

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

The **October 6, 2025, AM Regular Board Meeting** was convened by Chair David Barnes at 7:34 a.m. Those present also included board members Lupita Flores, Kerry Jones, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mindy Schultz, Director of Business & Operations Francis Badu, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. David announced that the meeting is being recorded.

II. Business:

Kerry moved to amend the agenda to add a discussion and vote about the signers for accounts at Banner Bank, Carlos 2nd; motion carried.

1-A. Banner Bank Signatures: Francis: We voted on the changes last month but the bank needs a list of the changes for board approval.

- Invest Ed: Remove Lindsey Westfall & Rebecca Kok, Add Elise Marchand & Jovanie Araujo
- HJH (HMS) ASB Imprest: Remove Melva St. George. Add Lourdes Díaz
- MWC Imprest: Remove Mindy Schultz. Add Andrea Wickenhagen
- HSD Imprest: Remove Mark Anderson. Add Mindy Schultz
- Credit Card Transmit: Remove Melissa Benicio. Add Heather Garent
- ASB Fund Transmittal: Remove Melissa Benicio. Add Heather Garent
- General Fund Transmittal: Remove Melissa Benicio. Add Heather Garent
- HHS ASB Imprest: Remove Melva St. George. Add Lizz Kramer

Cindy moved to approve the removal of past signers and adding current signers to the Banner Bank accounts as presented, Kerry 2nd; motion carried.

A. Communication Check-In: Mindy shared good news from HHS/HMS Band & Choir teacher John Straehle that our HS choir was selected to sing at the music state conference next March in Yakima. The [marching band] did well at the competition this past weekend in Kennewick, placing 10th overall, 2nd in the 2A Division, and scored 65.05 in the finals which is our highest ever for the first competition of the season. There are 69 in band including 8th graders and the color guard. They have two more competitions coming up, one in Mead (Spokane) and the last one is the Harvest Festival held annually at Eisenhower HS in Yakima in two weeks' time.

B. Capital Projects Update: Mindy & Francis: The gym is fixed, the last two HVAC systems were installed on the roof and they are now working in the system via access points in the ceiling. We are planning on meeting soon with the engineers from Spokane to discuss closing items/a final punch list. There have not been any more change orders. The training about the controls is expensive (\$2,800/person) but seems to be for certification and more than we need so we will do the regular training and then rely on help per the service contract if/when control issues arise. Track & Field: AD Curtis Borland, HS Principal Jeremy Gillespie, some coaches and student athletes will get together soon to discuss what is needed, determine priorities, and give that info to us by Thanksgiving. Curtis has reached out to other districts that have redone their track to get ideas. Our plan is to do what we want to get done next summer. Once we have established what we want to do, we will look at how much money we have now in relation to the loan payments that will be due and the money that will come in from taxes. The plan is to look at both the needs of the track and the condition of the field. There have been fewer complaints about the field this year. We all want it to be perfect but mainly to be safe.

C. Fall Benchmark Data Results: Mindy: We are doing things a little bit differently this fall by looking at district-wide data. She shared a chart with last spring's SBA scores and this fall's current Acadience (formally Dibels) and IXL/Star data for ELA and IXL/STAR data for math. Every student K-8 was screened in ELA and math this fall. It is typical for the percentages to go down through the grade levels. After reviewing the data we will decide what is needed in each of the buildings. One area of concentration is asking student to tell about what they read aloud to get them to pay attention to the content instead of just reading as fast as they can. In math there is a giant drop in scores as kids get older and the math gets harder. We have found that students that can't keep up [with higher levels of math] means that their base isn't very strong so we've decided to really focus on number sense and are doing some teacher trainings with a goal of reaching 60% (passing) in number sense by January. It will take two-three years to get all of the scores up. Discussed how the norm [in this day and age] is for kids to use tools, such as a calculator or their phone instead of their minds. Math games are helpful. TES is doing a school-wide intervention on number fluency making every teacher a math teacher. We are not alone; math scores are low across the state. We are lower than the state average but match those from our area. There is a lot of 'I can't do math, it's not my thing', a mental attitude that we need to change. Our ELA scores are higher than many local districts.

D. Building Consolidation Discussion and Planning: Mindy met with the group and after looking at all of the data the consensus was that we need to build something different, as neither building is a good choice. Concerns at TES include parking, playground equipment, busing, the HVAC system, plus the age of the building. We don't want to fix up a building that is already at the end of its life. Three different community members asked what they can do to help convince the community to support the taxes needed to support building [instead of remodeling]. All agreed that we need to wait for the next bond series, which would start collection in 2029 after paying off the current one in 2028. A bond/capital levy would be presented with options: new building or remodel current building. We must keep in mind when we will be eligible for state funding. The group was reminded that we will have to continue to reduce staff due to decreasing enrollment. There is a lot to think about. The committee meets again in November. They were very understanding of what we need to do. Our next project will be the track.

III. Closing Items

There were no final questions nor comments.

The October 6, 2025, AM meeting was adjourned at 8:34 a.m.

Chair

Secretary