

**Highland School District #203
Tieton Elementary School
Tuesday, December 9, 2024
Special Board Meeting -7:30 a.m.**

The **December 9, 2024, AM Special Board Meeting** was convened at 7:30 a.m. by Vice Chair David Barnes. Present included board members Lupita Flores, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business & Operations Francis Badu, Director of Student Success & Superintendent Designee Mindy Schultz, Student Assistance Professional Olga Bautista, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member Carlos López was absent. David announced that the meeting is being recorded.

7-Student Assistance Program Presentation: Olga introduced herself. She has been the SAP, Student Assistance Professional (through ESD 105) since 2021. She comes with a history of working with substance abuse and found there was a need for substance-related abuse support in the schools. The program has evolved from being mainly about substance abuse into intervention and student support in other areas as well. Olga helps students to gain coping skills who come to her through referrals from admin, peers, and an anonymous online form. She is currently working with/supporting about 28 students and builds rapport with them through 8-14 weeks of contact.

Olga left the meeting at 7:39 a.m.

HHS Principal Jeremy Gillespie joined the meeting at 7:40 a.m.

6-CTE Evaluation & Perkins Grant: Jeremy reminded the Board that the goals are to be approved annually and shared that today's presentation is similar to previous years' minus the CTE position that was eliminated. Two teachers are working toward their CTE certification and one other change is the possibility of adding Animal Science if YVC is cooperative. There were no questions. Cindy moved to approve the CTE Evaluation & Perkins Grant as presented, Lupita 2nd; motion carried.

Jeremy left the meeting at 7:43 a.m.

1-Communication Check-in: Nothing to discuss.

2-Capital Projects Update: Mark: We are finished with the paperwork, manuals, and warranty info and are now in the process of formulation a plan for Phase 2, HHS HVAC system upgrade, and are negotiating the rate. We will discuss financing for the project when we start talking about the budget in January. Due to the cost and the amount we can borrow, we will not be able to upgrade the HMS gym in this phase. The gyms have new lighting which has made a significant difference and is very cost effective. Eventually we want to do the hallways and Commons. We have a plan and just signed an agreement for the TES electronic reader board. We will trench to the pole, which is useable, add a camera, a light and the sign. The pole will be covered and the sign will be 8' x 7 '. The contractors and sub-contractors are lined up and it should be installed in the spring. Overall cost is about \$50K, including sales tax.

3- New Curriculum Update: Mindy: The MS likes the science curriculum that they are currently using so that just needs an update. The HS has narrowed it to two options. Science curriculum needs consumables so that is an area of cost to be considered. The MS and HS have picked SAVAS for Social Studies because they have a print book and an online book (both available in both English and Spanish). It is great that the MS and HS agree on a publisher for the consistency it will provide for grades 6-12. Cost: \$250K to update MS and HS Science and Social Studies. We have to put it in the budget as we work through negotiations with HEA and PSE and consider the interest payment on the bond. We will need to address K-5 science and math in the next few years. At the work study meeting in January we will discuss what priority or emphasis we have regarding the TK/Preschool programs. Last year was challenging with cuts and this year will be as well but in a different way. The State is freezing hiring and having to cut their budgets 18%.

4-Board Reorganization Discussion: After a short discussion it was agreed that David will assume the position of Chair, Lupita, Vice Chair, Cindy will stay as Leg Rep, Carlos as Title IX and the new board member will get the WIAA Rep position.

5-Open Board Position Planning: We did not receive any applications by last Friday's deadline although a couple of community members have called with questions and expressing an interest. After discussion, it was agreed to extend the deadline to Friday, January 17, 2025. We will advertise through the Yakima Herald, Facebook, principals' weekly messages and the website. One suggestion was to invite folks that are interested to attend a couple of meetings to get an idea of what the board does and the commitment required. The goal is to have the new member sworn in at the March 18 meeting.

TES Principal Brandon Jensen joined the meeting at 8:26 a.m.

8-Admin Presentation-TES: Brandon welcomed the Board to TES and started his presentation. This year one TES school improvement focus is a 25% proficiency writing improvement. Brandon said TES has quite a few ML students, almost 40%, and described what it takes for them to exit the ML program through passing the WIDA test and certain parts of the Smarter Balance test. It takes 5-7 years to exit a student. They are tested on reading, writing, comprehension, and speaking. Brandon shared progression, exiting percentages and cohort comparison. We've had really good growth as a result of the Newcomer Center at TES, intentional planning with the teachers-two or three of which are bilingual, PD focus, intentionality, and focus during intersession. Thirty-four students across the district exited the program last year.

Brandon left the meeting at 8:51 a.m.

The December 9, 2024, AM meeting adjourned at 8:51 a.m.

Chair

Secretary