



HIGLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2935 South Recker Road, Gilbert, Arizona 85295
(480) 279-7000 • www.husd.org

March 8, 2023 - Board Meeting Agenda Questions & Responses

6.4

What are the following fees for? Do we sell tickets through them and they charge us a fee?

ETIX, INC.- Ticketing Fees at the Higley Center for the 2022-2023 Season

ETIX, Inc. is a vendor the HCPA uses for ticketing outside events, shows, and performances. The fees are associated with using the ticketing platform based on number of ticket sales. This is paid from the HCPA revenue from total ticket sales.

Do you have a follow up to the E tix question. Why aren't ticket fees being passed on to the consumer? Why is HCPA paying them?

Ticket transaction fees are passed onto the consumer, but the district does pay for use of the ticketing platform. The HCPA pays to use the platform but do note the revenue garnered from the ticket sales covers this expense.

There is a \$300 charge for dance choreograph for CMS. What budget does it comes out of?

Cooley Dance Club pays for instructors to come teach new dance routines. This expenditure comes from the Cooley Dance Student Club account. As a reminder Student Clubs authorize and approve all expenditures from their accounts.

Per the Superintendent's Report regarding "Elementary Staffing:"

- Which grade levels/subject content areas at each site are "overstaffed?"

District leadership utilized current and projected enrollment to identify the number of sections for each grade level at each of the elementary schools. These sections are based on appropriate class sizes per governing board regulation IIB-RB which includes acceptable class size of 1:25 teacher-student ratio in grades K-2 and 1:26 in grades 3-6. After making these adjustments and reviewing the intent to returns issued to employees in January, district leadership determined that if all eligible contracted teachers were to sign contracts for the 2023-24 school year, Centennial Elementary and Cortina elementary would be "overstaffed" by three general education teachers each. It is important to note that we currently have openings posted on our website and anticipate more once contracts have been returned. Thus, we will be able to easily accommodate these six individuals.

Centennial has one teacher on a year-end contract, and Cortina has two year-ended contracted teachers. Year-end contracted teachers were hired after

contracted teachers reported for the school year and not guaranteed positions after the current school year per stipulations outlined in their contracts.

Centennial projected sections by grade level for 2023-24:

- Kinder-3 sections (down from 4)
- 1st-3 sections (down from 4)
- 2nd-4 sections
- 3rd-3 sections (down from 4)
- 4th-4 sections
- 5th-4 sections (down from 5)
- 6th 4 sections

Cortina projected sections by grade level for 2023-24:

- Kinder- 3 sections (down from 4)
- 1st- 3 sections (down from 4)
- 2nd- 4 sections
- 3rd- 4 sections
- 4th- 4 sections (down from 5)
- 5th-4 sections (down from 5)
- 6th-4 sections (down from 5)

Heidi Lindsay and site administrators met with Centennial and Cortina teaching staff on Tuesday, March 7th to provide this information. Teachers were informed that the district is prepared to place three teachers from each school in open positions within other HUSD elementary schools and that every eligible teacher would receive a contract. It was stressed that all eligible teachers will receive a contract and have a position within HUSD should they want to return. They also shared that current open elementary classroom teacher positions are only available to internal candidates at this time. It was also communicated that the goal is to be responsive to current enrollment, transparent with staff, and reassure them while grade level sections are being reduced, the district values employees and will continue to work closely with sites to best meet the needs of our students and teachers.

- If all current elementary staff return their contract, what criteria will be used to ask specific staff to transfer?

We need to wait until all signed contracts are returned to identify open positions across the district, and to see if we are still overstaffed at Cortina and Centennial per the return of contracts. Current elementary openings for general education classroom teachers are only being posted internally as a result. Employees continue to have the opportunity to communicate with administration and apply for an open position if they interested. Our goal continues to be to work closely with the sites to best meet the needs our students and teachers.

- If the teachers that are “asked” to transfer do not want to transfer, what will be their choices at that point?

We communicated to Cortina and Centennial staff that teachers within grade levels impacted by reduced sections are not automatically being identified as ones for transfer consideration. Instead, it was communicated after all contracts are received, if needed, we would come back to the staff and update them with a process to be determined that is supportive, inclusive, and provides for teacher voice.

Again, our intent is to be transparent with employees while reassuring them while some sections in some grade levels are reduced, every certified staff member eligible for a contract will be receiving one.

Item 1.1

Can newer board members be caught up on the specifics to this lawsuit during the Executive Session, especially with a possible vote on the matter during the regular meeting. It was mentioned that the Executive Session may take an hour. Would that time include my request above and any questions that may follow?

Due to the nature of this session, a summary of settlement and questions will be answered during the executive session and the time allocated will be sufficient.

Item 6.5

Is it common for a school Principal to travel to out of state sports competitions? If so, when and who please?

We have asked for administration, if possible, to attend out-of-state events to handle any issues that arise on the trip. We have allowed this for any group that has requested support or has large groups of students traveling. This year, administration has accompanied HHS football and volleyball, HHS boys basketball, WF Football, and HHS boys Volleyball.

Item 6.8

Are nontransparent donations commonplace? "The Blackbaud Giving Fund is a 501(c)(3) donor-advised fund that disburses charitable donations from individuals and companies directly to nonprofit organizations around the world." The donation is of a significant amount and surely can be used at Power Ranch, but is there a way to know who it is from?

On all donations the district maintains additional documentation regarding the donor. However, the district does receive anonymous donations on occasion. This donation is made on behalf of Boeing but no individual name was listed.

Item 6.10

What is causing the need for the \$350,000 increase. Is there a behavior pattern? For example: Illness, field trips, district events, district trainings, non-returning staff using accrued leave...?

The increase to the ESI purchase order stems from the increases that the Governing Board approved to the daily and long-term sub rate. This increase to the sub rate was approved on September 22, 2022 by the Governing Board. In addition, during the quarter 2 ESI report it was mentioned that the district would need to increase the original ESI authorization amount due to the daily and long-term sub rate of pay increasing. When paying ESI, it also includes retirees and rescue subs.

- ESI Quarterly Report #1 on 11/2/2022: \$276,193.31 used over the 62 school days from 7/25/2022 to 11/2/2022 (does not include blackout days) including the approved \$40/day sub pay rate increase on 9/21/2022.
- ESI Quarterly Report #2 on 1/18/2023: A total of \$656,317.48 used (**\$380,124.17 used over the 40 days of school** between 11/2/2022 and 1/18/2023).
- ESI Update and request for expenditure increase of \$350,000 on 3/8/2023: A total of \$783,681.05 used (\$127,363.57 used over the 28 days between 1/18/2023 and 3/6/2023).
- Per the information above, \$783,681.05 used over 130 days is an average of \$6,028.315/day.
 - If we keep that average for the 180 academic days in a school year, then that calculates to be \$1,085,096.8 needed for the 180 academic days.
 - We “only” (lol) have 50 days remaining in the school year. How did you calculate or determine that \$350,000 is what is needed?

The \$350,000 is a high estimated amount so if for some reason the district sub costs trend higher than expect the district has authorization to cover the expenses. If the district recommended a lower amount and sub costs trended higher than the district would have no authority to fill those sub position without the expenditure authorization.

- What account will this additional funding come from? Specifically, what other funding could be affected/restricted?

ESI is paid from the M&O fund. The increase is being funded from the contingency budget.

- Why not ask for approval of a lesser amount now, address excessive absences, and be transparent in the consumption of the budgeted amount to staff? Then request more later if needed.

If the approved amount is not used the funds return to the M & O budget, this is a blanket purchase to estimated costs.

Item 8.1

When will the traffic flow at WFHS be addressed? Is this a Future Agenda Item option?

The district is currently working with the Town of Gilbert on options for WFHS traffic flow issues. We have not finalized any decision yet and continue to work with the Town of Gilbert on solutions. An Agenda item will be brought to the Board if/when we finalize a recommendation.

Item 8.3

Please remind me of the difference between the "Contract Name List" and "Classroom Site Fund Base Name List."

The Contract Name List includes all certified and administrators. The Classroom Site Fund Based is just certified employees that received this per the contract.