

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

The **July 7, 2025, AM Regular Board Meeting** was convened by Chair David Barnes at 7:34 a.m. Those present also included board members Kerry Jones, Carlos López and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mindy Schultz, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member Lupita Flores was absent. David announced that the meeting is being recorded.

II. Business:

A. Communication Check-In: Mindy shared and explained the 2025 School Seismic Safety Project Site Class Report. It is part of a grant requirement to identify what our land is and it was determined that Highland has 'C-very dense sand, hard clay'. Schools are required to do one natural disaster safety drill per year so our buildings complete an earthquake drill annually on National Earthquake Day.

B. Capital Projects Update: Mindy: MBI is working on the HHS HVAC upgrade. They are on schedule so that they plan to be finished inside the building the week before teachers are to return. They have been good at communicating when they run into problems. There were teams wanting to use the HS gym and had to be contacted that it is not open for practice this summer.

Director of Business & Operations Francis Badu joined the meeting at 7:38.

C. 2025-2026 Budget Update: Francis: Shared the final draft of the Actual Budget Financials which has actual budgets from 2019-20 through 2023-24, the 2024-25 estimated [won't be final for some time still], and the three drafts of the 2025-2026 budget. The first draft for 2025-26 had the fund balance at 3.69%, the second draft got it up to 6.02% and the final draft that will be voted on later this month has it at 7.56%, still below the percent the district policy dictates at 9%. We will have to make an official comment about working back to that, it might take a 2-year plan. We'll see how enrollment is at the start of the school year, monitor the budget carefully and have conversations about getting it back to the 9%. Saw Pacific Mobile, the company that installed the district's portables, at a conference, and found out that they do relocations. They can look at what we are considering for moving our units to a different location and let us know if it is possible and what is required. Another option is KCDA but we need to consider the cost. Our portables were installed in 2016 and have a life of 30 years. If TES is the selected site, we will move both the two HS units and the MWC preschool unit, which is fitted for the smaller students. Francis and Mindy will put together a proposal for which school to consolidate into. An assessment about the viability of MWC and TES from three years ago is being reconsidered. MWC has a lot of bigger things to fix: the geothermal system, fire suppression system, plus it is on a well and septic system. The budget will be ready for a vote on the 15th. We are budgeting for an FTE student count of 935-934. The year ended with 970, with a head count of 1,000 something. Kinder enrollment is up a bit but uncharacteristically, last year we lost 30 students in grades 1-12 right at the start of the year so we are cautious about it this start of the year.

D. Superintendent Goals for 2025-2026 School Year: Mindy: shared and detailed her draft of goals. Consolidation topped the list. She plans to establish some committees made up of teachers, para-educators, Parent Association, and community members, to communicate about the consolidation. Need to come up with a plan for how it will work out since so much is affected: moving and/or combining teachers, setting up classrooms, consolidating support staff, equipment, and admin, how to help the culture. She has a goal of having a recommendation by October. Currently, all of the principals have taken on new responsibilities/roles dispersed from Mindy's director role to help them understand what a director role is. She has met with the MWC and TES principals about how to be a K-5 school. This year they are both using a K-5 master schedule to see how the system works as one so that when the move takes place it will be a physical move and the instructional structure will already be in place. Talked with the Tieton City Council who asked to be kept informed if the

consolidation is at TES, as it will affect traffic and walkers so they'd like to put in more sidewalks. Going to continue with advisory committees and we are part of the Sparks grant and part of that is getting a student advisory together. Mindy explained the Multi-Tiered System of Supports, (MTSS) including supporting the implementation of the SEL district improvement goal: improve our teacher to student relationships to increase our teacher and student score alignment to 80%. What was discovered is that the teacher scored students as needing SEL help/at high risk but that didn't match what the students thought of themselves and we want to improve that. Our SBA scores came out and we are still below the state in math. There are new/updated math State Standards regarding math fluency. We are sending teachers to conferences to learn the new standards and how to teach them. Our math scores falter at 5th – 8th grades which is where the state scores falter as well. Final goal is about the budget and getting the fund balance back to 9%. She has been tracking spending and where we are paying double because we have two elementary schools. HS Principal and counselor will come to a meeting this fall to share about the new [state] High School & Beyond Plan that we have adopted. The Board thought her goals were good and enough for the year.

E. Self-Appraisal of the Board: The Board read through their appraisal from 2023-2024 and scored themselves for the 2024-2025 school year.

f. Board Goals for 2025-2026 School Year: The Board reviewed the previous year's goals and adjusted them for the coming school year. They will be posted on the website and available at each building.

III. Closing Items

There were no final questions nor comments.

The July 7, 2025, AM meeting was adjourned at 7:45 a.m.

Chair

Secretary