

Highland School District #203
District Office
Tuesday, November 4, 2024
Regular Board Meeting -7:30 a.m.

The **November 4, 2024, AM Regular Board Meeting** was convened at 7:30 a.m. Present included board members Lupita Flores, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business & Operations Francis Badu, Director of Student Success & Superintendent Designee Mindy Schultz, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board members David Barnes and Nikki Keller were absent. Lupita announced that the meeting is being recorded.

1-Communication Check-in: Nothing to share.

2-Capital Projects: Mark: TES reader board update: There isn't power to the [existing] pole and we need to check the stability of that pole. Will get options from the electrician for adding power to the pole and, alternately, for a sign on the ground. Once placement is determined we'll select a sign but we don't expect it will be installed before the end of the school year. We should have sign options for the board to review at the next AM meeting so it can be ordered. Francis: We are wrapping up the first phase HVAC upgrade at HMS, and possibly next summer we'll start looking at the high school [HVAC upgrade]. Heard from the engineers that it will cost a bit more than anticipated. There are 24 units at the HS and only 14 at the MS. The engineer talked about the size of the HS units, they are larger than needed so smaller ones will be an option. We have to consider how to structure the financing, we will probably need to borrow to finance the project and then use the levy funds as they come in to pay it off. We should have more information available at the December meeting. After the HS HVAC phase is completed then we can potentially look at the athletic field and the other things under consideration. Phase one was pretty much on budget even with a couple of change orders. The TES heating units are electric and will be replaced as they fail.

3- 1st Reading of New/Revised Policies: All had read them, no comments.

4-School Board Open Position: We have received no communication from Nikki about her resignation other than her verbal statement earlier this year. Discussed posting the open position based on her verbal resignation or declare the position open based on district policy [1450] of having missed four meetings in a row. After discussion, Lupita moved to make this agenda item an action item, Carlos 2nd; motion carried. Lupita moved to open the school board position per district policy, Cindy 2nd; motion carried.

5-WSSDA Annual Conference: None of the board present are available to attend. Carlos will be gone 11/24 through January but will call or zoom into meetings. Next year it will be important for Mindy and the board, especially the new member, to attend. Next year the conference will be in Seattle.

Francis left the meeting at 7:52

Director of Special Ed & SEL Courtney Sund joined the meeting at 7:53.

6-Admin Presentation-SpEd-SEL: Courtney: Shared about the changes in the SpEd department from last school year to this. Shared the alternative technology communication board that Eva created, which will be posted in appropriate locations in MWC to help the nonverbal students express their needs. Explained how word buttons are used to help students communicate and explained how students might have single words they use yet they can't express themselves in sentences, causing frustration, and how they learn sentences with the word board, the word buttons, and hearing others. Shared the vision the staff created for this school year. For TES: shared new teacher growth, and that data supports that the decisions we are making and the methods of teaching we're using are having a positive effect. HMS-has low SBA scores [in one group], so we are targeting that subgroup and how we support those students and give them more access to Common Core standards. At HHS, working on closing the pathway gap so students can earn their diploma. Another big celebration has to do with WISM, Washington Integrated Systems of

Monitoring, where they review the several reports we submit throughout the year and give a score back. Our target was met in all areas except one and this was better than last year which was better than the year before that. One was a reporting error in Skyward and one was a tracking error, both were corrected. Courtney explained two goals for the next year, one is to be able to define co-planning and co-teaching, which are fluid, in the IEP online program, which is rigid. Second goal is for the students that are leaving at the end of this and next school year [aging out] to have earned their diploma. Explained co-planning and co-teaching and answered questions about those. One finding is that the students that are in GenEd classes with co-planning and co-teaching are improving more than when they are pulled out to the resource class.

Courtney left the meeting at 8:12 a.m.

MWC Principal Andrea Wickenhagen joined the meeting at 8:13 a.m.

7-Admin Presentation-MWC: Andrea shared that one area of concern has been attendance so their big goal this year is to address it. Goal is to have 80% of student body in attendance for 90% or more of the year. She shared last year's attendance building data detailing the numbers of minutes and hours of lost instruction due to absenteeism. They looked for a target population but didn't find one so they are choosing to address the whole building to improve attendance overall. The focus is to be on working on how to make MWC the place where the student wants to be since that is an area they can control versus students missing school due to parental choice. The plan of action to this end includes, making sure to greet each student by name when they arrive and with a handshake, fist bump or other greeting per student choice, and for those that get dropped off, acknowledging the parent by name as well, having the teachers reach out to the family on the second day of an absence and sharing how the student was missed, utilizing monthly classroom and student attendance rewards, and finally sharing attendance data with parents each month. Andi shared how they are using the Homeroom program to track student attendance data. Showed the analysis of attendance from the first three months of 2023-2024 to 2024-2025, this year there is an increase in being present. They are also using Tier II Interventions, a system that focuses on behavioral, academic and attendance issues. The Tier II team will concentrate on targeting those with chronic absences. Andi attended the [parent-teacher] conferences of the chronically absent students to encourage them to be at school and discover reasons why they miss school. She found various reasons; one was childcare in the morning for getting students on the bus when the parents leave early for work. We understand that young students will have absences due to illness as they build immunity and that families tend to travel during the holidays in November and December, which are high absenteeism months.

Andi left the meeting at 8:39 a.m.

The November 4, 2024, AM meeting adjourned at 8:41 a.m.

Chair

Secretary