

Highland School District #203
HMS/HHS Library
Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Regular Board Meeting -7:00 p.m.

The **February 18, 2025, Regular Board Meeting** was called to order by Chair David Barnes at 7:00 pm.

Those also present included Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business & Operations Francis Badu, Director of Student Success/Superintendent Designee Mindy Schultz, Board members Lupita Flores and Cindy Reed, MWC Teachers Lisa Biddick and Bre Hoffee, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman.

The **flag salute** was led by Cindy.

2.PUBLIC HEARING-Lead in Water Action Plan: Francis: This is a follow-up to the previous conversation at the AM meeting. The state DOH is testing the water for lead in all school districts in the state. If the water tested has a level above a certain ppm then action must be taken. MWC and TES have small sinks and drinking fountains in every classroom as that was the norm when they were constructed. Some taps tested above the ppm limit and the water was shut off immediately [to the classroom sinks/fountains]. All of the classroom drinking fountains have been permanently removed and the tap fixtures replaced with non-metal parts. Next the state will return to do a follow-up test. Today is the required public hearing to notify the public of the action plan and get Board approval of the plan. HSD administers the required regular annual water tests and lead has not been noted previously as it was in the fixtures, not the water. There were no questions, so David closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No one had any questions nor corrections. Lupita moved, Cindy 2nd, to approve the **January 6, 2025, AM Meeting** and the **January 21, 2025, PM Regular Board Meeting Minutes** as presented; motion carried.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Public Comment: None

b. Administrator Reports: Mindy shared the MWC report. There were no comments nor questions about any of the reports.

c. Assistant Superintendent Report: Mindy shared that she has attended a lot of budget meetings with Francis and the department directors, looking at options for various programs. She has also met with administrators to see what they are thinking about for next year, their goals and what they want to focus on. Transitional, PreK and Kinder registration is open which will help us to know how to plan for those classes. Mindy attended a bargaining workshop; found it very interesting and learned a lot. After visiting with folks from other districts at the workshop she is thankful to be at HSD. A survey has gone out to get patrons input about intersession, more than 60 have responded already. HEA and PSE are also conducting surveys. She continues to shadow Mark, learning how he does different district things, such as conducting business with the public.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Lead in Water Action Plan: Cindy moved, Lupita 2nd, to approve the Action Plan as presented; motion carried.

b. 2nd Reading-Retired and Revised Policies:

Revised Policy: 3210 Nondiscrimination

Revised/Reinstated Policies: 3205 Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited-Reinstated

5011 Sexual Harassment of District Staff Prohibited-Revised and Reinstated

Retired Policy: 3206 Pregnant and Parenting Students

The Board had no questions nor concerns about the policies. Lupita moved, Cindy 2nd, to adopt Policies 3210, 3204 and 5011 and to retire Policy 3206 as presented: motion carried.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Status /Enrollment and Operations Report: Francis: The auditors will be here next month for the annual audit. One of the board members will need to meet with them. The General Fund dipped below where we were last year, about \$80K, [due to] corrections being made for our lower enrollment. The end of last year was \$2.6M but it is most unlikely we'll get to that point this year due to enrollment. Capital Projects: we received the money from the bond that we issued, it is in the bank and we are getting ready for the project this summer. We will spend more CP money than projected in the budget so we will need to do a budget extension [for CP and DSF] in the next couple of months. Debt Service, and ASB are pretty much unchanged. Transportation: We're waiting for the new bus to come in. Enrollment: Not looking very good. Had seven more withdraw than enrolled but four came back after the month's count. Down to 985 Headcount. We budgeted for 1,002 FTE and are at 970. 32 FTEs down. Normally we budget low and come in high, this time we budgeted low and dropped lower. We'll be down 40 next year due to size of graduating class and upcoming kinder class. It is going to be very, very challenging like last year. The TK class is bigger than the current Kinder class but it will still be 30 fewer FTEs.

b. Personnel Report: Mark: We have a bus driver resignation but have hired a replacement. One para leave-of-absence request and have posted for that vacancy. Still have a number of positions that are open, posted the school counselor in-house and now externally. The DECA advisor position has not been filled. No students have mentioned concerns that DECA is not available. HHS Principal investigated what the process would be for a student(s) to go to another school for it, if any came forward expressing interest. Cindy moved, Lupita 2nd, to approve the February 18, 2025, Personnel Report as presented, motion carried.

c. Legislative Report: Cindy: They are in session. Senate Bills 5192 Materials, Supplies & Operations Cost, 5263 Special Education, and 5187 [Providing Adequate and Predictable Student Transportation], are moving through the Senate but the companion bills in the House have not made any movement at this time. They are supported by a majority of the Senate. Simple majority for a bond passing is a constitutional change and is not looking like it will pass, Levy Lid does not have a whole lot happening either, the Governor's budget comes out in mid-March and we'll see that he has to say. To his credit he has declared that he will not be basing a budget on *projected* revenue. There is a lot of voter testimony and voting pro or con, more than in the past and is overwhelmingly against the way the legislature is moving. A lot of some of that is driven by the Parents Bill of Rights which the people voted for last year and the legislature adopted but now they are amending it. Parents are very upset and there is a lot of pushback to encourage voters to vote no on all levies and bonds.

d. Payment of Bills-General, ASB, Capital Projects, and Payroll: Lupita moved to pay the General Fund, ASB, Capital Projects and Payroll as presented, Cindy 2nd, motion passed.

- **General Fund bills** for \$353,658.37 with warrants 79249 through 79354.
- **ASB Fund bills** for \$6,646.25 with warrants 7172 through 7180.
- **Capital Project bills** for \$63,046.49 with warrants 767 through 768.
- **Payroll Fund bills** for \$237,742.68 with warrants 79355 through 79369 and \$1,016,879.65 by direct deposit.

7. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

David reviewed the upcoming district dates: Feb. 18-21 is Intersession, AM Board meeting March 3 and PM meeting March 18. March 28 Early Release, Spring Conferences are March 30-April 4, and April 7-11 is Spring Break.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair David Barnes adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Chair

Secretary