



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

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025

Location: District Administrative Office Boardroom

## 1. Pledge of Allegiance

## 2. Roll Call

The January 9, 2025 meeting was called to order by School Board President Brian Fabrizius at 6:01 p.m.

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

## 3. Welcome Visitors

## 4. Agenda Approval

**Motion:** Ryleigh Sittner moved to approve the agenda and Heather Simpson seconded the motion.

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

## 5. Consent Agenda Items

Approval of the December 26, 2024 meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Tara Steinke moved to approve the December 26, 2024 meeting minutes and John Batka seconded the motion.

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

## 6. Information Items

### a. Interim Superintendent Discussion/Interview - 6p Karen Trusler

The Board asked a list of 9 different questions compiled by the Board and Principals from



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

each of the three schools. Her main goals are to get out in the community and schools to work on rebuilding the relationships. She's not trying to make waves and will make sure the staff is feeling supported at all levels as well as the parents knowing she is always willing to listen to concerns or ideas.

Karen Trusler was able to ask the Board questions on what their goals are for her in this Interim position.

### 7. Action Items

#### a. Resolution to appoint an Interim Superintendent of the Weld Re-9 School District

No further discussion

**Motion:** Tara Steinke moved to appoint Karen Trusler as the Interim Superintendent of the Weld Re-9 School District. John Batka seconded the motion.

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

### 8. Adjournment

**Motion:** John Batka moved and Tara Steinke seconded the motion to adjourn the January 9, 2025 Board of Education special meeting at 6:59 p.m.

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

---

Brian Fabrizius, President

---

John Batka, Secretary



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

BOE

BOE



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

**Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025**

**Location: District Administrative Office Boardroom**

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Roll Call**

The January 28, 2025 meeting was called to order by School Board President Brian Fabrizio at 7:01 p.m.

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

**3. Welcome Visitors**

**4. Agenda Approval**

Item 7b is being added to the agenda for the Owner's Rep to give an update on the Bond and K-8 School progress

**Motion:** Heather Simpson moved to approve the agenda and John Batka seconded the motion.

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

**5. Recognition of Visitors Desiring to Address the Board**

None

**6. Consent Agenda for this Meeting**

Approval of meeting minutes; accounts payable in the amount of \$335,687.89, bank reconciliations for pooled cash in the amount of \$408,941.87, food service reconciliation of \$266,926.42, accounting for Activity Funds, and Personnel Recommendations.

**Motion:** John Batka moved to approve the meeting minutes, accounts payable, bank



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

reconciliation for pooled cash, food service bank reconciliation, activity funds, and personnel recommendations. Tara Steinke seconded the motion.

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

**7. Information Items**

**a. Student Recognition - Elementary Honor Choir**

The Elementary Honor Choir led by Rochelle Mundfrom came and sang the National Anthem. The group practices twice a week and consists of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. They have also sung at a Colorado Eagles Hockey game and High School Boys Basketball game.

**b. Bond Update**

Ryan Smelker, Adolsfen & Peterson, and Treanor shared bond updates including current projected costs, current projects, and how they made changes from the initially proposed two story building to a one story school, which decreases square-footage and eliminates maintenance expenses such as elevators, bathrooms, and utilities.

A public update is for Tuesday, February 4th in the High School Commons area starting at 5:30 pm.

**8. Action Items**

**a. FY-25 Budget Revision**

Business Manager Alicia Hoops highlighted that notable changes to the budget consist of the funds in the reserve account being fully available for use in the general fund, and the Bond Redemption Fund and Building Fund accounts will see revenue and expenses occur as the bond payments and project gets rolling.

John Batka asked if the district should see any changes with current and upcoming



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

political changes. Alicia said that the district does not rely heavily on federal grants and when the initial budget is made, it is always more conservative with the various budget accounts to limit any surprises or having to pull funds.

**Motion:** Heather Simpson moved to approve the Revised Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. John Batka seconded the motion.

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

**b. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds**

Alicia Hoops provided information for the issuance of the bonds that will go public on February 19th.

**Motion:** John Batka moved to approve the resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds by Weld County School District No. RE-9 to finance the purposes approved at the District's November 5, 2024 election and authorizing the levy of property taxes to pay such bonds; providing the form of the bonds and other details in connection therewith; and approving documents relating to the financing. Tara Steinke seconded the motion.

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

**c. Adolfsen & Peterson Design Build Contract**

Ryan Smelker highlighted that the proposed contract from July 2024 had a contract rate estimated at \$4,148,740 and that figure has stayed the same.

**Motion:** Tara Steinke moved to approve the Adolfsen & Peterson Design Build Contract. Heather Simpson seconded the motion.

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



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

**d. Construction request for K-8 Bond Project**

The district is requesting to allow any construction expenses under \$50,000 to be approved by the Superintendent to limit change orders and potential delays in bills getting paid, with anything over \$50,000 requiring Board approval.

**Motion:** John Batka moved to approve allowing the Superintendent to approve construction expenses under \$50,000. Raleigh Sittner seconded the motion.

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

**9. Superintendent Report**

Interim Superintendent Karen Trusler provided a written financial update, which included notable expenses and highlighted that the district's financial revenues and expenditures are on track.

Karen touched on community partnerships in our area that assist students with food insecurity. She thanked them for all they do at the town and county level to make sure students don't go hungry outside of school hours and are able to come to school ready to learn without having to worry about where their next meal is coming from.

January is Board Appreciation month and the schools provided handmade cards and goodies to show their appreciation for our Board members. The position is not just a one night a week gig, but a 24/7 volunteer role where the Board members are frequently involved with community members to help the district succeed.

**10. EMA Team Member Report**

Tara Steinke stated that FFA is going well and the first Green Hands ceremony was a success. Students attended the National Western Stock Show and the Colorado Farm



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

Show.

Ryleigh Sittner said wrestling is in full swing, and that the high school team placed second at the Patriot League Tournament.

JoAnn Brown congratulated Highland High School on the increased graduation rate. She also asked if there was an update on the sale of the Elementary School building to the Town of Pierce. Brain Fabrizius said the town requested to do some walkthroughs and inspections of the school and requested six months to make a decision on whether or not to purchase it.

Maintenance Director Davin Armstrong thanked his maintenance crew, the transportation mechanic, Bill Krowczyk, and Chris VanWhy for snow removal help.

Middle School Principal Clay Naughton recognized Geery Cordova and her impact on the middle school, district, and community. Her memorial service earlier today was packed and everyone always spoke highly of her.

High School Assistant Principal Riley Couch said the administrative staff is in the middle of career fair season and they will be going to Fort Hays in Kansas and the University of Colorado to meet with graduating teachers with the hope of filling positions in the district.

High School Principal Kelsey Bailey said that the graduation rate increase is calculated over a four year span and the 5.8% increase equates to about 3 students. Tad McMillian, Agriculture Teacher, is working on getting a Career and Technical Education (CTE) accreditation with AIMS Community College in welding, which would then allow for students to get college credits while still in high school and receive a certification in welding.

Elementary Principal Jen Moylett noted that the Elementary School has an in-service day on February 14th, which was planned for their entire building, including classified staff





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

members, to do training together as a whole unit. Mrs. Moylett and Assistant Principal Laurie Born have also completed their mid-year one-on-one meetings with each teacher.

Elementary teacher Lisa Bielefeld shared that tomorrow is the 100th day of school and the kids are very excited.

Elementary teacher Donni Dumler added that the elementary school is doing Gifted & Talented testing tomorrow in class.

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.

Parent Spring Varra thanked the maintenance crew for the snow removal prior to home games Highland Recreation Association. She also mentioned that some meal trains and a GoFundMe page had been established and posted on Facebook for former Food Service Director, McKaley Phillips' family.

Parent Jill Altoff asked what the salary schedule is for the Interim Superintendent. Brian Fabrizio said he'll get with administrative staff to get that information.

Parent Christina Jensen said middle school wrestling is going great and the kids enjoy having a practice space on campus. She asked what the chain of command is for potential student issues. She also asked if there are ways to share sports schedules with community members that are not on social media or don't have access to the internet.

Heather Simpson said the Green Hand Ceremony was exciting to see.

John Batka thanked Davin and Karen for how they handled the recent cold weather and keeping the students' safety a top priority.



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

Brian Fabrizius thanked Davin for all the hard work he put into our district even with the passing of his mother and shared his condolences.

**11. Adjournment**

**Motion:** John Batka moved and Heather Simpson seconded the motion to adjourn the January 28, 2025 Board of Education meeting at 8:40 p.m.

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

---

Brian Fabrizius, President  
BOE

---

John Batka, Secretary  
BOE