

# Summary of March 2024 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

## **Cougar Pride**

KES Principal Dennis Reed introduced several students who shared their positive experiences with the KES Book Club. This before-school club has been extremely popular among KES students and helps to foster a lifelong love of reading.

## **Superintendent's Report**

HKHS announced the top two scholars from the Class of 2024. The valedictorian of the Class of 2024 is **Liza Murphy**, and the salutatorian is **Ava Harriman**. Congratulations to our HKHS scholars!

HKMS is excited about the March Spring musical, *The Pirates of Penzance*. The students have been working very hard with Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Fagan.

HKIS 4th and 5th-grade students engaged in hands-on financial education through the stock market program led by Mr. Houlton. By learning how to buy and sell stocks at a young age, these students are gaining valuable skills that will benefit them in the future and set them on a path toward financial literacy and responsible investing practices.

## **Student Representatives' Report**

Madison Moriarty reported on the start of spring sports at HKHS. The athletics department partnered with HKYFS on a program called *Substance-Free Athletics to Protect Your Game* about the negative effects of substances on athletic performance. She also shared that March 27th was Senior Portfolio Day, and Juniors spent that day taking the SATs.

Michael Perry reported to the Board that March 19th was Middle School Band Day, during which 8th-graders come to the high school to play in large groups in the auditorium and smaller ensembles. He also shared that the high school recently hosted a college fair, and several clubs have started holding Spring fundraisers.

## **Healthy Food Certification**

The Board unanimously voted to approve the annual participation in the Healthy Food Certification, which includes all food offered for sale to students including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Food and beverages sold at special events (like games, fundraisers, and shows) are exempt from the restrictions.

## **Acceptance of the FY23 Financial Audit Report**

Prem Aithal introduced Michele Loso of Seward and Monde who gave the Board a summary of the district audit and its process. No material weaknesses were found and the results can be viewed in the *Board Documents* section of the March 2024 Board Meeting.

<https://www.rsd17.org/district/board-of-education/boe-meeting-schedules-minutes>

### **Master Plan Update**

Superintendent Wihbey and Director Whittaker provided the Board with an update regarding the Master Plan and a memorandum from Arcadis with information to assist the Board in the next steps. The Board discussed phase options and possible timeline options. More information will be presented in future meetings.

### **Personnel & Evaluation Subcommittee**

Corey Roberts reported that the committee discussed the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation, and the upcoming Nurses' negotiations.

### **Curriculum Subcommittee**

Kathy Zandi reported that HKYFS presented the results of the Youth Voices Count survey administered to high school students, and HKYFS has scheduled a presentation of the results at the middle school on April 18th for anyone who would like to attend. The committee received updates on the *If You Love It Teach It* course, the Internship program, extracurricular activities, and the Curriculum Council.

### **Finance and Facilities Subcommittee**

Prem Aithal reported from the finance perspective on the audit findings and thanked the Administration for their work during the workshop process. Shawna Goldfarb reported information on the scheduling of the summer work, the high school HVAC system, and the security audit update from the facility's perspective.

### **Communications Subcommittee**

Lisa Connelly reported that Superintendent Wihbey spoke with the committee regarding upcoming community speaking engagements and short articles with information and accolades for each school. The committee will also set up the budget FAQs and an article for HK Now.

### **2024-2025 Budget**

The Board of Education's Proposed Gross Expense Budget for FY25 is \$49,818,029, an increase of \$2,162,321 or 4.5%. The Board of Education's Proposed (Non-Assessment) Revenue Budget for FY25 is \$1,285,128, an increase of \$31,050. The Net Budget Increase (Budgeted Expenses less Budgeted Revenue) is \$2,131,271 or 4.6%. Factoring in estimated fund balance being returned to member towns of \$1,060,457, Net Town Assessments increase by \$1,201,814 or 2.8%. The referendum will be held on May 7th at regular voting locations.

The Board of Education and the Superintendent will continue to communicate budget details and answer questions from the community. Questions may also be directly submitted through this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pwntIsC-X2PYR1mE5f\\_dmR9yAZXzo0U3aBHp-ECmOPY/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pwntIsC-X2PYR1mE5f_dmR9yAZXzo0U3aBHp-ECmOPY/viewform?edit_requested=true)

### **On Our Website**

RSD17 2024-25 Budget information may be found at:

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1712316524/rsd17org/x17k6dodcndu0dxo3odr/FY25BoardofEducationsApprovedProposedBudget40224.pdf>