

Highland School District #203
District Office
Friday, April 17, 2026
Special Board Meeting -7:30 a.m.

The **April 17, 2026, Special Board Meeting** was convened at 7:33 a.m. Those present included board members Craig Chronister, Lupita Flores, Kerry Jones, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mindy Schultz, Director of Business & Operations Francis Badu, HMS Principal Don Strother, HMS Teacher/AD Kelly Fitzpatrick, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. The recording was delayed due to technical difficulties.

II. Business:

C. District Uniforms and School Colors Discussion: Kelly shared that we were awarded a grant from Foundry 10 that is sufficient to replace all of the HMS sports uniforms so we can have consistency in color and style. Also, the middle school gets the high school hand-me-down jerseys, which lack correct sizes for our small 6th grade student athletes. He presented a sample of current Highland jerseys with their variety of shades of red/crimson and shared what he learned from meeting with a rep from Game One, who explained the color differences between brands and even color differences between different sports jerseys within the same brand. Our color of crimson matches that of the University of Alabama and is one shade lighter than that of WSU. Picking a certain brand (Nike or Under Armour for instance) might give consistency with color but they tend to make style changes every couple of years making it difficult later on to buy one or two replacements that match, plus they can be more expensive. The more basic/generic brand uniforms are more easily replaced when needed. Some companies call our color crimson, some call it cardinal. After some discussion the board selected the shade of crimson/cardinal to go forward with, understanding there will be some variation between sports.

Kelly left the meeting at 7:42 a.m.

D. 2025-2026 Budget Update: Francis: We've done the first draft [for 2026-2027] and will now come together (different departments) and move things around. In May and June he will share initial numbers and hopefully we'll be able to adopt the 2026-2027 budget at the June PM meeting.

E. New Policy 3411 Accommodating Students with Seizure Disorders or Epilepsy:

F. 1st Reading of Revised Policies:

3414 Infectious Diseases

3424 Opioid Related Overdose Reversal

5004 Infection Control Program

The ESD came in and did a nursing review and found that the district didn't have Policy 3411 and we had three policies that need updated. There were no questions about the policies. Cindy moved to approve Policy 3411 as presented, Carlos 2nd; motion carried. The others will move to the 2nd reading. We were one of the first districts to pass the anaphylactic shock policy and we got the medicine stocked. There is a new requirement 'Stop the Bleed' starting next school year for having two trained staff at every building that know how to treat deep bleeding if a student gets hurt. District Nurse Amanda will take training to be a trainer so she can train our staff.

G. WSSDA DA 8 Regional Meeting, May 6, Wapato: Mindy: There is one annual meeting in each region, we hosted it a couple of years ago. Lupita and Cindy are unavailable. The others will check their schedules and let her know if they are available so they can be registered.

A. Communications: The PM board meeting next week on April 23 will be at 5 pm to accommodate the state auditor's travel needs.

TES Principal Brandon Jensen joined the meeting at 7:49 a.m.

B. TES Presentation: Brandon: Like every school, TES has annual school improvement goals, and is focusing this year on math improvement, as many students are not at grade level. Typically, students should gain a year's growth each school year. TES decided to work toward a year and a half growth to get students at or nearer to grade level. The district-wide focus is on the specific math strand of Numbers Base 10. The TES building leadership team looked at their data and identified Place Value specifically within Numbers Operation Base 10, as a high-leverage strand they wanted to focus on to increase proficiency through targeted intervention. Staff put in time to create assessments and study data utilizing Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) as a way to organize their work and this model has helped them to focus on the goal. The building leaders used the screening and progress monitoring tool, IXL, to create grade-level assessment forms and from data collected from those placed students into groups during their Scottie WIN time (What I need). Progress is checked in three-week cycles and the new data was used to reform the groups. From October, when this was implemented, to mid-December, there was measurable growth: half a year in those two months. In the fall, 37% of TES students were below grade level, then in January it jumped to 28%. We are at almost 50% of our students at or above grade level. Brandon shared and explained several graphs that showed the growth over time of the different grade levels and math strands. Mindy added that we have a specialist from ESD 105 coming in 4x this year to teach us the new state math standards and what they are asking students to do. It is quite a shift. The three-week cycle has already been used with reading and the data shows we are continuing to see growth. The goal is to get the teachers to do the same with math.

Brandon left the meeting at 8:07 a.m.

The April 17, 2026, Special meeting was adjourned at 8:39 a.m.

Chair

Secretary