



**HIGHLAND WELD RE-9 SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL
ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Location: District Administrative Office Boardroom

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The December 17, 2024 meeting was called to order by School Board President Brian Fabrizius at 7:01 p.m.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizius aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye
The vote was unanimous.

3. Welcome Visitors

4. Agenda Approval

Motion: Tara Steinke moved to approve the agenda and John Batka seconded the motion.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizius aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye
The vote was unanimous.

5. Recognition of Visitors Desiring to Address the Board

Wes Larimore addressed the Board regarding the passing of the school Bond and was curious on getting more information as he and his wife Vicki live in the neighborhood by the football field. Brian Fabrizius responded to Mr. Larimore's questions and mentioned that there would be an official update from Ryan Smelker, the district's owner's representative, later in the meeting.

Vicki Larimer asked the board about the two retention ponds that are south of the neighborhood where the new road will go. Brian responded that he is not sure how the existing retention ponds will tie in to the new school's plans.

Mr. Larimore asked about security at the new school and Brian responded that the district is being proactive about including security features in the design of the building, and determining whether additional staff will be needed on the new campus.



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6. Consent Agenda for this Meeting

Approval of meeting minutes; accounts payable in the amount of \$373,046.36, bank reconciliations for pooled cash in the amount of \$399,350.17, food service reconciliation of \$266,103.08, accounting for Activity Funds, and Personnel Recommendations.

Motion: John Batka moved to approve the meeting minutes, accounts payable, bank reconciliation for pooled cash, food service bank reconciliation, activity funds, and personnel recommendations. Tara Steinke seconded the motion.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizio aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye
The vote was unanimous.

7. Information Items

a. Bond Update

Ryan Smelker shared an update on current entire projected costs, current projects, and the current floorplan for the K-8 school. He noted that feedback has been gathered from the users groups including staff members that will be working in the new building, He spoke on some design elements planned for the new building.

Mr. Larimore asked about the recent survey crews, and parent Jill Althof asked about a Career and Technical Education program as part of the bond and what the interest accrued from bond funds will be used for. First grade teacher Lisa Bielefeld asked about the construction team's plans for noise and dust resulting from constructing the new building.

b. Teacher Presentation

Middle School Principal Clay Naughton stated that due to everything else on the agenda, he thought it would be best to reschedule the middle school's teacher presentation.



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c. Fall Sports-Written Report

Athletic Director, Kolin Harbecke, provided a summary on each fall sport at the middle and high school. Some highlights are that approximately 160 students participated in Fall Sports, High School Football Coach, Kerry Overmiller, was named a finalist for 1A Coach of the Year, and that two Highland High School students were on the state championship softball team at Eaton High School.

d. Milly Levy Update

Business Manager Alicia Hoops provided the Board with a Mill Levy Certificate report, updating mill levy figures.

e. Accreditation Report

Curriculum Director Riley Couch put together the district's Accreditation Report, which goes over testing scores for all three schools. The High School has been given a performance plan and the Middle and Elementary schools are in improvement plans.

There was discussion among attendees regarding the effects of state test scores, amount of students opting out, and how MAPS testing informs teachers in real time throughout the year.

f. Highland Elementary Facility Discussion

Discussion occurred regarding potentially selling the current Highland Elementary School to the Town of Pierce once the new K-8 building opens for a nominal fee, with the district retaining the land's water rights. Members of the public brought forth requests to not demolish the building. The Town could utilize the building for recreation space, a Town Hall, or offices. Selling the building, rather than demolishing the building, would save money that would be used for upgrades on the new building. Brian Fabrizius noted that he went to the Town of Pierce's December board meeting, and they seemed excited about the possibility of purchasing the building.



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8. Action Items

a. Board Policy Adoption

JLCE - First Aid and Emergency Medical Care
There was no further discussion on these policies.

Motion: Heather Simpson moved to approve the adoption of the Board Policy. Tara Steinke seconded the motion.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizio aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye
The vote was unanimous

b. Superintendent's Contract

Discussion occurred regarding the reasons behind recommending to unilaterally terminate the employment contract of the Superintendent. Attendees questioned the board on whether the Superintendent was given enough time to make requested changes.

Brian Fabrizio provided information that if the Superintendent's contract was terminated, an Interim Superintendent could be hired to finish out the school year, with the hiring process for a permanent Superintendent beginning right away utilizing McPherson & Jacobsen for the nation-wide search.

Motion: Heather Simpson moved to unilaterally terminate the Contract between the Board of Education and the Superintendent Troy Damman pursuant to Section 9.4 of the Superintendent's Contract. Tara Steinke seconded the motion.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizio aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye
The vote was unanimous.



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9. Superintendent Report

Mr. Damman provided a written financial update, which included notable expenses.

Alicia Hoops mentioned revenue is low, as most payments are received in the spring, but expenditures are on track with previous years.

10. EMA Team Member Report

Tara Steinke stated that FFA is going well.

Ryleigh Sittner said wrestling is in full swing, and that the High School Team placed fourth overall at the Roosevelt Tournament, with two wrestlers winning first in their weight classes.

Mrs. Moylett praised the Elementary School's specials team, including music, art, and PE, noting that they work tirelessly to make the building and school great for all students. She also noted that mid-year MAPS and DIBELS testings are wrapping up, which will inform teaching practices for the second semester.

High School Agriculture Teacher Megan Capps noted that FFA won all three events they took the students to at the National Convention in Indianapolis. In January, the FFA will be having their first Green Hand Ceremony.

High School Principal Kelsey Bailey informed attendees that the High School Band concert is December 17th.

Lisa Bielefeld thanked the Board, Mrs. Moylett, and Technology Director Andy Baker for getting the new computers up and running for the 1st graders to take their MAPS tests. She noted that at least 80% of the kids met their reading goals.



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Board of Education Secretary Ana Lawrence reminded the Board of the District Christmas party.

Maintenance Director Davin Armstrong thanked the Board for the time put into considering the Superintendent's contract, noting he understands these decisions are not made lightly. He also praised the board for thinking outside the box with the existing Elementary School Building.

Wes Larimore thanked the Board for stepping up and putting themselves out there by running for the School Board and working towards the best interests of the entire district.

Spring Varra offered to give insight on different school policies.

Parent Casey Secrist stated that he is a first time attendee and wanted to attend because, "you can't be a part of the solution without knowing more of the big picture." He stated that he hopes the mistakes from the first Superintendent search are avoided during the next hiring process.

Cole Dorwart thanked the Board and Mr. Damman for the work they put into the Bond this fall.

John Batka said he is open to feedback on district policies.

Brian Fabrizius wishes Mr. Damman and his family well in their next steps.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Tara Steinke moved and Heather Simpson seconded the motion to adjourn the December 17, 2024 Board of Education meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizius aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye
The vote was unanimous.



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Brian Fabrizius, President
BOE

John Batka, Secretary
BOE



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Special Board of Education Meeting

Date: Thursday, December 26, 2024

Location: District Administrative Office Boardroom

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

The December 26, 2024 work session was called to order by School Board President Brian Fabrizius at 6:04 p.m.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizius aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye

All members present.

3. Welcome Visitors

4. Agenda Approval

Motion: Tara Steinke moved to approve the agenda as presented and Ryleigh Sittner seconded the motion.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizius aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye

The vote was unanimous.

5. Executive Session

Motion: Heather Simpson moved to enter executive session and Tara Steinke seconded the motion.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizius aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye

The vote was unanimous.

The Board discussed the three applicants that expressed interest in the interim superintendent position and selected Karen Trussler as the sole finalist. Board members arranged to hold a special board meeting on January 9th at 6:00 p.m. to interview superintendent candidates.

Motion: Heather Simpson moved to adjourn from executive session and Tara Steinke seconded the motion.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizius aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye



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The vote was unanimous.

6. Action Item

Motion: Heather Simpson made a motion to declare Karen Trussler as the sole finalist for the interim superintendent position and Ryleigh Sittner seconded the motion.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizius aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye

The vote was unanimous.

7. Adjournment

Motion: John Batka motioned and Tara Steinke seconded the motion to adjourn the December 26, 2024 work session at 6:36 p.m.

Sittner aye; Steinke aye; Fabrizius aye; Batka aye; Simpson aye

The vote was unanimous.

Brian Fabrizius, President

BOE

John Batka, Secretary

BOE