

Highland School District #203

District Office

Monday, February 2, 2026

Regular AM Board Meeting -7:30 a.m.

The **February 2, 2026, AM Regular Board Meeting/Study Session** was convened by Chair Lupita Flores at 7:27 a.m. Those present also included board members Kerry Jones, Carlos Lopez, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mindy Schultz, Director of Business & Operations Francis Badu, Director of State & Federal Programs Kirsten Lenz, MWC Principal Andrea Wickenhagen, Community Member Craig Chronister, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Lupita announced that the meeting is being recorded.

II. Business:

A. Highly Capable Presentation: Andi: Each year the board needs to review and approve the district's Highly Capable Program. We are working to refresh the program by reframing and redoing how it is structured for our district. To improve identification, equity, and to ensure we give opportunity to a variety of students, the multidisciplinary team, made up of teachers, admin, and directors, analyzes multiple data points of all students in 2nd and 5th grades from different sources including STAR benchmark assessments, SBA scores and the CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test). Those identified in 2nd grade start to receive additional services or supports in 3rd grade and those in 5th, start receiving them in 6th grade. They are offered opportunities and options for advanced learning, for instance advanced algebra or Language Arts at the middle school. The advanced learning options carry through high school. Parents may recommend their student, who can then take the CogAT between the scheduled check periods at 2nd and 5th grade. Although it is not a large percentage, they have identified 10-15 qualifying students in each grade level (2nd and 5th). Kerry moved to approve the Highland School District Highly Capable Program, Cindy 2nd; motion carried.

Andi left the meeting at 7:34 a.m.

B. State Bilingual Education Presentation: Kirsten: The Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program (TBIP) is another one that needs board review and approval each year. Students are identified as qualifying for the ML program according to the answers in the home language survey that parents complete at enrollment. Last year we had 333 students in the bilingual/ML program, this year there are currently 329, roughly 1/3 of our student population. The WIDA test each year measures student progress from year to year and also how many exit the program. Kirsten explained grade bands and showed a chart detailing how many students took the test, their progress, and how many exited. Grades 3-5 is the grade band where most qualify to exit the program, which aligns with language development. Highland had 10.2% at 'proficient', above the state average of 9%. Three years ago, OSPI decided to add a couple of qualifying criteria for exiting the program including students that score 3-4 in English on the SBA and between a 4.3 and 4.6 on the WIDA test, 4.7 had previously been the only exit score. Kirsten noted that she has worked very hard in the last three years with principals to tailor and participate in the ML professional development in each building along with adopting building goals of having a mainstream program with migrant/ML students in regular classes, rather than pulling students from classrooms to work on language acquisition. Now, para-educators go into the classroom and assist ML students so they don't miss out on the regular classroom dynamics. Highland has also made it a priority to have teachers with EL endorsements and currently we have thirteen, one at every grade except first grade and one of the teachers there is working on obtaining it. There are two others also in the process. Title II and Title III money is allowable to help pay for endorsements. After contacting OSPI, we are looking at transitioning to a 'heritage' model as a Dual Language program is not sustainable at Highland due to our small numbers. With decreasing enrollment we have decreased funding, currently at \$550K, based on how many students qualify. We will continue with the Seal of Biliteracy program. About 33 students pass it each year. Having the seal is a big deal for the student as it looks good on a resume to prospective employers and also allows a

student to go directly to advanced language classes at university. Kerry moved to approve the HSD State Bilingual Education Program, Carlos 2nd; motion carried.

Kirsten left the meeting at 7:52 a.m.

D. 1st Reading of New and/or Revised Policies:

New: 4110 Policy-Citizen Advisory Committees and Task Force

Revised: 2106 Program Compliance

2108 Learning Assistance Program

The board moved the policies to the second reading.

E. Communication Check-In: Nothing to report/share.

Highland High School Counselor Elise Marchand joined the meeting at 7:55 a.m.

C. Revised Policy 2413 Equivalency Credit Opportunities: Elise: Students need 24 credits to graduate. We're seeing Freshman and Sophomores that are failing classes as it seems hard to get them to understand that credits matter in high school and some are ending up in senior year still needing 3-5 credits. This updated policy, if approved, allows students to earn credit(s) if they make a certain cut score on the SBAC tests. This would save the district money as they would then not need to take credit retrieval classes. Other optional ways for students to earn credits are through YV Tech classes, although not all of those can transfer to high school credit, and work experience with valid pay stubs can be used for up to two elective credits. Carlos moved to approve the updated Policy 2413 Equivalency Credit Opportunities, Cindy 2nd; motion carried.

Elise left the meeting at 8:04 a.m.

F. Highland CTE Mid-Year Report: Mindy: HSD contracted this year with ESD 105 for a CTE program director resulting in the benefit of having increased numbers of students in CTE classes, which increases funding. We have dual credit options in AG and added a number of pathways for graduating. He [the program director] is working on increasing options for students for CTE science classes and also options for middle school students. He has been working with the CTE teachers on late-start days to educate them about what a true CTE class looks like. The goal is to break even between the cost and the benefit. We are contracted for this and next school year.

G. Repair/Replace Track Update: Mindy and Francis: We have received two different quotes. The lower quote utilizes a method of grinding down the current asphalt to make the base/backfill instead of hauling it away, as it is already falling apart. Then they add more asphalt and a rubberized top. The lower quote has three color options and the one with a red track with gray transfer zones is the top choice. There are three depth options as well and we will pay for water sealing. The quote also includes updating the three jumps strips and the high jump area. The new track will be raised about an inch which will help keep the field grass from overgrowing onto the track. The lower quote at \$626K before taxes (with a \$50K contingency), gives us some wiggle room to see about updating the tennis courts. Right now two of the courts are useable so AD Curtis plans to host a couple of matches. One upgrade option is to put a sports court on top of them. This is a surface that rolls out and would make all four courts playable yet can be rolled up after the season or before winter and then reused the following year. There is CP levy money left from the HVAC upgrades that can go toward the tennis courts and the timing for paying for the track and our loan payment will work out well with the timing of our levy funding. The condition of the stadium field was questioned. The group that evaluated it is no longer considering turf and directed the district to continue to maintain it for now. The repair/replacement of the track could start in May, the HS boys soccer season will be played on the field below the district office for this year only. We will avoid hosting baseball games the first week of the demolition due to dust and noise but the majority of the work will take place over summer break and it should be ready for fall sports in August. Cindy moved to approve the lower quote for the Repair/Replacement of the Track, Kerry 2nd; motion carried.

H. Open Board Position Update: Mindy: We have shared with the board a list of HSD families and a list of voters that live in Board Director District #2 and are ready to open/post the position again. The Admin can post on ParentSquare and Mindy will post on the district's FB page. We will reopen the posting through Friday, Feb. 6 and hold interviews Thursday, February 12 at 7:30 or 8:00 a.m.

I. Superintendent Evaluation Review & Discussion: Mindy: The evaluation form is updated to include the part that was missing and now meets the updated requirements. The board liked the change and will use the updated version to evaluate her in April instead of January, the usual month for superintendent evaluations as it is her first year.

III. Closing Items

There were no final questions nor comments.

The February 2, 2026, AM meeting was adjourned at 8:33 a.m.

Chair

Secretary