

## **Summary of January 2024 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting**

### **Cougar Pride**

HKHS teachers Kasha Topa-Finberg and Marcy Webster and students Molly O'Neal and Mason Mazzotta spoke about the HKHS Holiday Telethon in December. The event raised over \$15,000 toward Kindness Over Muscular Dystrophy. There were over 3,833 views of the event via the live stream.

### **Student Representatives**

Madison Moriarty reported that several Music program students participated in the Southern Region Music Festival. Michael Perry spoke about the High School Midterms and the 8th-grade orientation at HKHS.

### **Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Wihbey reported that the Office of School Construction Grants & Review (OSCGR) has completed its audit of the 2019 High School solar project and made the final payment of \$436,518 on 12/21/23. This gave the project an effective reimbursement rate of 48.57%.

The Superintendent advised that the FY23 audit is in the process of being completed by the end of the month. An EFS extension was received from the state, and a preliminary update was submitted in December.

The Food Services department featured several items on the December menu that were previously tasted by and approved by the Elementary School Nutrition Ambassadors.

### **Board Subcommittee Chairs and Member Appointments**

Board Chair Sack reviewed the breakdown of the Board subcommittee assignments.

Communications Chair: Lisa Connelly

Curriculum Chair: Kathy Zandi

Facilities Chair: Shawna Goldfarb

Finance Chair: Prem Aithal

Personnel & Evaluation Chair: Corey Roberts

Policy Chair: Hamish MacPhail

Strategic Planning Chair: Prem Aithal

### **HKEA Teacher's Contract**

The Board unanimously approved the new Teacher's Contract agreed upon by HKEA representatives and the Personnel & Evaluation Subcommittee. Board Chair Sack thanked

and acknowledged all who took part in the negotiations as well as all HK teachers for the work they do.

Items of note will include:

- The contract is a 3-year term and is available online
- The contract represents a 13.79% increase in salaries over the term of the contract
- Insurance cost share will increase by 1% over the next three years

### **Master Plan Update Report**

The January 18th Tri-Board meeting was successful, and Superintendent Wibhey has received positive feedback from several town attendees. A meeting is scheduled with the District, Arcadis, and Tecton to discuss continued planning and information discussed at the meeting. Two new potential options (9A & 9B) were added to be considered. The next steps will be to obtain more information and review the data of options 8, 9A, and 9B. Then, updated material will be brought to the next Finance and Facilities subcommittee meeting.

### **Curriculum Subcommittee**

Kathy Zandi reported that HKMS Principal Dorothy Ventura presented to the subcommittee the planned scheduling changes for the Middle School. This will be presented in a future BOE meeting once the plan is finalized.

The Board approved new Integrated Science, AP Chemistry, AP Statistics, Probability and Statistics, Civics and Contemporary Issues, AP Spanish, and Health textbooks.

RSD17 was one of only 17 out of 86 districts to have our Reading Waiver approved, and the state has added the RSD17 curriculum to its approved curriculum list. Several districts have contacted Jenn Beermuender to walk through our reading program model. The district received a \$64,000 Right to Read Grant to be spent over the next two years specifically for the approved reading programs.

### **On Our Website**

The RSD 17 Master Plan Information is available on the website under the District Facilities menu option [RSD 17 Facilities Study and Master Planning Website](#). Email [masterplan@rsd17.org](mailto:masterplan@rsd17.org) with any questions regarding RSD17's Master Plan project.