

HIGLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 8, 2023 - Board Meeting Agenda Questions & Responses

5.4 Consent Agenda

Administrative Content

Please add another column to the Excel spreadsheet to include the descriptions listed on the PDF file under Check group.

Vendor	Voucher	Inv. Date	Invoice	PO No.	Total	Description
AASBO	1056	1/6/2023	300017013	202300030	\$87.50	YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FOR [REDACTED]
AASBO	1056	1/6/2023	300017041	202300030	\$175.00	YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FOR [REDACTED] AASBO VENDOR/BUYER CONFERENCE AND WINTER CONFERENCE JAN 24 & 25
AASBO	1056	1/6/2023	200034115	202303373	\$265.00	FOR [REDACTED]

This request will require additional work and staff time spent to generate what you are requesting as it is not part of our autogenerated report. While this is time intensive, we will make this available moving forward.

-Arts Mgmt. Assoc-Gentri-Can you please tell me who this organization is and what service they provided?

This vendor is a performance group that has a performance scheduled at the HCPA on March 13th, 2023. These are utilizing HCPA funds not district funds. These events generate revenue to support small facility enhancements and ongoing maintenance.

-Saturday School Instructors-Wasn't aware we have Saturday school. What is the purpose of Saturday school?

Saturday school is part of a progressive discipline plan on some campuses where students are assigned Saturday school in lieu of suspension for violations of the code of conduct. The Saturday school instructors monitor the students during the Saturday school.

-Adolfson & Peterson – Is this for the HHS project? If so, can we please add that to the description?

This was the final payment for the WFHS field house.

-Mileage Reimbursements for Finance-Is this for [REDACTED]? If so, what type of travel is done for financial related business?

[REDACTED] travels for several district related business including to school sites, to professional development, and various other district related business.

Several employees in the district travel for district related business and submit for mileage reimbursement under the State of Arizona Accounting Manual (SAAM).

-Education Week Subscription-Is this the same as EdWeek.org? If so, I don't believe we should be paying for subscriptions that put our racist, Marxist, bigoted and divisive articles such as this.

[What to Know About a Neo-Nazi Home-School Scandal \(edweek.org\)](http://edweek.org)

The article referenced was about a situation in Ohio where the outcome was determined that home school curriculum is not regulated by state education departments.

This subscription was a recommendation to us from National Board-Certified Superintendents as a resource that has a broad perspective of educational topics that are being discussed across the country. District leaders are able to discern if these news sources are credible as we stay apprised of information, myths and misinformation on current issues and trends that are being discussed from multiple perspectives on education both locally and nationally.

-Do we get any money back for disposal of assets?

The district often is able to collect monies back on disposed assets. Those funds are deposited in the school plant fund (fund 500) and used as specified in A.R.S. §15-1102.

6.1 Capital Outlay Budget

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-Bldg. lease 3,650,000-It used to be 4.4 mil. Was this reduced due to the refi? With the refi, is that now a fixed rate? If so, what is that rate?

Yes, the \$3.65M is the new Middle School Bldg. Lease amount. This was reduced due to the refi which will be covered in greater detail on Feb. 22nd GB Meeting. The average yield is approximately 3.008% (true interest cost is 4.522%).

-Will the IT refreshes be done in phases or all at once? Also, is this annual or a 1 time hit against the budget?

IT schedules these refreshes in phases with limited disruption to the classroom. The IT refresh is an annual budget that is evaluated each year based on need.

-Annual Maintenance-How does this compare to prior years?

FY2024 budget is a reduction of \$273,000 from last year's budget.

-Major Projects-Can you please provide what's included? He might do this as part of the presentation, but I thought I'd ask just in case.

The major maintenance projects are outlined on slide 11 of the Capital presentation.

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-Is there a carryforward for 23-24?

-M&O transfer to capital is to cover the leases?

The district is estimating carryforward approximately \$2m in the FY2024 budget.

M&O transfer to capital is to cover the lease payment and a portion of the major maintenance projects.

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-What does the levy mean? Is that good or bad for the district?

A tax levy implies the district will enact a tax rate on the property tax base of the district as outlined in ARS 15-905.01 (<https://www.azleg.gov/ars/15/00905-01.htm>) in order to budget for additional adjacent ways funding.

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-What is the assessment software? What is being assessed?

We are required by the State Department of Education to have assessment systems to monitor student progress toward the mastery of academic standards. This is an annual required expense.

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-Software renewals-is this for annual software use fees or new software?

-How often are student and teacher devices upgraded?

This is for annual software renewals. Student and teacher devices are upgraded regularly with software updates to ensure devices are up to date.

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-HVAC and custodial equipment-can ESSER funds be used for this?

The district has used ESSER funds for HVAC and custodial equipment. However, at this point, most of the ESSER funding has been exhausted and the district must prepare to move these expenses back into the budget.

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-How is it determined that instruments need to be replaced other than obvious broken items?

We work closely with our music professionals to inventory and evaluate the condition of our instruments using a rubric. This tool allows us to have a wholistic understanding of our inventory and needs.

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-Copy Machine-Is this for buying or leasing? If buying, is there a savings vs leasing?

Yes, this is for the purchase of an industrial copy machine for the printshop. The district reviews operation costs annually and at this time the cost benefit of leasing copy machines is not advantageous.

Agenda Item 6.2 Capital Outlay Budget:

Slide 8 talks about textbook adoption and the next textbook adoption will be for FY2025, and it looks like Social Studies will receive that textbook update. Can you tell me when the last textbook adoption was done? **The last adoption was K-12 Science in the 21-22 school year.**

Are there currently any subject areas in any grades that have made requests for new textbooks that we had to deny? **No requests have been denied.**

Or rather how many are denied until 2025? **We are not denying other subject areas. Materials are reviewed on a continuing basis to see that teacher and student needs are met.**

Is it only social studies courses that will see textbook adoption in 2025, is this due to other subjects recently getting new textbooks? **The only adoption being considered for 2025 is Social Studies as we recently adopted materials for ELA, Math and Science.**

Agenda Item 6.4 Health and Safety:

Other than the inclusion of COVID vaccinations and mask requirements were there any other updates to this policy on how the district handles communicable disease, or was the updated language limited to the inclusion of COVID 19 and mask requirements?

The only update to this policy is the COVID vaccinations and mask requirements. The updated language is in blue font. Black font is current language. This policy does not have anything being removed, but that would be in red with a strikethrough.