

Highline Public Schools | Regular School Board Meeting - August 21, 2024

So welcome, everyone, to our regularly-scheduled board meeting for this evening. And with that, I will ask for you guys to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Oh, Giovanni. I'm sorry. Giovanni is here. How could I? Could you please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Thank you, everyone, again. Roll call, please. Director Tidholm.

Present.

Director Hagos.

Here.

Director Van.

Here.

Director Petrini.

Here.

President Alvarez.

Here.

And the gentleman to my left is our superintendent, Dr. Duran. And with that, I will hand it over right back to him for a recognition. Oh, I'm. Sorry. I'm already all ready for the recognitions. So I'll ask for any call for changes or additions to our agenda, a board meeting agenda this evening. Seeing and hearing none. So now we're ready for our recognitions.

All right. Good evening, everyone. Welcome back to the '24-'25 school year. It's my honor to be able to do part one of introduction of our new administrators, either who have moved positions within the district or are new to the Highline School District. So first, I'm going to start off with Jenny Jacob. Jenny, are you here? There she is. All right.

Jenny Jacob is our assistant director of research and assessment. She has served as a data literacy specialist in Highline since 2022. She also worked as an elementary teacher for several years, including as a special education teacher at Seahurst Elementary School. Jenny holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in special education from Dominican University. So congratulations and welcome.

[APPLAUSE]

And next, I know we had mentioned this last year, but Maria Juarez. Are you here, Maria? Yay, there she is. Maria Jaruez is our interim director of transportation. She has served as a transportation supervisor since 2015 to begin her career at Highland in 2001, when she served as a student intern in the transportation department. Since that time, she has also served as a bus monitor, bus driver, dispatcher, and manager. So fully confident you know every element of the job. So, welcome. Congratulations.

Thank you, Maria.

[APPLAUSE]

And Mandi LeCompte, director of communication. Are you here, Mandi? All right. Mandi joined Highland in 2017 as communications manager, where she has led communication plans for district-wide initiatives, including kindergarten enrollment, school choice, and equity and symposium. The National School Public Relations Association named Mandi a 35-under, 35 next generation leader in '22. And Mandi earned her accreditation in public relations APR in 2023. Congratulations, Mandi.

[APPLAUSE]

And in the back with family, I see, is Tove Tupper who is our chief communications officer. Tove joined the Highland communications office in 2013. Nationally recognized for her school communication work, Tove was named 2018 NSPRA front-runner and 2016 NSPR 35-under and 35 next generation leader.

Prior to Highland, Tove led communications for a tech startup and worked as a television reporter in Washington and Oregon, to have earned a Bachelor's of communication-journalism from Pacific Lutheran University, and accredited in public relations. So congratulations, Tove. Do you want to--

[APPLAUSE]

Do you want to do any quick intros? Who's with you tonight? Because I know you got your kiddos.

Yeah, this is my son, Bowden. Say hi.

Yay.

Hi, Bowden.

And my daughter Celia.

Hi, Celia.

Both future Highline students.

Yes.

All right.

[APPLAUSE]

And who else is-- who else is with you? Thank you.

Hi, husband.

Oh, no.

Good save, Director Alvarez. All right. Congratulations, Tove. For a billion administrators, I want to first start with Sarah Mitchell. I know Sarah is here. She's our new principal at Valley View Early Learning Center. Sarah served as an assistant principal at Meadowcrest Early Learning Center in Renton. Sarah began her education career as a kindergarten teacher in Seattle Public Schools.

She has also served as a preschool teacher, a dual language teacher, a multilingual learning teacher, and math specialist in various schools in the Puget Sound region internationally. She holds a bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of Washington, a master's degree in teaching, and teaching certification from City University, and a principal certification from Seattle University. Welcome to Highline, Sarah.

[APPLAUSE]

Dr. [? Aruba ?] Anthony, are you in the house today? There she is. All right. She is one of our new assistant principals at Highline High School. [? Aruba ?] most recently served as a dean of Choice Academy. She also previously served as expansion principal and dean of special services at Rainier Valley Leadership Academy, and special education teacher in the Puyallup school district.

Dr. Anthony holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Washington, a master's degree in education from Seattle University, and a doctorate in educational leadership and organizational design from Seattle University. She earned her administrator certificate in 2020. Congratulations.

[APPLAUSE]

Tiffany Flores. All right, Tiffany. Tiffany is a new assistant principal at Tyee High School. Tiffany most recently served as principal intern and special education teacher at a middle school in the Central Valley school district. She began her career in Spokane public schools, working as a middle school special education teacher. She holds an AA degree from Spokane Community College, a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in special education from Gonzaga University, and a second master's degree from Eastern Washington University in educational leadership. Congratulations, and welcome to Highline.

[APPLAUSE]

Brianna Gallagher. All right. Welcome, Brianna. Brianna is one of our assistant principals at White Center Heights Elementary. Brianna most recently served as an administrative intern and language arts teacher at Pacific Middle School. Before Pacific, she was a language arts and social studies in Washington, DC.

Brianna holds a master's degree in history and French from the University of Washington, a master's degree in medieval studies from the University of Connecticut, a master's degree in teaching from the University of Washington, and principal certification from University of Washington-Tacoma. Congratulations, Brianna. And so you have some family with you also?

I do. This is my husband, [? Reece. ?] He's also a teacher at Highline. And this is our son, Finn.

All right. Congratulations. Welcome.

[APPLAUSE]

All right. Next up, we have Brooke Garcia-De Leon, who is our new assistant principal at Hazel Valley Elementary School. Most recently, Brooke Garcia-De Leon served as the principal at Clyde Hill Elementary School in the Bellevue school district. She also served as assistant principal and dual language coordinator and elementary Spanish immersion teacher. She's bilingual in English and Spanish. Brooke has a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree in education from the University of Washington, and a principal certification from the University of Washington. Welcome to Highline, Brooke. Great to see you.

[APPLAUSE]

And Lori McEwen we all seen from last year. Good to see you. She is our new assistant principal at Sylvester Middle School. Congratulations. Laura most recently served as the dean of students at Innovation Heights Academy since 2022. Before Highline, she served as a high school language arts teacher and leadership teacher for several years. Lori earned her bachelor's degree in English literature and secondary education from Linfield University, a master's degree in secondary education from John Hopkins University, and a principal certification from the University of Washington. Congratulations.

[APPLAUSE]

And finally for tonight, we have Judith Prado. She is one of our new assistant principals at Glacier Middle School. Judith most recently served as the dean of culture at Tyee High School. She has also served as a language learner facility and Spanish teacher at Tyee. She is bilingual in Spanish and English. Judith holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a sociology and master degree in teaching from Seattle University. She also has a principal certificate from the University of Washington. Congratulations, Judith.

[APPLAUSE]

It's always such a joy to welcome our new administrators, and just appreciate all the work that you have done to be in these positions, and look forward to the work that you accomplish. Thank you, Director Alvarez.

Thank you.

Thank you, everyone. What an honor to have you all join our Highline team. And for me, I've been here. I moved here 25 years ago. And just to see the growth and to see also the diversity in our staff is just incredible. So thank you to all HR as well for all their work on this as well. So we're moving to schedule communications. On behalf of the board, we'd like to thank you for coming and speaking this evening.

Our norms and rules are posted-- are going to be posted. There they are, on the screens. Please be mindful that you're here to speak to the board and that there may be students here, or watching, that are paying attention to your words. In addition, the board will not be able to respond directly to you about your testimony during this meeting. Thank you again for coming and speaking. And yes, to the rest, please, please, please feel free to enjoy the rest of your day, for those that were here for recognitions. So with that, our first scheduled committee person is Alex Merrick.

Good evening, directors. When a person suffering from gender dysphoria undergoes treatment and subsequently realizes that they can never do more than impersonate the opposite sex, and that they have become sterile and sustained permanent damage to their body and brain, they commonly ask, how could they do this to me? Where were the adults? There are many more students in the Highland schools, the transgender clinic pipeline. So the question is not going away.

It will be asked many times in the coming months and years. Where were the adults? Right now, you are the adults. It's your job to look closely at what is going on in your district and stop encouraging drastic medical intervention. Sex hormones, like testosterone, don't only target the sex organs. They also shower the brain. They affect adolescent neurological development.

Puberty blocker risks include suppression of normal bone density development, greater risk of osteoporosis, loss of sexual function, and interference with brain development. Researchers have found that trans kids most often are suffering from a variety of disorders like autism, depression, anxiety, sexual abuse, broken families, and unstable homes. These are the real issues that need treatment.

Listen to the crucial question of one detransitioners. She says, quote, I want to ask you, how many other medical conditions are there where you can walk into a doctor's office, tell them you have a certain condition, which has no objective test, which can be caused by trauma or mental health issues or societal factors, and receive life-altering medications on your say so?" End quote. Well, the answer is approximately zero. Let's end this exception. Thank you.

Thank you for your comments. Our next speaker is Patricia Bailey.

Good evening. Last fall, it was heartening when Highline school administrators signaled their intent to create a dashboard to track and improve the alarmingly low academic achievement of Highline students. One could reasonably suppose data would be reported by individual schools and grade level. This way, the data would be useful to teachers and administrators at each building to evaluate and improve student achievement.

This data could also be used by the school board to assess the degree to which the superintendent was meeting academic goals for that year. That's why the recently-posted dashboard is so perplexing. Instead of reporting the number of students reading on grade level standards, metrics are based on the number of students making a year's growth.

The dashboard shows a 4% rise in the number of students making a year's growth in 2023 to '24 school year. Unfortunately, this methodology could be concealing the fact that these students may be two or three years below grade level to begin with, and making a year's growth falls distressingly short of needed gains. This is not transparency and even appears, it could be, an effort to obscure.

The Highline School District has some of the lowest academic achievement in the state and a very substantial number of administrators making hefty six-figure incomes, yet this is all the thought and effort senior management is willing to put forth to improve academic achievement. This is very troubling and unprofessional. It needs to be corrected using specific, rational standard reporting methods so that students can be prepared for fulfilling work and the future they choose. Thank you.

Thank you for your comments. Our next scheduled speaker is David [? Deman. ?] One more call for David [? Deman. ?] I hope I'm pronouncing his last name right. And one last call. Scheduled speaker David [? Deman. ?] Seeing and hearing that he is not visible or here, I'm going to move over, as our next scheduled speaker would be Anne Marie Cadbury. Cadbury. Oh, there you--

Good evening, directors. I'm just kind of dovetailing off of the low academic performance in the school. And I don't know if you're aware, yesterday there was a revised jobs report. And it looks like the job growth has declined 818,000 jobs. Where my concern lies is that we need to be producing competitive students in the district. And by this kind of decline, what we're doing is we're actually further eroding the child's success as they exit high school.

And I'm hoping that there is some remedy. I only found the statistics for the '22-'23 school year, so I'm hoping that the '23-'24 looks better than what I'm seeing. But this is very concerning. It's concerning for our community too, because without a strong academic performance in a school, are families going to want to move here? Are families going to leave?

Is our community going to erode because people are not going to want to set up businesses? And again, no jobs for the young people. So really, my ask is really, please return to a high academic standard. It's really what school is about. Thank you.

Thank you for your comments. And with that, that concludes our scheduled communications portion. And we'll move to our superintendent's update.

Thank you, Director Alvarez. I just want to start off to just say, I hope everyone had an opportunity to rest and recharge over the summer. I had the opportunity to travel and spend time with my family and definitely feel energized and ready to start another amazing school year. And today, I took my kindergarten to the first day of Jump Start. Yeah, definitely an emotional day, still feel it right now.

It was really also a really unique experience to be there as a parent in the parent meeting and hearing the administrators talk about our promise and the strategic plan goals. I was really grateful. But I'm just excited for the '24-'25 school year, and really look forward to seeing all of you out there, as I'll be at Hazel Valley a lot, but I'll also be at many of our other schools also.

The last two weeks have been really busy with staff training as we prepare for the new year. We kicked off our school year with our leaders in our district talking about building upon our promise. This will be the theme for our year. And we introduced the idea of the big four that we have here within the district to build upon our strategic plan goals, literacy, inclusion, multi-tiered systems of support, and secondary redesign.

These big four focus areas will really help us to ensure that we're fulfilling our promise, reaching those academic outcomes we want for our students, and really ensure that we are meeting the goals of our strategic plan. These are not new areas for Highline, but they will definitely help us to be more focused as we continue to move the work forward. I also had the opportunity to present--

I want to just thank HR for this because formerly we always called it new educator induction, but we changed it this year, and it's called new to Highline teacher induction, which included both brand new teachers to the profession as well as teachers who are coming from other districts to join Highline public Schools. I was excited to welcome both the new and veteran teachers. And I led our educators through a session around identity, really making connections to my own experience and knowing the history of my family.

And through my own identity work, I know I better understand much more about those who came before me and the path I'm creating for my own family. Teachers had the opportunity to write some poems about just how they choose to identify and share those out with each other. And I really feel like we just got that started process. But I'm just so grateful to have so many educators who want to be in Highline and committed to working to ensure this promise comes true.

You'll see an action item related to this topic later on the agenda, but I want to share an update on the Southern Heights sites. As many of you know, the Southern Heights site was significantly damaged by a fire in July. Building 100, which housed the gym and the administrative offices, was deemed a total loss. So buildings 200, 300 suffered extensive water and smoke damage. And the damage and destruction at Southern Heights site, which houses two schools, requires a relocation for Highline Virtual Academy Innovation Heights for school to begin on time in September in 2024.

I know how distressing this has been for our staff, for our families and our students who attend those schools. And we've been really working really hard since July to ensure we have a safe and high-quality environment on the first day of school for those students at those two schools. To address the urgent need for educational space, we have been preparing the original Beverly Park site on 116th Street for the '24-'25 school year for Highland Virtual Academy Innovation Heights.

We had to immediately relocate programs and storage items from the original Beverly Park site to another site in the district in order to ensure that the old Beverly Park is ready for the first day of school. The timeline is very tight, but we're very confident that when the school year opens, we will be ready for our students and our staff.

We also recognize the immediate relocation programs was not ideal. We had to move some programs that have been at the old Beverly Park. We did not anticipate this emerging event, but our first priority is to have the site for students on the first day of school ready for them so they can begin the school year with a great start.

The renovation work is underway at original Beverly Park site. If you drive by, subcontractors are working literally from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM almost every day. I went by there on Saturday and saw quite a few contractors there. They're doing amazing work to ensure that that site is going to be ready. We have coordinated closely with the principals of Innovation Heights, Innovation Heights Academy and Highline Virtual Academy, to ensure the renovations meet the needs of the learning programs.

We also distribute information about their innovation to nearby residents. I want to really thank communications and Rosie from the group, who actually hand-delivered this information to the families that are around that school. So I really just want to sincerely thank everyone for getting this site ready. It's been a lot of work. And the support for our students does not go unnoticed.

And we really want to just thank Jackie and Allie from capital projects for all the work that they've done, because it has been a lot of learning to try to navigate this and move this. But really grateful for the work that is going on so that we can be prepared. And now I'd like to welcome our president of the Highline Education Association, Jeb Binns to the podium to give us an update. Welcome, Jeb.

Thank you very much. Wow, August, here we are again. Equity Symposium next week. I'm excited to join in. I'm going to take up Glacier Middle school on their-- I turned back to the person who's now left. But on their standing opportunity to join them for meetings and join them for the Equity Symposium. So I'm looking forward to that.

I'd like to welcome our new administrators, who are currently not here for me to welcome them. And I look forward to working with this year. And if they watch the playback of this video, I'm sure they will. They'll know that when I show up, it's not a scary thing. So that'll be OK. So I wish them well and look forward to working with them.

New hire orientations, as you mentioned, are in full swing. It's just lovely to see engaged, excited folks. I had another 36 or so educators with me this morning at Neo. I just appreciate our HR partners, one, for finding some great new educators for our students and for our community. And the folks today, if you had the opportunity to walk by this room this morning, this was a really cool group.

I don't know. There was this-- they were vibing. It was working and everything. They were all in all the time. So that was really great. So Sean and I had a great time working with them this morning, so that was cool. We were talking about academic standards, and so I want to comment a little bit around this idea. So I dropped off my daughter Abby at CU Boulder to start her senior year.

She's a former Mount Rainier Ram. I guess not former. She is a Mount Rainier Ram, who is a pre-med major, had Dean's list her junior year, and is ready to go, taking some courses, and including taking an endocrinology course this summer. While on vacation in England, she was taking her tests on her finals. So I was like, that's some serious dedication because if I was-- yeah, I probably would not have passed that class. And she did. So I was like, good job. So that was pretty exciting.

I also want to give a shout out to the inclusive education department for-- Abby worked as a paraeducator this summer and worked in the office. And she just had a great time meeting people and working and providing whatever assistance that was needed for that. So it was great. And she also ended up the year as a library assistant at Midway Elementary.

So got to see just a wide variety and see kids. And it was really fun, was all throughout the summer she would run into her students as she helped at the library. And they would come up, Miss Abby. And it was really quite adorable. So that was great. So just in those few weeks, she made some strong connections.

And finally, please let me know how the association can assist with the move into new Beverly Park. If there's something that's needed from-- whatever that is, whatever that looks like, come up with, it can be from serious to goofy, something to make folks go through that. It was truly unfortunate, the carelessness of folks that caused this. And it's a hit to our students and to our staff. So if the association can help you get some ideas around, please let me know how that goes through. I'm looking forward to the year. And with that, I wish you a happy '24-'25.

Awesome. Thank you, Jeb. That concludes my report tonight, Director Alvarez.

Thank you, Dr. Duran. And with that, we move to school board reports. Do we have any updates on legislative reports?

Although we are excited for the upcoming legislative session, we do not have any legislative reports at this time.

Thank you. Now we go to director reports. Director Petrini, anything to report today?

Thank you, President Alvarez. I see here that marine construction pathway at Maritime, they're going to be launching a new marine construction program, offering students hands-on shipyard training and a Maritime shipyard welding certificate. Maritime High School will also offer three pathways for juniors and seniors, marine construction, marine science, and vessel operations.

Students will also learn and take part in a Harbor Island Training Center operated by-- I can't speak today. It's like a Monday. -- Virgo Industrial Shipyards and South Seattle College. In addition to off-campus training, students in all three pathways work with Maritime school instructors on complementary projects with a blend of academic and hands-on learning opportunities. That sounds really awesome.

And just my own little report. It's been a nice, relaxing summer for the most part. Can't wait for routine to come back, but also very apprehensive about the school year starting. And lastly, one thing on my mind is wanting to get back in with community engagement. So I'm hoping, for myself, to be doing community engagement probably every other month, starting with September, which is National Literacy Month.

So I'm hoping to put together, like, a my favorite book event, something-- I don't have a date just yet, but that should be towards the end of September. So hopefully the next board meeting will have some dates worked out. But just sitting with families and teachers and anyone who wants to come to bring their favorite book, and we'll go in a circle and share what our favorite book is just to inspire different classical literature that we love, or things that have made impressions in our lives that we want to share with each other that would inspire others to pick up a book and try something new. So look for some information about that. That's all I have.

Thank you, Director Petrini. Director Tidholm.

First, I want to preface. Everybody keeps saying, welcome back to the school year, Dr. Duran. We have two weeks. Can I get these last two weeks of my summer, please? I am super excited, mostly for school to be starting. My fridge is going to be a little better stocked, my electric bill is going to be a little lighter, and my internet is going to actually not be so laggy because kids won't be on video games when they're not running wild.

Super excited for that. My niece, actually, is moving to our school district, coming from the school that I went to as a child. So I'm super excited for that. Hi, baby. I'm talking about you. Also, just with the new Beverly Hills-- I'm sorry, the new Beverly Heights location, that's going to be-- oh, my goodness. I can't speak. I got so excited seeing your cute face.

Moving Innovation Heights and Highline Virtual to the new location, I'm really excited for that. It was really unfortunate, obviously, what happened, and just being unsure of what that was going to look like for the new school year. But I'm really happy that we were able to get this together and ready for the new school year.

Having had graduate kid from an alternative high school myself and gotten my diploma, I know how important these programs are and these opportunities for our babies who need alternative forms of education, or to catch up on credits or whatever their situation looks like. So I'm really happy for that. And it's super close to the last location, so there should be minimal if no impacts to the babies being able to get to school and get their educations.

And then also wanted to remind everybody to download ParentSquare, if you do have children. The app is our tool for school-to-home communication, and it makes it easy to keep up with the classroom, school, and district updates. You get notifications through emails, texts, and the app, or one or the other, whichever you so choose. And it's super simple to use.

I'll tell you personally, having a sophomore in high school having been on the app for some time, it's great. You can get pictures from the teachers, communicate back and forth. You can see their grades. So if they lose their report cards-- and if you haven't done so yet, yeah, download the app from Apple or Google Play store. Log in, set your preferences, and you'll be all set for the school year. You can also keep up with your registration and all your annual paperwork that you got to get done, too. And that is all that I have.

Thank you, Director Tidholm. Director Hagos, anything to report?

Start with new information to me that I'm excited about. It says here-- let's see, the Museum of History and Industry, which is MOHAI, is recognizing Parkside Elementary School, Principal Bobbi Giammona, and the entire Parkside staff with the AI Young Educator of the Year Award. It's a pretty big deal. This award honors educators who demonstrate excellence in education and tackle challenges in their school and community.

Parkside staff in particular are being recognized for their work to support about 75 students and their families who recently joined the Parkside school community from Afghanistan. And the teachers and the staff of Parkside have worked together to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment, celebrating cultural diversity and pioneering innovative educational strategies. And the Parkside team has worked closely with the International Rescue Committee to support these students and families.

And so what I know is that Bobby and her team will be celebrated at MOHAI's HistoryMakers gala on November 8. And this is really a proud moment and a testament to the dedication of our educators. And so that was exciting to read and learn about for something going on in my neck of the woods. OK, a couple of other things I wanted to share is that this has been--

I didn't plan for this to be an incredibly busy summer, but this has been a very, very busy summer. I know right before we left, we held a debrief on school board community engagement goals last month. And as I've been doing different trainings and different professional developments throughout this year, one of the things that I had read in "Eight Characteristics of Effective School Boards" is that it asserts that high achieving school districts have regular two-way communications with stakeholders and community members.

And so I'm proud of the efforts taken, that we've taken at least, to help support a board two-way conversation at the community conversations that were held back in June. And kind of just going through some of those themes that came up in conversation, it seems to be some things are in alignment and some things are a little bit newer, in terms of what I've heard by way of just the years that I've been-- the two years that I've been on the school board, which we started out with those listening sessions that I got to join in on and hear things from our community.

And there were other things, in terms of surveys and thought exchanges, that have come up across the years. And then we landed with a-- I think it was our Highline Education Association Jeb Binns and Dr. Duran did the staff listening sessions. And there are so many themes. And as I was reading through some of the themes and just kind of gaining a good sense of where we've been and where we're headed, a couple of things that I know that were some celebrations is that we identified student success, well-being, and student-centered approach as positive things.

And folks appreciated those staff and student relationships, in terms of the supportive environments. There was some praise for the alternative learning pathways and opportunities, and really the things that we do around tailoring educational pathways and experiences with future-ready interests. Some of the areas of opportunities that I've caught by way of the June conversations, and some things that have been coming up for the last few years, is some of those expressed concerns around growing student needs and some dissatisfaction with focus on non-academic initiatives.

Some people feel that it's at the expense of academic success and progress. And there is also some interest in advancing safety efforts and reducing issues that impact the learning environment and well-being of all. So that's kind of the feedback that I've gathered. I really took the summer to digest, what have I been hearing? What have we been doing? What are the things that are happening across the district?

And that's kind of the feedback that I've gathered, through the things that I've been hearing personally as a board director. And I'm hoping that we can make some adaptations to do some things in terms of closing up those areas of opportunity. And I believe that we will. And I think we will be on the right track for that.

And last month, I did attend the Strengthening Tribal Consultations training, as required by State Senate Bill 52-52. And the trainings-- I'm actually quite happy that I went. The trainings incorporated some helpful information and practices that I believe school board consultations-- what they should look like and how we can work with our sovereign nation tribal leaders.

I found some interesting things around The Seal of Biliteracy. I had no idea that The Seal of Biliteracy incorporated a Native Tribal language component to it. So that was exciting. I know that we work on that as a district. And that was a piece that matched the things that we were doing in a district that was new to me. So I was excited to learn.

And I applaud that unanimous bipartisan legislative change with House Bill 18-79 to rename a curriculum John McCoy. I don't know the name. I've worked really hard to try to perfect the native name that he has. And I believe it's [INAUDIBLE], I believe. But that's the name of the curriculum, along with, since time immemorial, honoring his tribal heritage, and specifically calling that out for the curriculum that we have implemented in our schools.

So the training really helped me unpack the significance of House Bill 18-79 And I noticed-- I noticed some things, and I'm really working on some things to help support the things that I've learned in that training. And with that, there was a-- gosh. In Des Moines, we had-- stopping by-- I forget the name of the journey, but it's a canoe journey.

And each year they do it. it's a Native American canoe journey that happens by way of, I believe, the Puyallup tribes. And there's several tribes that come together. And there was a stopping point at the Saltwater State Park. And the group of what they call youth leaders made a point to come and spend some time at Saltwater State Park out in Des Moines. And to me, it was an honor to hear and bear witness to that unique and culturally-rich experience, student experience, the stopping by in Des Moines. So that was really cool.

OK, so a couple more things. OSPI launched a new program last year to feature student writers across Washington State. It's called Washington-- no, it's called Student Stories Program, and it invites high school students to write stories that are then published through OSPI. And in July, there was a student story that was titled "Leadership Is More than a Title."

And the author wrote about her experiences through Key Club, and it reminded me of a really well put together Key Club out in at Evergreen High School. And I know that it's in some other areas too, but that's the one that's the strongest. I went to a fundraiser through the Eagles Club-- no, through the Kiwanis Club. And all the proceeds of the fundraisers went to Youth Foundation and youth serving others in the community.

And I believe they also call-- it's the Key Club. And it's a service project, and there are all those things. But when I was reading through the kid's story, it reminded me of our own kids who are also doing those kinds of things. And it really did link the efforts that were made through the service learning club to leadership and what that looks like when it's more than a title.

OK, so a couple more things, and then I'll stop. But I have more. But one of the things that I was really excited about is I got the chance to visit some summer school sites throughout the summer months. And it was Dr. Parker and Dr. Felder who really allowed me to experience it in a different way. And I'm so thankful for their time, of allowing me to come in.

Oh, it looks like-- can you see me?

We can see you.

Maybe you can hear me. I'm not sure if you can hear me.

We can hear you and see you. You're just frozen on the screen.

OK. Maybe even the computer thinks I should probably stop talking. Let me get through the last piece here. Let me get through the last piece here. There really is so much more. The summer has been packed with a lot of exciting things. But it was a pleasure. I really enjoyed being able to go out to the summer schools, and so thankful to the staff who welcomed me and took me around the school.

I got to see a lot of work around literacy, but also innovative and interesting community partnerships that really dived into some of the work to help engage our students and further-- the hope was to close, or improve, developmental and academic progress. But what I saw was inspired. I was inspired by it, and I think the kids, from what I saw, looked quite engaged and excited to be there.

Let me scroll down really quick on my little sheet here. I want to get to just two more things, and then I'll pause. We have a couple of upcoming events in Des Moines. The Des Moines farmers market has a wonderful tradition. Every year that I've noticed it, they host a kid's day. It's a Youth Entrepreneurs Day, where eight kids ages through 9 to 17 years old get to show off their creative projects and things that are based off of hobbies and skills, but really things that they've developed themselves.

And they host their own table. They are little entrepreneurs. And this year, it's on September 7th. And it's a youth market, and it's open from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. And I believe applications for a table open to youth is still available. It's any youth in the community. And if you're interested and you've got something going on, in terms of creative projects, kiddos, this is the time to kind of get yourself out there. If you just want to go and visit the booths, encourage these little innovative spirits, please go do so on that day, if you have time and energy to do so.

And then last thing is on Tuesday, August 27, the City of Des Moines Citizens Committee is hosting a meet and greet with the city manager candidate finalist for the city. The event will take place at the Beach Park auditorium, and it's open to all, open to the public, starting at 6:30. Community members are invited to meet the candidates, learn about their vision for our community, and ask questions or make comments that reflect the needs of our students, youth, and families. So student and family participation will help shape the future of Des Moines that aligns with aligning city and school. It's kind of just advancing towards student success. So if you've got something to say, that's the day to come out.

I think her internet was a little bit unstable, and now she's gone, so we'll go ahead and move on to our next director's report. And if she comes back on, we'll give her a chance. Director Van, anything to report?

Yeah. Thank you so much. If you haven't noticed, we've replaced the aging synthetic turf at Highland Memorial Field this summer. We're also the first state to add the permanent Girl's Flag Football Alliance to our turf. So we have a spot for them. The project also added the names of our four comprehensive high school athletic programs in the corners to celebrate our student athletes when they're competing at our shared stadium. That's pretty great.

We really appreciate the \$250,000 grant from the NFL Foundation and the Seattle Seahawks. And they're the same program, the same grant program, that helped us install the synthetic turf at Evergreen in 2020. So we expect the Seahawks to come back and celebrate with us when we do a grand opening. Really, really excited for that.

I just want to welcome back, everybody. And congratulations to the staff that have moved on to their new roles, in addition to--

Welcome back in.

Two more weeks, Joe. We have two more weeks.

Yeah. Not for my son. He's already dreading it. But welcome back-- or welcome our new staff that have gone to their new roles, our new administrators. Welcome to our community and our schools. This past few weeks, I've been having the opportunity to work alongside the Success Foundation. I want to thank the school district for supporting the Workforce Discovery Lab, giving them a space.

We have 30 students that were able to go and tour 15 of our businesses around the Puget Sound, from Saint Anne's Hospital, to Museum of Flight, to Coca-Cola, to the mall and showing them that there are more opportunities out there, that if college isn't the right way for them, there are other trades that we can give them opportunities. And it was really, really great.

On Monday, a fellow Tyee alumni, Congressman Adam Smith, came to the foundation, the Success Foundation at SeaTac City Hall. And he was really interested in our workforce plans and what we're doing at PSSC and all of our CTE programs. So he's looking forward for us to share more, and then also the grand opening of his alma mater at Tyee next year. So that is it for me.

All right. And we see Director Hagos is back. Director Hagos, you had a couple of things left.

I think I'm OK.

Are you sure? OK.

Yeah, I'm positive. I'm looking at the times, in terms of some of the other things that I wanted to share, and I have more time.

OK. Thank you, Director Hagos. And the only thing I have to report is I heard a lot of talking about turfs, but has anybody driven by Sylvester Middle School and their track? Let me tell you how many tennis shoes I had to throw away because I would go and walk that track, and I could just not get that red dust out of my shoes. And it ruined a lot of my clothes, and it ruined a lot of my kid's clothes and some of the school uniforms.

So I am just so, so thankful to see that the synthetic turf has been installed. So the new track lanes and the stripes and all of that and the fence is still up. So a soccer mini pitch has been added by our Ray Foundation and Seattle Sounders partners. A modular bathroom is nearby completed, with funding allocated by the state legislature through the Department of Commerce.

It is a gorgeous facility now, and I am so excited to go. I used to live really close by where we'd walk. Now I don't live so close. Now I go walk at Seahurst. But just to know that the kids will enjoy it and not have their red shoes. They were never white after the first run on that track, let me tell you. The new track and field was a project promise and delivered by our 2022 school bond.

We expect the construction fence to come down just before school starts. A date was just set for Friday, September 6 to celebrate with a school assembly, followed by an after-school community-wide opening event with the Ray Foundation and the Seattle Sounders. So come join us. Enjoy food, soccer balls for children, skills, and drills, music, and more. Sign up on our website for our e-newsletter as well to receive an invitation, and so you can RSVP.

That's all I have for today. I'm just super thankful for our kids to really have an opportunity to be out, be active. A lot of times, I would try to drag my kids to Sylvester, and they're like, no, Mom. No, my shoes. No, Mom. And they were all worried about their shoes. But now they're all grown. Now I have my grandkids, so I'm going to be dragging them down there at least once so I can say that I've been on that track. So thank you again for all your reports, directors. And with that, we move on to our consent agenda. So I'll ask for a motion to approve our consent agenda.

I'll move to approve the consent agenda.

I'll second.

All in favor.

Aye.

Aye.

Any opposed?

Director Hagos, all in favor? Yay?

Yay.

OK. I saw your head moving, and I'm like, whoa, just a minute. So any opposed? So I meant, probably, it was a no for no oppose. So our consent agenda has been approved. So now we have several action items. The first action item is to approve the revision to the board policy 24-10, our high school graduation. Any questions, concerns, comments?

Seeing and hearing none. I move that the Highline School Board approve revisions to our board policy 24-10. And I need a second.

I'll second.

Roll call, please. Bless you.

[SPANISH]

Thank you. Director Hagos.

Yay.

Director Petrini?

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Van.

Yea.

President Alvarez.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you. Our next motion is to approve our annual renewal, Brown and Brown Inc., and Schools Insurance Association of Washington for district insurance coverage. There was a small revision since our introduction. So any questions, concerns, or comments on that?

Seeing and hearing none. I move that the Highline School Board approve the annual contract renewal with Brown and Brown Inc. for \$447,343, and approve the annual contract renewal with Schools Insurance Association of Washington for \$5,284,250, for a combined total of \$5,731,593, with minor modifications or adjustments as approved by the superintendent for the '24-'25 school year. Any I need a second now.

I'll second.

Roll call, please.

Director Van.

Yea.

Director Hagos.

Yea.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Petrini.

Yes.

President Alvarez.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none. Our next motion is to approve the annual contracts for McKinney-Vento Qualified Student Transportation. Any questions, comments, concerns? Oh, we lost Director Hagos again. So any-- hearing and seeing none, concerns, comments, or questions.

I move that the Highline School Board approve the 2024-'25 school year contracts with Evergreen LLC for \$2 million, and HopSkipDrive for \$3 million, for a total of \$5 million, in McKinney-Vento Qualified Student Transportation, with minor modifications or adjustments as approved by the superintendent. I need a roll call, please.

Can we have a second to--

Oh, I'm sorry.

I'll second.

Thank you. Now, roll call, please.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Van.

Yea.

Director Petrini.

Yes.

President Alvarez.

Yea.

This motion passes 4 to none.

OK. Thank you. Now, a motion to approve the annual contract with First Student for the '24-'25 school year. Any questions, comments, or concerns?

None.

Seeing and hearing none. I move that the Highline School Board approve the 2024-'25 school year contract with First Student for a total of 250,000, with minor modifications or adjustments as approved by the superintendent. And I need a second.

I'll second.

Roll call, please.

Director Petrini.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Van.

Yea.

President Alvarez.

Yea.

This motion passes 4 to none.

Thank you. Our next motion is to approve our contract between Northwest Maritime Center and Highline Public Schools. Any questions, comments, or concerns? Seeing and hearing none. I move that the Highline School Board approve the contract between Northwest Maritime Center and Highline Public Schools in the amount of \$321,192. And I'll need a second.

I'll second.

Roll call, please.

Director Van.

Yea.

Director Petrini.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

President Alvarez.

Yea.

This motion passes 4 to none.

So our next five action items, they're intro and action items. And we'll have a presentation for each one of them. And so our first one is a motion to approve resolution 15-24 regarding the Southern Heights Elementary school fire. Thank you, Jackie, for coming up.

Good evening. Attached to the bar, you'll find the emergency declaration resolution for the fire that was associated with all of the Southern Heights damage. So this resolution is necessary to waive the contracting requirements in two different RCWs. The first one is 28A.335.190, and the second one is 39.04, along with the policies and procedures in 62-25.

So Board Procedure 62-25 defines an emergency as, unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the district that either A, present a real, immediate threat to proper performance of essential functions, or B, will likely result in material loss or damage to property, bodily injury, or loss of life, if immediate action is not taken.

So based on that definition, the catastrophic fire at Southern Heights, the building necessitated us finding a new location, as was mentioned previously, for both Innovation Heights Academy and Highline Virtual Academy. The original Beverly Park site was chosen as the site for those two schools after a pretty extensive search of all of our district properties and any possible lease properties within our district boundaries.

Once that decision was made, we realized there's some pretty substantial work that needed to occur very quickly at the site in order to have our students there on the first day of school. So Forma Construction was granted an emergency contract to begin work and are working to restore the original Beverly Park site, the main building and the portables both.

And that includes a lot of work on electrical, mechanical, plumbing improvements, painting, flooring, making the restrooms ADA accessible, and many, many other improvements that I don't think I could name them all right now. I just have to say, Forma has done an amazing job. In the past two weeks alone, the difference in that school is just-- it's amazing. So I'm very excited what they're going to do with the next week and a half.

In addition to that, Apex Facility Resources was granted an emergency contract to move all of the surplus items that were at the original Beverly Park site, along with the programs that were on that site, to other district locations. So most of those things and programs were moved to our Salmon Creek site. So one of the questions we've been asked a lot is around insurance reimbursement and the costs associated with this.

I have to say, the insurance adjusters have been very helpful. They have an actual consultant on site every day at original Beverly Park, who is working with Forma Construction. So as things are discovered, they're approved through the insurance on site. So there's no lead time. There's no delay in any of the construction. So we are continuing to monitor that work to ensure compliance with the insurance at all times.

The total cost still is unknown. That is unknown by the insurance adjusters, unknown by us, unknown by the contractors. It's just going to depend on how much work is done, both at the original Beverly Park and through the buildings at Southern Heights. So Southern Heights building 100 is going to be scheduled for demolition within the next few weeks. Remediation of the site will occur after that for all of our necessary safety work on that site.

So this resolution that you're looking at tonight will cover that demolition contract and all the remediation work, but will not cover any of the restoration and construction afterwards of Southern Heights. So that will not be part of this emergency declaration. So what this emergency declaration does tonight is it ratifies all the contracts that have already been issued for this construction at both Southern Heights and original Beverly Park.

It ratifies all the future contracts that will be needed to ensure the safety of our students and our staff. And we anticipate the need for this emergency contract and this resolution to continue probably through the first semester of this school year. Forma will do everything they can to get that site as ready as possible by September 4th, but we do anticipate that they will be working evenings and weekends, when students are not on site, to conclude the work.

We'll continue to share updates on contracts and costs as we know more on a regular basis. And once we've concluded the emergency declaration, we'll bring a full accounting and present it to you at a future board meeting that will have both insurance reimbursements and then also any Highline costs that we've incurred due to the fire. Happy to take questions.

Thank you, Jackie. Any questions? Yes, Director Van.

I do have one. And Jackie, thank you so much for letting us know. With this emergency declaration, the board will receive updates on contracts on a regular cost. That's really, really important. But also, Director Tidholm and I are on the capital oversight that is usually shared during those meetings. So we will be kept abreast of what's going on and share with the board in the meantime as well. So thank you.

Thank you.

Any other questions or comments? Seeing and hearing none. Thank you, Jackie.

Thank you.

I move that the--

President Alvarez, just so you know, Director Hagos is back online. Director Hagos, can you confirm that you can hear us?

Director Hagos, can you hear us? I don't see her on there. She's on phone?

She's on her phone. I see that she can hear you.

So any questions or concerns regarding the motion to approve resolution 15-24 regarding the Southern Heights Elementary School [INAUDIBLE].

Yeah, I have a question. Sorry, I couldn't get myself to be unmuted here.

Sorry, Jackie. Come on down.

Can you hear me?

Come on down. Go ahead, Director Hagos. Sorry about that.

That's OK. And so I think I understand the emergency waiver. And it sounds like there's a plan to ensure transparency, in terms of what's happening with contracts and those kinds of things, despite the fact that there is an emergency waiver in place right now. It's just more of getting this emergency under control, is what I'm understanding so far. I'm curious, what is the plan if insurance does not cover certain costs? I don't know if I already missed that, if that was a part of Jackie's presentation. But if insurance doesn't cover these costs, how will this impact the district's budget?

So we are anticipating that insurance will cover the majority of the costs. For those costs that aren't covered, it would be covered out of our capital fund. And we do have contingency funds available for this type of situation. We're also pursuing some possible grants through OSPI for any funds that aren't covered by the insurance.

Thank you, Jackie. And then another follow-up question is just, what criteria is going to be used to determine when this emergency declaration should end? Is it when the project's completed itself and things are under control, or is there some other particular timeline that's already been assessed for completing the necessary work? I know that no students are not going to be back in the building this school year. I'm just curious if there's a timeline in terms of how this will be completed.

Yeah, so the emergency declaration will cover the original Beverly Park restoration. It will cover the demolition of Building 100 at Southern Heights, but it will not cover the construction that occurs after at the Southern Heights campus. So we're anticipating this emergency declaration will run through probably January of this year, or whenever Forma is done with their work at original Beverly Park, and when the demolition is complete at Southern Heights.

OK. OK, so a good timeline in terms of the emergency part of this all, but not necessarily-- we don't know the long-term implications at this point.

No, we haven't. We've been focused on original Beverly Park and getting that school ready for students. So once we're done that and we have our first day of school with our students on site, then we will turn our focus to the Southern Heights campus.

Great. Thank you for putting our students and schools first. Appreciate it. Those are all my questions.

OK. Thank you.

Well, hearing and seeing no other questions, concerns, I move that the Highline School Board adopt resolution 15-24 declaring an emergency, waiving requirements of RCW 28A.335.190 and RCW 39.04, authorizing and ratifying contracts made in response to the emergency and providing for other matters properly relating thereto. I need a second.

I'll second.

Roll call, please.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Hagos.

Yea.

Director Van.

Yea.

Director Petrini.

Yes.

President Alvarez.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

So now we'll get a presentation, since it's intro to [? action ?] motion to approve purchases from Dairy Fresh Farms Inc. in 2024-'25 school year. And who is giving that Presentation? There we go.

Good evening. It's not me, but I'm going to introduce our director of nutrition services, Lisa Johnson, who will be giving you the presentation.

Thank you.

Thank you. Good evening. I've already included all of the background information, why it is an intro action item. But basically, it was because of us being part of an interlocal. And it had to go to South Kitsap board. And unfortunately, they had moved it to a later date. And so that's causing us to have a little bit later action. Any questions for me?

Any questions or comments? Director Hagos, any questions or comments?

I do. I was curious. I know that we've had this dairy contract for a few-- well, I shouldn't say the same contract for a few years, but we've been using the same group for a few years. And it's gone up in pricing around 60 to 70 grand. I know that we typically saw this annually coming in as 390,000 for the dairy contracts, and now we're at 460. So I'm curious what the higher amounts are reflecting. Is it just an increased cost, or are we having an increased volume of kids drinking milk? I'm just curious about that.

Very good question, and it is both. Being that costs are significantly going up for packaging and also the product, and also because we are a community-eligible and we're able to offer meals at no cost for both breakfast and lunch. So we're able to attract a lot of families and hopefully help on grocery bills.

Thank you. And so also with that contract language, I know the last contract we had with Dairy Farms, it was-- I don't know if it was solidified in 2019 or if it was in 2020, but there was a certain time, and then the contract amount was capped. Or not capped, I shouldn't say. The contract, there was some sort of--

I don't even know if it's a promise, but I remember some language around, this will be the price annually until a certain date. And that certain date was this past school year was the last school year with the 390,000. This new contract, does it have those same type of stipulations in place, where this \$460,000 is going to be in place for a certain number of years, or is this going to be renegotiated annually? And will we see a possible increase annually if that's the case?

So, good question. And so this is the first year of the award. And then the districts can roll that over. Again, we're maximize using our efficiency and trying to keep the costs down, and having a lot of districts as part of this interlocal.

Any other questions?

Thank you. Just a thank you. It sounds like there's some cost-effective purchasing happening and a little bit of consistency happening as well, so I appreciate your responses.

So hearing and seeing no other questions or comments, I move that the Highline School Board approve this agreement to spend up to 460,000 with Dairy Fresh Farms Inc. For the '24-'25 school year.

I need a second.

I'll second.

Roll call, please.

Director Hagos.

Yea.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Petrini.

Yes.

Director Van.

Yea.

President Alvarez.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Our next intro and action item is motion to approve special education department contract with staffing agencies in '24-'25 school year. And who is coming up?

Dr. [INAUDIBLE], Dr. Parker I believe is him.

All right. Good evening, everyone. I would like to introduce Dr. Janet Parker, executive director in our student learning team, as well as Gaye Bungart, one of our directors of special education, to talk a little bit more about this.

Thank you.

And I'm actually going to let Gay take this one. Yeah.

We had overages that were paid by the end of June, so we had to make--

Mic. We can hardly hear you.

I apologize. We had payments that we still needed to make for some of the staffing that caused us to ask to have to come back and ask for more money to pay the budget. We had some difficulty getting some of the agencies, one of the agencies to also get us their invoices, and so that caused this unknown factor for us to have to come back for that. So it was staffing that was in place through the end of the school year.

So this motion basically is to pay some back bills that they had not billed us, and now they finally have, so now we're trying to pay this?

Yes.

Thank you. Any questions or comments on this?

I'm curious, these agencies who had some lag in sending us the invoices, has that issue been discussed and resolved, or should we anticipate-- excuse me. --this same issue next year?

No, it's been resolved.

All right. Thank you.

Any other questions or comments?

Yeah, not necessarily a question in terms of paying back a bill that's due, more so of just continued conversations around-- I can't remember. I'm having a hard time keeping up with all the different staffing agencies that are supporting our special education services. I know the need is there, and it is great. And I'm so, so grateful that our district is finding all kinds of ways to get this coverage for our kiddos.

At this point, I think-- I don't know if it's four or five. And I'm losing track at what they're all doing and why there are so many different agencies. I think there's some SunBelt, and Soliant, and Maxim Healthcare. And I really forget. There are some others, two or three others that I think I'm losing. Or I think I'm omitting--

I'm adding them here right now because I can't remember their names. But my question is, is there anything in terms of a resolution around finding, whether it's a pathway, or something we can do to help generate our own staff with special education so we're not continuously relying on staffing agencies?

Dr. Grubb.

I love that question. The answer to that is hiring. And I believe that the strategies around recruitment and retention that are outlined in some of our workforce planning reports get into more granular detail. Tonight, on the personnel report that was just approved, there were 91 educators in this week alone that were hired. Of those, 18 were paraeducators and nine of those were special education teachers.

You'll see on item 10.7 a request to continue our partnership with Sunburst, which is a managed service provider that takes Maxim and some of the other agencies, puts them under a single umbrella. We think that our goal in HR is to, in effect, not have to use that contract. The reality is we'll have to use some of it.

But we think that through centralized hiring processes, as the school year approaches, we're going to be able to fill many of those paraeducator positions and also the certificated positions. I will say that there are some needs of students with disabilities, especially students with severe disabilities, who do require highly specialized care and skills and instruction.

And the labor market is just not there to always be able to hire exclusively through our Highline hiring processes. So there will be a need for managed service agencies, such as Sunburst, but our intent is to really reduce that. I thank the board for its previous approval of increased pay raises for paraeducators.

You may see in the community right now a strong commitment with a billboard campaign to recruit. And we are seeing a real impact in the number of applicants. And then also, I have a lot of confidence in our principals and school leaders around our efforts of culture of belonging, to really ensure that people who come to Highline stay in Highline, and a big part of our retention effort.

Thank you. It sounds like there's some long-term staffing solutions. But really, I'm excited about some of those innovative staffing pieces that you just mentioned as well, Dr. Grubb. Thank you.

Any other questions or comments? Seeing and hearing none. I move that the Highline School Board approve the Special Education Department to amend the contract with Sunburst for the '23-'24 school year to amend the current PO and increase it by \$375,000 to cover the cost of services that were provided for the '23-2024 school year. I'll need a second, please.

I'll second.

Roll call, please.

Director Van.

Yea.

Director Petrini.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Hagos.

Yea.

President Alvarez.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Our next intro and motion item, action item, is motion to approve professional services agreement with Seattle Children's Hospital for athletic training services for the '24-'25 school year. And who's-- thank you, Jennifer. Any questions? Oh, you got a presentation.

We do have a little information. So first of all, just want to take this opportunity to share that we're excited that athletics, for the first time this year, is part of our student learning team. And that's a new organizational change for us, and I think really signifies the connection between student activities and athletics and physical well-being on student learning. So we're excited that Phil and team are part of our larger student learning team this year. Phil is not able to be here tonight, so to speak to this on his behalf is one of our ILEDs, Jacqueline Downey.

Good evening. Since 2012-2013, school year athletic training services have been available at our comprehensive high schools. In the early 2000s, we had athletic trainers who were district employees and taught athletic training or sports medicine classes during the school day, and then worked in the evenings at games and practices. However, this has been challenging to sustain.

And currently, as we've had natural attrition in these positions, we've contracted with Seattle Children's Hospital to provide athletic training services. On July 11, we had the final district employed athletic trainer resign, providing an opportunity for all four athletic trainers to be under the Seattle Children's Hospital umbrella.

Event coverage through Children's is contractually guaranteed. When we had our own athletic trainers who couldn't report to work for whatever reason, events were left uncovered. So there's that benefit to Seattle Children's to have coverage. Alignment with Seattle Children's means our students receive first-class athletic training services from employees of a well-respected health care system.

We, as a district, still remain responsible for providing training supplies and a training room. And contracting athletic training services like this is a cost savings for the district, as opposed to employing our own athletic trainers. Do you have any questions?

Director Hagos, any questions or comments?

Nope. I just like the safety aspects of this also. Thank you.

Thank you. Other directors?

I do have one. So I noticed in the agreement where it states there's some language in a form that parents will have to sign, and what that says, and that the district has to provide that to Seattle Children's. Why would that be?

It's just part of Seattle Children's contract, so that parents are saying, we realize you're treating our child. And it's just part of the expectation in health care industry to have that signed agreement.

So what if you have a parent that chooses not to sign it? Would they not be able to have their child participate in sports?

I do not know the answer to that question, but I can find out. I do know that previously, when we had our own athletic trainers from the district, there was still this kind of waiver that was signed, consenting and acknowledging that the student would be receiving care from a district athletic trainer.

Right, but that was kept within the district. So this is now going to the Seattle Children's. So why would they require the need to have a copy per-child that is receiving services through the training? I guess I misread some of the contract being that this was athletic training for the teachers, and I wasn't quite seeing the connection, why that went down to the parents signing a waiver that was sent back to the Seattle Children's.

I believe it's just so that families are aware of the risks associated with participating in athletics as well. It's really just a medical professional standard to have that acknowledgment before receiving care.

Is that information kept-- i don't even know what the word is right now. --just secure, so that that's not data information that they're sharing out as well? Does it stop there?

I imagine so, but can confirm.

OK.

Oops, sorry. To clarify, Director Petrini, are you under the assumption that the athletic trainers are going to be training the staff? My understanding is the athletic trainers are going to be contracted for our events, specifically for the students, as opposed to the district employing our own athletic trainers. So it would be the same waiver that our athletic trainers would-- well, not our athletic trainers, but the district would have had parents sign for our athletic trainers, but now it's going to be Seattle's Children's who will have the waiver for that. And under HIPAA, I would imagine that it would, obviously, be confidential.

Well, when we have our own athletic professionals at the district level, that waiver is-- the liability lies between the parent and the district. This is now adding a contract that the district is entering into, therefore pulling parents into it as well. And I just want to make sure that they understand that that's where their information is going when they sign this waiver as well. Does that make sense?

Yeah.

Just to confirm. So I'm hearing a question around what information is directly provided to Children's, and then what are they held responsible to do to keep that confidential. Am I hearing that accurately?

Yeah, that's part of it.

So I think in terms of-- the things that we can go back and confirm is, whether or not we do provide, the specific information when I read the contract, it says that Highline Public schools will ask for that information from families. It does not stipulate, that I saw, that we would provide that information to Children's. So we can go back and confirm whether or not it's provided to--

It does say, "District will promptly provide or ensure that each school promptly provides to Seattle Children's in a manner agreed upon by the parties, a copy of each Athletic's signed form."

OK, thank you. So then we can confirm that second part then, about them holding that in accordance with state and federal laws as a privacy confidential. Yeah.

Thank you.

So any other questions or comments?

Hearing, seeing none. Seeing and hearing none. I move that the Highline School Board approve the professional services agreement for athletic training services from Seattle Children's Hospital for the '24-'25 school year. I'll need a second.

I'll second.

Roll call, please.

Director Hagos.

Yea.

Director Petrini.

Abstain.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Van.

Yea.

President Alvarez.

Yea.

This motion passes 4-0 to 1.

Thank you. And our last intro and action item is a motion to approve South Central Administration Building, confirmation of approval of change order number 64PO220444 with McKinstry. Jackie, thank you. Welcome back.

Thank you.

So this is a change order, so not necessarily a new contract with McKinstry. They are doing most, if not all, of our HVAC work that's associated with ESSER funds. And as we wrap up ESSER, August 31 is the last day that we can perform any work that is going to be associated with any ESSER funds. And this work had to occur in the summer.

So we did do an emergency change order to allocate these dollars to McKinstry to do the work on the Central Administration Building South, which needed three new-- I'm not sure what they're called, but the three new sites on the roof that needed to be put in in order for us to gain occupancy permits on that site.

Questions or comments? Director Hagos, any question or comments?

Yeah, I think I'm still a little-- I'm a little confused. So is this a change order for new rooftop things that need to be fixed, or is this something existing, and we found that there's new costs related to it? I'm sorry. I'm just not understanding what this is about.

So this is part of the ESSER III HVAC work that was approved by OSPI back when we first received the funds. What we're doing here is allocating-- because we just had a pot of money, basically, to use for HVAC purposes, it's allocating those funds. So we found that we needed additional funds for this site as we got in there and did some additional work so that we can eventually have greater occupancy permits for that building.

OK, so it's for a particular building. It's not that we found new buildings that did not have HVAC systems that need them in place.

Correct.

It's one that's our [INAUDIBLE] building. I guess then my comment is, I'm not-- the Parkside-- or the Des Moines community in general, but Parkside in particular, is right underneath that flight path. And there are planes that go overhead all day long. And I think that's one of the sites that does not have an HVAC system.

And if there's extra money, I'm curious as to why we wouldn't have looked at, like, what buildings do not have one? Why do they not have one? And how can we make sure that there is a systematic-- people are paying attention to all the buildings that may need one that do not have them before we expand on the buildings that do.

So what I do know, there was definitely a process that was put in place when we went through and did the HVAC planning with the ESSER dollars because we knew those ESSER dollars were a very unique opportunity. And there was a system of decision-making of which buildings needed that work done. And so, unfortunately, I wasn't part of capital at that time. But I do know, because I worked with OSPI in having this approved, that there was a process where all the buildings were vetted.

OK. Thanks, Jackie, for helping me understand that. I guess for me, this is an intro and action item, and I didn't-- I don't think I'm going to get another opportunity to mention this. So I wanted to make sure I share that I am concerned. I don't know what that process looked like. But many folks talk about the higher levels of breathing-related issues amongst the flight path.

And Parkside is directly on the hot red line of that flight path, and yet there's, at least from my understanding-- I could be wrong, right? I don't know. But from my understanding, I do not believe that building has one. And if there was extra funding, it would have been nice to hear that there was at least first a chance to look at which buildings do not have them that missed the chance, for whatever reason, to apply and get one, or to go through the process to have an HVAC system in the building.

But that would have been-- for me, it would have been a relief to know that we looked at the schools across the district that didn't receive some of that support from the ESSER funding with HVAC systems before we advanced and provided more for buildings that do. I guess I missed when I read it. I must have missed it. I thought it said something about rooftop as I was reading it.

And these, when it comes to capital projects, that's an area where it takes me a little bit more time to digest it. So I really do appreciate your presentation. It helped me to learn kind of what this is all about. And now I'm kind of concerned that school buildings that are underneath the flight path, that do not have an HVAC system, still will not have an opportunity to apply and get one, whereas other areas are getting more.

I just want to comment that every one of our buildings has an HVAC system to it, and there was a process to go through, to determine if they needed upgrades or changes to it. So can you speak to that?

Yeah, I can.

And to note, having been a graduate of the wonderful and new program that I'm a huge advocate for, and having been OSHA trained and certified, regulations wouldn't allow a building to be in use that did have, not only an HVAC system, but a working HVAC system. So though I'm not familiar with that specific school, I would imagine it does have an HVAC system in place.

I also want to--

Sorry. I'll wait.

I also want to bring up, back in October of '21, we actually had McKinstry go and do a study for all of our schools. And they gave us a list of schools that needed it more, or locations. So it wasn't that Parkside was left out. It was, what was more important? What was the need out there? So it wasn't subjective, and it was an outside contractor that provided that consultation for us. Was that correct?

Yes, that's correct. And if you look at the list of schools that did receive the HVAC upgrades associated with ESSER, it's a lot of our older buildings.

Well, that makes sense. That's incredibly helpful. Thank you to the board directors who chimed in. I can't really see now that I'm on the smaller screen, but I heard Director Van's voice, and I think it was Director Tidholm. But thanks for chiming in. That's helpful to know that there was a study done that helped determine which buildings received these ESSER-funded-- I should make that clear. -ESSER-funded supports for the clean quality air systems.

But I still go back to, when McKinstry did this study, it was probably, perhaps, for the greater need, right? Like the buildings who really need it. But now that-- not additional. --there is funding that still can be used, it would have been nice to do a second go around to say that, yes, all the buildings that really needed this funding for clean quality air has received the standard support and additional supports that we were able to offer through ESSER.

Now, are there still any buildings left out there that could have used some air quality supports that are missing out on that? And maybe-- I'm not sure because I guess, for me, this is a comment that's come up several times through elected officials and through community members, something about Parkside not having received ESSER-funded support with HVAC systems or air quality systems through ESSER funding.

And so, again, this is an intro and action item, so I really don't have time to come back to this again. So I'm bringing it up because it's a concern that's come up from our community. And I don't know all the pieces to it, but still, if the McKinsey study, if that's supported, making sure that the buildings who needed it got it, and now we still have additional funding, I would have liked to have heard, we've done a new study, and those buildings that missed out or didn't get ESSER-funded support for air quality, we can take a look to see if there's a need there.

And if there isn't, then go ahead and use it for the buildings who have already received the ESSER-funded support. But if there is, then to pause and wait and provide those supports for the buildings. And for me, just personally, having known that flight path and knowing the red line and how that red line walks straight through, straight through Parkside, if there was some money on the table to improve air quality, I would have loved to see it for the schools that are directly underneath that flight path.

Any other questions or comments?

Thank you, Jackie. I move that the Highline School Board approve change order number six in the amount of \$305,398.26,, not including tax, for PO 220444 with McKinstry.

I'll second that.

A roll call, please.

Director Van.

Yea.

Director Hagos.

Nay.

Director Petrini.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

This motion passes 4 to 1.

Well, thank you, everyone, for the presentations. I love, when it's intro and action items, to really go through and get more of an explanation of what is happening and why we're doing, and most just to clarify for our public, that intro and action items usually are only because they're emergency, have a time, date that needs to happen now before our board meeting. If not, we would be out of compliance, or we would be missing out on the opportunity.

So it's really rare that we bring something-- we don't ever bring something to intro and action item that we can save it for the next board meeting. Just clarifying on that. And with that, we have some introduction items. And we're going to have presentations, I believe, for our introduction items as well. Our first intro item is motion to approve the negotiated salary increase between Highline Public Schools and Teamsters Local Union Number 763, representing instructional support and administrative support staff. So any questions?

Hearing and seeing none.

We move to our next motion to approve-- again, these are all introduction items. Motion to approve revisions to salary schedules between Highline school district and Highline Education Association and building administrators. Any questions?

Seeing and hearing none. Our next intro item is motion to approve bowling alley equipment closeout CP 230086. Any questions?

Seeing and hearing none. Our next intro item is motion to approve resolution 07-24, Highline High School, final acceptance of construction completion, and final acceptance of construction completion, and final acceptance of PO-- excuse me. --number P180580, issue to Skanska USA Inc. Any questions?

I just have a brief one. So Highline High school was finished years ago. Why are we seeing the end of this contract finally now? What was the delay?

Come on in, Jackie.

I'll make you get your steps in today.

Thank you for the question. This is pretty common as we close out any other things on punch lists on that campus. And now we need to actually have a formal closeout by the board because we did receive some grant funding for that construction. And in order for that grant funding to be received, we need to have a formal resolution and a declaration that-- the completion of the construction.

OK, thank you.

You're welcome.

Thank you, Jackie. Our next intro item is motion to approve Pacific Middle School Replacement Project, approval of the contract amendment number 5, an increase of purchase order P201415, [INAUDIBLE] Architecture-- oh my God, I'm so bad at that. -- architectural and engineering services. Any questions?

Hear and see none. Our next intro item is motion to approve Hilltop Elementary School, final acceptance of purchase order P210238 issued to Olympic Peninsula Construction Inc. Any questions? Seeing and hearing none. Our next four, 10-7 to 10-11, all of them have presentations. The first one is motion to approve special education department to contract with staffing agencies in '24-'25 school year. Thank you.

I think Director Hagos may have anticipated this presentation and asked a question earlier, and I don't intend to belabor. We have strong hiring processes in place to hopefully significantly reduce our reliance on the managed service providers, in this case Sunburst.

Thank you.

And any questions?

I have a couple. Yeah, so this is pretty much for 10.7 all the way through 10.11, just kind of going through the daily rates that they charge us to-- so it looks like we're about 75 FTE positions vacant, right, going into the school year. So we're contracting with all these different people, and they have very high rates with this. I worry about, what if you have paraeducators that are like, oh, I could leave Highline?

I know we just upped our pay for paraeducators, which is really super important, but is it competitive enough that you wouldn't lose a paraeducator that would go to one of these places and then be contracted back to Highline, because they love it here, but they want to be paid more?

No, great question. And in fact, we do pay agencies about twice the rate that-- \$25 an hour, which is starting rate for a paraeducators to the agency. Sadly, the employee does not see that doubling of the rate. The agency takes a cut, and there aren't the same health benefits and things of that sort. So in fact, it kind of works the other way.

We often will get paraeducators and other employees of the agency who want to flow into Highline. And that's the more typical and common route that we have. Now, the agencies are savvy to this, and they write into the contracts penalties and timelines that make it difficult for the employee to do that. But even with those penalties and timelines, we do successfully recruit out of the agencies at times.

I would just make a footnote that the pay rates for teachers vary within the agencies. And then there are some, as I mentioned earlier, highly specialized services that are going to command a significant premium, but those are rare.

Thank you for making that distinction. And you also had noted in this, 83% report trouble hiring for non-new teacher positions, such as classroom aides. So what are we doing to-- I noticed that, each month when we go through our reports of people who are coming and going, paraeducators seems to be the number one position I keep seeing pop up of, we're hiring a lot, but we're also losing a lot.

So what are we doing to keep those paraeducators engaged? And should we have any kind of work session around what's happening with our special education and hearing from paraeducators of work environment, hearing from parents how that's working for them too? Because I know there's a big connection there as well.

I think Dr. Parker has a clarification she wants to make, but I love that question. I'm happy to come right to it.

I just want to clarify, 10.8 through 10.11 is around students. So it's not around any kind of staffing issue, that these are non-public agencies that are IEP decisions, that, regardless of staffing that we would have here in Highline, the needs are being met at a non-public agency, which are those school contracts that you see.

Right, but we have contractors coming in into the classroom. Is that how it works, or no? This is people going outside of the district, getting those services somewhere else because they couldn't get it here?

Yes.

OK, that's good to know. Thank you.

The other part I just said is that we do plan on having a work session around our inclusion program, based off of the review that we had this last year. So that would be definitely a conversation we'll have with the board.

Great.

And just keep things concise and to your point about and question about work sessions on workforce planning, typically we do an annual workforce report, and paraeducators and special education staffing are a regular feature of those reports.

OK. Thank you.

So for the intro to motion to approve special ed department to contract with staffing agencies 2024-'25, thank you, Dr. Grubb, for answering those questions. And then I think-- Jenna, thank you for making a clear distinction about 10.82 through 10.11, that it was student-facing.

So I'll go ahead and read those into our-- and still see if you guys have any questions. Motion to approve 10.8-- I'm sorry. Motion to approve contract between the special ed department and Children's Institute for Learning Differences, Child, in '24-'25 school year. Any questions around this?

Next intro item, motion to approve a contract between the special ed department and the Emerald Learning Center in '24-'25 school year. Any questions on that? Next intro item, motion to approve a contract between the special ed department and Heartspring in the '24-'24 school year. Any questions on that one?

Sorry, I haven't said hearing or seeing none. We move on to the next. But our very last intro item is motion to approve a contract between the special education department and Overlake Hospital Medical Center, DBA Overlake Specialty School in the '24-'25 school year. Any comments or questions?

Just a comment. These are intro items where we still have a few weeks to submit questions and things like that, right? This is not-- we're not voting on these?

No, these are intro items.

OK, thank you. Thank you. I was just making sure I knew what was happening.

Yeah, these are intro items. That's why I kept saying before every single one, this is an introduction item. And with that, any items we want to add to our consent agenda?

Yeah, I would like to move 10.3, the bowling alley equipment closeout, 10.4-- this is motion to approve resolution 7.24 highlighting final acceptance. --and 10.6 to approve the hilltop final acceptance to consent agenda, please.

I need a second to that motion.

I'll second.

All in favor?

Aye.

Any opposed?

Oppose.

Hearing, seeing none. Then 10.3, 10.4, 10.6 are moved to--

I think Director Hagos just said oppose. Can we get a clarification?

Oh, I'm sorry.

No, no, no. I'm OK. Yea.

OK.

It's all good.

I thought I heard oppose.

No, it was my echoing of my voice. It's done it several times.

OK.

So with that, that means that we are moving 10.3, 10.4, 10.6 to our consent agenda. With that, with nothing else to do--

Could I also make a motion to move 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10, and 10.11 to the consent agenda? I feel our special needs services are really important to our students. I want to make sure those are fully funded.

Thank you. I actually second that because those are services we cannot provide here. And they're not people coming in here. It's our own children getting the specialized service that they need. So with that, I second that. So all in favor of moving 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10, 10.11 to our consent agenda? I'll need a second. So all in favor.

Yea.

Aye.

Aye.

Any opposed? Hearing none. Thank you, Director Petrini. 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10, 10.11 have been moved to our consent agenda. Thank you for that Director Van?

Yeah, I do have a clarification on that. We still have opportunity to ask staff if there's any further questions, like Director Hagos said, but I second the motion to move it forward.

OK. Thank you. So with that--

I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Thank you. I'll second that. All in favor?

Aye.

Aye.

All right. Our meeting has been adjourned. Thank you, everyone, for staying.