you.