

Highland School District #203

District Office

Monday, June 3, 2024

Regular AM Board Meeting-7:00 a.m.

The **June 3, 2024, AM Regular Board Meeting** convened at 7:04 a.m. Present included Board members David Barnes, Nikki Keller, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Student Success Mindy Schultz, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Director of Business & Operations Francis Badu joined the meeting at 7:40 a.m. Director Lupita Flores was absent.

1. Communication Check-In:

a. HHS FFA-Thank you from WV Fair Board: The board had reviewed the thank you note and picture from the West Valley Fair Board and said it was a nice gesture. It is great that the FFA made the boxes for them.

No other communication discussion.

2. Spring Intersession Update: The focus of this session was transition. Thirty-five 2nd graders attended and got to 'try out' TES, almost 40 5th graders experienced HMS, and the 8th graders were introduced to high school by outgoing 9th grade Leadership students with a tour of the high school, a scavenger hunt, and other fun activities. There were a few small glitches as admin took over more responsibilities but overall the week went well. Attendance was down, but that is usual for the spring session since the weather is nicer and travel expenses are lower than in the summer. The kindergarten/kinder camp teachers commented that the new/incoming kinder students were familiar with kindergarten expectations, which is a direct result and benefit of them having attended Pre-K. Several HHS Seniors took the Seal of Biliteracy test and preliminary results show possibly more than 30 students passing. They will get to wear a special cord at graduation and have this achievement noted on their diploma. It also qualifies as credit for a HS language class. The test is open to students in grades 9-12 and we will offer it at Winter Intersession next year. Discussed SBAC testing: participation rate requirements, Special Ed testing rate requirements, and cell phone restrictions, all of which can make it difficult to meet the participation rate requirements, especially for smaller districts like Highland.

3. 1st Reading of New/Revised Policies: There were no questions about the policies: move them to second reading at the next board meeting.

New Policies: 6701 Recess and Physical Activity
6702 Wellness

Revised Policies: 2413 Equivalency Credit Opportunities
3246 Restraint and Isolation and Other Uses of Reasonable Force
6215 Expense Claim Certification and Approval
6700 Nutrition

4. Budget & Operations Update: This year we are planning to move ahead with the budget and approve it in June instead of July. An enrollment chart showed the downward trend of enrollment and related funding. We are projecting our enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year to be 1,002. We have made cuts according to [the drop in] enrollment and are trying to understand what we may be facing in the future with enrollment loss. Next reviewed a chart that showed actual budgets from school year 2020-2021 to the projected 2024-2025 school year budget. Our insurance is going up another 20%, roughly an \$82k increase. The projected fund balance will be 6.2%. We must be mindful and intentional in our spending next year in an effort to not have to make more staff cuts.

5. Staffing Update: The board was reminded that the 21st Century before/after-school program lost its funding and has been cancelled for the 2024-2025 school year, however, Barb Peterson who oversaw 21st Century has won a grant that she has offered to use for a K-5 afterschool program to be held at TES. MWC students would be bussed to TES for the program, but parents will need to pick their students up as there will not be transportation home. She is also applying for a grant that would allow us to offer a program similar to 21st Century in the 2025-2026 school year so that situation is looking up. We have two Special Ed positions posted, an SLP position, and all of the para positions for next year are posted.

Most of the paras that were in a one-year only position this year that want to return have applied. Some positions are continuing and some, due to unknown funding in the future, are one-year only. We have a good chance of having everything filled except the SLP, a difficult position to fill due to a lack of applicants. Discussed if it would be possible to connect/co-op with a university that offers SLP degrees. Discussed the process for Mindy to transition to the Assistant Superintendent/Director of Student Success in 2024-2025 and assume the superintendent position pending Mark's retirement. This will be spelled out on the June PR. Other staffing areas under consideration for change are a Director of Transportation, a Director of Facilities & Maintenance, and to contract out the district's required water testing.

6. Capital Projects Discussion: The scheduled work on the upgrade of the HHS and HMS HVAC systems is underway and some minor issues were discovered but were corrected so the project is still on schedule to be completed before school starts in August. Discussed the appearance of the exterior of the HS and MS. The awnings and doors need repainted. It would be nice to have banners on the light poles in the parking areas and the state winner signs illuminated. We need to get estimates for different options for fixing the football/soccer stadium field and the track.

7. HMS/HHS Exterior Lighting: We are looking at having LED lights installed in the parking areas with one additional light for the practice field since part of the goal of preserving the stadium field is to add lights over the practice field so the marching band can practice there instead of on the stadium field as it can cause extra wear and tear. Pacific Power offers a significant incentive/subsidy and the cost savings of LED lights over the High Watt HID & Incandescent units that we currently have could see the new lights paid off in a little over two years. The new lights will also be brighter, which could cut down on vandalism. The board approved the lighting upgrade proposal as presented.

Francis left the meeting at 8:23 a.m.

8. August Retreat Discussion: After discussion, Friday, August 23, 8a-12p was selected for the board retreat. Per those at this meeting, all expect to be at the June PM meeting except Nikki. There will be no AM meeting in either July nor August, unless something comes up.

9. Self-Appraisal of the Board: In the process of the current year self-appraisal, the board reviewed last year's appraisal, discussed each topic and assigned a value.

Director of State & Federal Programs Kirsten Lenz, Migrant Recruiter/Records/McKinney-Vento Liaison Elizabeth Thompson and several Migrant Leadership students joined the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

11. HMS Migrant Leadership Presentation: Kirsten shared that these leadership students are in the 8th grade and will be in leadership as high schoolers next year. She, Elizabeth, and the students took turns explaining about the Migrant Program along with a PowerPoint slide presentation. There are 164 students currently in the program. They attend meetings, some alone and some with their parents/families, and they help host events.

Kirsten, Elizabeth and the students left the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

10. Board Goals for 2024-2025 School Year: The board reviewed last year's goals, discussed and adopted the same goals with minor edits for the 2024-2025 school year. Discussed the HSD mission "A Quality Education for ALL Students" and that it is probably time to update it.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Chair

Secretary