



HOCKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Preparing all students for lifelong success

DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WORK SESSION

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

6:00 P.M

LOCATION: VIA ZOOM ONLY

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: PLEASE CHECK THE HSD WEBSITE [HERE](#)
"NEWS & EVENTS" CALENDAR FOR A LINK TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

A. Establish a Quorum

School Board Chair Greg Gospe confirmed the attendance of all 5 members.

II. Debrief of 9/6 HSD Governor Visit

Superintendent Steve Marshall shared Columbian articles on the 9/6 visit by Governor Jay Inslee to the HSD. Marshall asked Board members Greg Gospe and Teresa VanNatta to add any observations from the day. Gospe asked Marshall to see if he could confirm the accuracy of the estimated energy reductions from Clark Public Utilities. He also encouraged Marshall to make the community aware that, while we have reduced our energy use, many other costs have increased. Gospe stated it was important that our families know that we are prudent with our dollars, but that there are many challenges due to inflation and other factors.

Marshall also spoke to a recent public information request and questions regarding the visit. All Board members were in agreement that the HSD respond with a prepared statement. Teresa VanNatta spoke to how exciting it was for the HSD to do something that attracted the attention of our state. Gordon Smith agreed. Smith said it was indeed a positive that the HSD was being recognized for its black and white reduction in electricity and energy costs. He added that while some can view this as a political visit, it was financial. Anne-Elissa Carter agreed and said that this is an illustration of our fiscal responsibility. Gospe said that the Governor was recognizing our district for pursuing grants and lowering energy costs, which eases our reliance on levy dollars.

III. Enrollment & Budget Update

Aaron Villanueva, Director of Business Services, reported on our Week 2 enrollment. Our formal count is 1,930 whereas our budgeted enrollment was 1,896. Villanueva pointed out that our 73

Steven Marshall, Superintendent

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TtK students help our enrollment. He also shared that principal and classified negotiations are coming up this year. Villanueva informed the Board that he will be closely monitoring the district's fund balance, being mindful of the 8% minimum required by Board policy. Patrick Carter asked about TtK. Villanueva explained that the HSD receives funding for this program, but that it was pulled from Basic Ed funding beginning this year. More updates will follow at regular board meetings.

IV. School Visits and Community Tour Planning

Superintendent Marshall explained that the Board visits the district's three schools in the fall and spring. He asked Board members to share their availability/schedule constraints. Teresa VanNatta volunteered to serve as the "sixth" member so there would be two Board members during each visit. VanNatta will be participating in both the HHES and HMS visits. Marshall shared that he would like to have another community tour in October.

V. Discussion: Community Listening Post & Education Event

Superintendent Marshall outlined the idea of a community night akin to a listening post. He shared that some in our community do not feel heard and others are not fully aware of the limited scope of a school board as well as the relationship between policies and state law. VanNatta liked the idea, but expressed concern about a positive event becoming negative. She emphasized the importance of maintaining a respectful atmosphere. Carter expressed his concern that a listening post could deteriorate into a debate or an attack. He stated the Board is one entity, not five individuals with different positions. Carter wanted to see the focus remain on students and not about people talking over others or attacking the Board. Marshall confirmed that the Board seemed open to exploring this concept, but seemed to share a misgiving that it had the potential for passions to overshadow the conversation as well as the information. Gospe added that it is difficult to overcome misinformation. He added that such an event could be a good outreach event, preceding the upcoming levy. Smith said that a more information format might work best a la "Coffee with the Superintendent." Anne-Elissa Carter agreed and offered that it might be best to pair such an event with another event such as a band or athletic event. She added that she was interested in hearing from community members we may not be currently hearing from. Patrick Carter said that the Board currently listens to community input via the public comment portion of our school board meetings. He said it might be a good idea for 2 Board members to follow up with each speaker to 1. show interest in connecting with the community member, 2. Validate that resident's input, and 3. Ask for any clarifying information. Marshall reiterated the Board's intention regarding public comment follow-up moving forward and there was no correction. VanNatta suggested that we add a column on the sign in sheet asking for "best way to contact" information. Marshall shared that the HSD would stop its perception survey as of this evening (Sept. 11) and would pass along an abstract of the parent feedback via email. He also asked for a Board volunteer for the upcoming Tour and Patrick Carter and Teresa VanNatta volunteered.

VI. WSSDA Conference Confirmation

Marshall asked for a confirmation of attendance at the upcoming WSSDA Conference on Nov 16-18. Gordon Smith expressed regret that he would not be able to attend due to other commitments. Marshall said that Gospe would not be attending because he would be leaving the Board in November. Anne-Elissa Carter and VanNatta said they would attend all three days. Patrick Carter confirmed he would attend.

VII. Adjournment Meeting

The meeting ended at 7:46 p.m.

A. Next meeting: Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m

Steve Marshall

10/4/2023

Steve Marshall, Superintendent Date

Greg Gospe

9/27/2023

Greg Gospe, Board Chair Date