

## Summary of March 2023 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

### **Cougar Pride – HKIS Kindness Club**

Principal Eric Larson introduced students from the Intermediate School Kindness Club led by teacher Jodi Stupakevich. The club has been working to spread kindness through the school and into the community. They have set up free compliment tables and sent letters and cards to people within the community, including a resident who recently turned 100 years old. The students shared free compliments to the Board members and staff – which were greatly appreciated.

### **Report from Student Representatives**

Callen Powers reported that Mr. HK took place on Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> and served as a fundraiser this year for the HK TV program's field trip to the NYC Film Festival. The hockey team is in the state play-offs and their next game is scheduled for Thursday at Trinity College. The HK Music department is holding a spring concert for chorus on March 16th. Senior portfolios are almost complete, and on March 8th WTNH aired a segment called "What's right with schools" featuring several HK seniors working on their portfolios. Course sign-ups are being finalized for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, and there are a variety of new courses being offered such as "If you love it, teach it", "From Bach to Beatles", "Hispanic Culture Through Film", and a new course in physical education that deals with conflict in sports. There are also a variety of new internships available.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- The first new boiler at KES has been installed and is up and running. The second boiler is expected to be installed over the summer.
- The District received a 3 year \$300,000 mental health grant that will help in providing services for Middle school and high school students next year.
- On February 10th, the Governor signed Emergency Certification Bill 6671 which provided an additional \$60 million of federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to allow school districts operating the National School lunch program to offer meals at no cost to students for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year. Starting March 1st, the district went back to serving free meals. Superintendent Wihbey wanted to thank a generous anonymous community member who paid the entire amount of the students balances for the months of January and February.
- The District has hired 8 new substitute teachers since January.
- The Curriculum office submitted the Reading waiver to the state Department of Education on February 14th.
- The high school was granted a Project Lead the Way grant in the amount of \$10,000 for engineering and computer science.

### **HKHS Field Trip-New York Film Festival**

Principal Hayward and teacher, Kasha Topa-Finberg presented an upcoming field trip to the All-American High School Film Festival, which is an opportunity for the students to learn from professionals and other colleagues from other schools. Principal Hayward presented the festival flyer providing the dates and costs associated with the trip. The students will submit films prior to the event and attend screenings throughout the festival on the big screens. The cost will be paid by student/parent funding along with fundraising efforts. The Board unanimously approved the field trip.

### **ON OUR WEBSITE:**

The 2023-24 budget information is available on the [www.RSD17.org](http://www.RSD17.org) website under the BOE menu option [BOE Budget and Updates](#) and the RSD 17 Master Plan Information is also available on the website under the District Facilities menu option [RSD 17 Facilities Study and Master Planning Website](#).