

Highland School District #203
District Office
Monday, January 6, 2025
Regular Board Meeting -7:30 a.m.

The **January 6, 2025, AM Regular Board Meeting** was convened by Chair David Barnes at 7:30 a.m. Those present also 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, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member Carlos López was absent. David announced that the meeting is being recorded.

1-Communication Check-in: Everything is fine for now, no complaints.

2- Capital Projects Update: Francis: Things are moving along. We are working with the attorneys to borrow the funds for Phase 2 [HHS HVAC update], borrowing approximately \$2.2m and the board will vote on it at the next meeting. Also working with the engineers to get the plans ready so we can advertise for contractor bids for the project. We want it to be substantially completed by the start of the 2025-26 school year. The trench has been dug for the new sign at TES and they are working on getting power to it.

3- Budget/Staffing Update: Mark: We are starting this month to work on the budget and staffing to see where we are. Enrollment was up a bit in December but not up to what we budgeted for. Starting to have conversations with the unions about negotiations and the budget and there seems to be an understanding about it and a hope that we'll be able to work through it. We were told we will have two retirements; one, the HMS Counselor, will be posted and the other, a Basic Ed teacher, will probably be filled in-house. There are many things to consider to make it [the budget and staffing] work. It is getting harder to do long-range planning anymore, now it is more year-to-year to deal with changes. Next month we will start enrollment for PK/TK/Kinder and that will give us an idea of how to plan for those classes/staffing. This month the ESD 105 is putting together budget/Superintendent meetings to help districts. At last month's ESD superintendent meeting Mindy did a good job of presenting our calendar [with intersessions], why we do it and why we are still doing it. Found out that a majority of districts would like to do it but are having trouble implementing it. We do have buy-in from our teachers as we have reduced the number of days of intersessions and we target the reason we do it: better WIDA scores/testing out of the program and students that are able to graduate. We do think it has been helpful. We still have a para position at HMS that we've not been able to fill.

4- New Curriculum Update: Mindy: Social Studies is pretty well set, we're finalizing numbers. Should be done by the end of the month. Science not until February as it was decided to put a halt on it and do more presentations. Tech is taking over a little bit so we need to look at how labs are done to see what is hands-on and how much is digital. Some might be 100% digital, also need to find out the cost of the labs. Don't want to get the wrong thing and find out it is expensive. Both SS and Science have a digital and hardcopy book. Some worksheets are digital only. It is interesting to see how digital things are becoming but we don't want to rely on them totally. Course codes will need to be changed/updated. Might consider Forensic Science as an option as only two students wanted to take Physics, the current 4th year science option.

Francis left the meeting at 7:49 a.m.

5-Open Board Position-1st Review: We have had eight people express an interest in the position and have received five applications so far. Mark has met with three of them to share information and answer questions. There will be a packet for the board [of applications, interview questions draft]. Will schedule one day for interviews. The FB post reached 1,100 people with 500 views. It is good to see how many are interested.

The January 6, 2025, AM meeting adjourned at 7:52 a.m.

Chair

Secretary