

Highline Public Schools | School Board Regular Meeting - July 1, 2026

Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to our regularly scheduled board meeting. We're going to get started here. Wednesday, July 1 at 12:00. Really different to see everybody here at noon versus 6 o'clock, so welcome. We're going to stand up for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call, please.

Director Alvarez. Director Alvarez.

And here. No, I'm here.

Director Espinoza.

Here.

Director Tidholm.

Present.

Director Holien.

Present.

President Van.

Here. And on the screen here, we have our superintendent, Dr. Duran. With that, any calls or changes or additions to tonight or today's board meeting agenda? Any motions to move? OK.

I propose moving 8.9, 8.10, 8.11, 8.12, 8.13, and 8.14 to consent. Could I get a second?

Hold on real quick. So Director Holien would like to move 8.9. This is motion to approve contract between Highline Public Schools and Academy Schools in the '26, '27 school year. 8.10. This is motion to approve the contract between Highline Public Schools and Children's Institute for Learning Differences for the '26, '27 school year.

8.11, motion to approve the contract between Highline Public Schools and Emerald Learning Center in the '26, '27 school year.

8.12, motion to approve a contract between Highline Public Schools and Heart Spring in the '26, '27 school year.

8.13, motion to approve a contract between Highline Public Schools and Overlake Specialty School in the '26, '27 school year. And

8.14, motion to approve a contract between Highline Public Schools and Renton School District in the '26, '27 school year. Do I have a second?

I'll second.

Roll call, please.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yes.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you. So we just moved six action items. OK. With that, we don't have any acknowledgments, or appreciations this afternoon. We're going to move to our superintendent's report. Dr. Duran.

All right. Thank you, President Van. And first, I just want to start off by thanking the board for the flexibility to be able to join online remotely here. I'm going to keep my remarks short today given the number of items on the agenda.

I want to start by just thanking our educators, staff, families, community members for their work to support Highline students this school year. I hope everyone gets time to rest and recharge over the break.

I also want to thank our school board members for the work this year. I see the work each of you does on behalf of Highline, and I'm grateful for your leadership and service to our community. And finally, another congratulations to our 2026 graduating class. It was such a joy to attend the graduations this year, and I wish them much success in their futures.

Highline Public Schools is committed to ensuring every student feels welcomed, valued, and safe. That includes our transgender students, scholar athletes, and their families. Washington State law and Highline Board policy clearly protects students from discrimination based on gender identity. Highline will continue to follow state law while fostering schools where every student has a sense of belonging.

We know this week's US Supreme Court's news may create uncertainty from some members of our community. We want our transgender students and families to know you belong here and we will continue to support you. Our focus remains on helping every student learn, grow, and thrive. Every student deserves the opportunity to participate in school, build relationships, and experience the benefits of extracurricular activities in a safe and supportive environment. Highline has long been committed to creating Welcoming Schools for all students. That commitment has not changed, and we will continue to treat every student with dignity, respect, and care.

Over this summer, all children and teens ages 1 to 18 years old can eat free breakfast and lunch or snacks, depending on the location, from June 29 to July 30 through the federally funded Summer Food Service Program. Locations offering summer meals can be found on the Highline website. I am proud to work in such an amazing school district, and I really look forward to seeing everyone in the '26, '27 school year. That concludes superintendent's update today. Thank you, President Van, School Board.

Thank you so much, Dr. Duran. With that, we'll move on to our directors' reports. I'm going to start off with Director Tidholm.

Good afternoon, folks. So Evergreen Athletics, the voter approved 2022 bond funded the new athletics facilities, which completed the Evergreen product, and construction remains on schedule. The tennis courts, baseball, and softball fields, and the restrooms, as well as additional parking are expected to be completed come August, just in time for the school year.

Participation in Evergreen Athletics also increased during the winter and spring seasons, which is super exciting and really highlights the important role that athletics play in our student experience. And that's all that I have. I hope you all enjoy your summers and the little minions running around free eating up all your food.

Thank you, Director Tidholm. Director Holien.

Happy July 1. Parkside Elementary students and staff spent the day at Waskowitz for a school field trip. The trip builds on a school tradition, with this year's fifth graders taking part in a shared experience each year since first grade. Fifth grade students led stations and supported younger students as they hiked forest trails and explored local ecosystems. Thank you to the Parkside educators and Waskowitz staff for supporting this learning experience.

I want to mention a couple things that have occurred over the last week and a half. I was able to go to a World Cup match last week, and it really showed what people can do when you are working together, not working apart. And it was just really lovely to see so many different people coming together and putting their differences aside and working together for the common good.

I also want to echo Dr. Duran's comment about belonging and happy Pride month. I have a handful of friends that have-- well, I have a handful of friends that have come out over the course of the last 5 to 10 years, and this is really a culmination of it's their time right now. So I really feel strongly that our district supports this.

Lastly, I want to thank the community engagement that has occurred over the last six months regarding the bond, Shark Garden, the levy. I want to encourage everyone to continue to do that, because that's what we want to hear. So I just want to thank everyone for being engaged and coming together. That's all.

Thank you, Director Holien. Dr. Espinoza.

Yes. Hi, sorry, I'm losing my voice.

Can't hear you.

Losing my voice. So school may be out, but learning at Highline still continues. This summer, students are exploring college and career pathways, and incoming juniors are exploring college by taking part in a visit to explore programs at Washington State University. And a group of high school students are also exploring apprenticeship opportunities through site visits, hands on projects, and career exploration and the skilled trades.

And I benefited from these programs as a high school student in California. I think they were important in keeping me on the path to eventually getting to graduate school.

I also want to highlight just how beautiful it's been to see the youth get involved in the World Cup. My children play soccer, and there's multiple opportunities across the Highline region area to participate in World Cup activities. And so they've been playing tournaments on the weekends. It's called the beautiful game, and a lot of students from Highline are participating. Thank you.

Thank you very much. Director Alvarez.

I do have a voice still for a little bit, but still scratchy. Just a quick reminder that at Puget Sound Skills Center, we every year get an opportunity to work with multiple industries and partners. And this year, we had more than 50 graduating seniors from our Puget Sound Skills Center programs participate in a Boeing signing day. Students accepted fast track job offers with Boeing following graduation.

So the participating programs, including aerospace, manufacturing, and engineering, advanced construction technology, automotive technology, and auto body technology. And the cool thing about this is that Boeing leaders encourage students, while they were there, to take advantage of the company's paid tuition program as they continue to grow their careers. So just because they got accepted into Boeing doesn't mean that that's it. It's like continue to grow. So they're big on education. And what a blessing to be able to have that amazing partnership.

And I just wanted to echo Director Holien about unity. I think soccer has just been such a blessing, but also it's just a universal across all these countries that come together. And to see even youth get involved and driving by a few of my friend's house and seeing a bunch of just youth hanging around the TV and just watching the games and thinking huddling and just cheering on. We all know that Mexico moved on and they won.

And it was such a-- besides being a blessing, seeing that it didn't matter what race or didn't matter where they were from, they were all cheering on each other. And I feel like that's kind of-- I've had such a blessing this year with our new directors that we all have our different thoughts and we can disagree and do it in a way that we can look at each other's perspectives without judgment.

And so I just want to thank Director Holien and Dr. Damarys and Director Tidholm. I don't want to say you're old, but you're not one of the new ones. But to say that we can disagree and work together with respect. And I think that I'm just grateful to be on one more year. And I'm thankful that whatever the future brings that Highline is such a good place.

Do we have a lot of work to do? Absolutely. But that we get an opportunity for us to do that work. And so I'm grateful for all your voices and grateful for the discussions we've had, good, bad, or ugly, but that we tend to do it in the best interests of all students. And I'm grateful for that. And that concludes my report.

Thank you so much, Director Alvarez. If you haven't seen on our social media post, a lot of smiles at Beverly Park here. 66 Beverly Park fifth graders took home a free bike this year-- helmet, light, bike locks-- after completing their bike education unit in June. Cascade Bicycle Club Let's Go program provided bicycle education and fifth grade PE at nine elementary schools this year. The program distributed to more than 400 bikes and safety gear to fifth grade students at six Highline schools. That's great.

The program is funded by Washington State Department of Transportation through the Climate Commitment Act. So you don't see it, hop onto our social media pages and just check out the pictures. They're great.

First, I want to thank the community. Last Wednesday, we had a budget meeting where community came and spoke. We had three community members came and spoke and just want to thank them. And also to our business services team for creating our budget book and having that ready for us.

At our last board meeting, the board approved a new policy, 6101, in regards to donations, grants, and contracts. This policy will go into effect on August 1, 2026. The revised policy collapsed what had been three separate policies into one combined policy. This will ensure better consistency across donations, grants, and contracts and allow for streamlined internal processes. The policy also increased certain thresholds for board approval. Specifically, the new policy increased the threshold for general fund and capital fund contracts, as well as capital grants.

So for the '26, '27 school year, we will be receiving quarterly updates showing the contracts or grants that were approved the prior quarter that fell between the prior threshold and new threshold. So that was stated at the last board meeting, but I just wanted to make sure that that was clear.

OK. And that concludes our director's report. So we're going to move on to our scheduled communications, public testimony. We're going to pause for about 30 seconds while we get set up.

So on behalf of the board, we sincerely appreciate you taking the time to join us and sharing your thoughts with us this afternoon. You'll notice that our norms and guidelines are displayed on the screens for your reference. Please remember that you are addressing the board and there may be students present or watching who are listening carefully to what you're saying. Please note while the board is unable to respond directly to your testimony during the meeting, we value your input. So thank you again for being here and speaking with us. First up is Megan Gibbard Kline. Turn it on. There's this little switch on the right.

Hello, members of the board. Dr. Espinoza, I hope you get some tea and feel better. My name is Megan Gibbard Kline. I am the co-chair of Yes For Highline, and most importantly, I'm a parent of two Mountview Students.

I'm asking you to place this bond on the November ballot. Now is a rare opportunity to rebuild all three middle schools in our district, and this midterm election is a unique strategic opportunity with strong voter turnout to get this work done. I've been out here talking to parents and voters quite a bit over the last two months, and I want to share with you how those conversations have gone.

Two things generally happen. Oh, man, these schools really need to be replaced. Cascade, yeah. Oh, great. Totally. Very positive reaction. The second thing that's happened, mostly in North Burien and less often, but the second thing that happens is, oh, isn't there something about Cascade? I've heard there's kind of some bad vibes about that.

So here's how I responded. On the occasion of the latter, what's happened every time, as I say? Yeah, the current location of Cascade is and a wetland, and so to rebuild there would cost \$43 million more. And given the smaller, buildable area because of that swamp, it would have to be a four story tall building. And generally, for both of those things, there's a oh, God. There's a reaction that I've heard from voters and neighbors.

Some Salmon Creek neighbors are understandably concerned, which is what the two year planning process after the bond passed is designed to address. And I share that I'm a Salmon Creek neighbor too, and that I know that being impacted by the growth of the community is fortunate. It is a privilege, and I'm really grateful to be able to show up for our kids in this way.

What do folks say to that? Well, every time so far, people say, oh yeah, that makes sense. Oh, OK. That's some new information. So what I'm asking you, Board of Directors, is please place this bond unanimously on the ballot and give us a chance to get out there to connect with voters, to go door to door and give them good information about the decisions that we have to make here. If we can do that, if we can pass this bond, if we can get it to voters and voters say yes, we have a chance that every middle schooler-- Thank you.

Thank you very much. Mika Sundberg.

Hi, my name is Mika Sundberg. I'm a parent of two Highline students at Hazel Valley and one at Cascade. I am on CFAC, I'm on the capital oversight budget committee, and I am a co-chair for Yes For Highline.

I'm going to start by answering a question that my husband asks me all the time. Why are you on so many things for the school district? And it really has to do with the Highline promise. Every student known by name, strength, and need is really important, I think, for the health and development of all of our students, because it means that what we're prioritizing is students belonging.

And place is really important to belonging. It doesn't mean as much as teachers do in terms of students' ability to thrive in their environment, but it does make a huge difference. When students are going to new schools, advanced schools, schools that aren't decaying, they feel better about themselves, and they're more prepared for their future.

So I'm asking you today to please send the bond to the voters so that the voters can decide, because our students really, really deserve these new, improved schools. I also really want to put in a little please also pass the tech levy. There's a lot of uncertainty right now about technology and artificial intelligence, and this is not a time for our students to be left behind with technology. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much. Carol Salter. Carol Salter. Move on to the next one. Jose Ortuzar. That's perfect timing.

Hi, everyone, I'm Jose Ortuzar. I'm a White Center resident and work with the White Center Community Development Association. I'm asking you to place the CFAC bond recommendation on the November 2026 ballot. Cascade, Chinook, and Sylvester have needed rebuilding for decades.

Every year we wait, construction costs climb, and kids keep learning in buildings that don't meet today's safety and accessibility standards. This bond fixes that, and Highline has already proven it can deliver. The 2016 and 2022 bonds are prime examples of that.

On Salmon Creek, I understand the very valid concerns, but the numbers matters here. This site states over \$40 million, lets students stay in their current school during construction, and the district has the right to build on their land to be able to serve more students with the saving advantages of that land opportunity.

The opportunity costs are too high to not move forward. Every year this waits, the price tag grows, and one more group of kids spends another year in an under-resourced and outdated building. I urge you to place this bond on the November ballot. And thank you for your time.

Thank you very much. Katie Kresly.

Good afternoon, it is noon, Highland School Board and Superintendent Duran. First, I want to wish everyone a happy 4th of July. This is the 250th anniversary of this country, and that is an amazing thing to be celebrating. There's lots of activities going on around our community here in Highline.

The second thing I'd like to do is actually say thank you to Director Alvarez, because you mentioned that we are-- I want to echo looking at each other without judgment. We can disagree and still work together. And this is all in the best interest of all the students who live here in Highline in the United States. This is where we live.

So good afternoon. My name is Katie Kresly. I also served on the Capitol Facilities Advisory Committee. I'm amused because my husband says, why do you keep doing these stupid things? Why are you paying so much attention? He went to Evergreen. He graduated from here. But he sees what's happening. He understands. Because it really is about-- it's not just about-- oh, try it again.

This is about the community, raising good kids. This is about everything that's happening in our community. And I have a whole speech that I'm pretty much pitching at this point, because this includes public engagement. I was listening to Director Holien. We are grateful for the public engagement that's happening.

And the problem is that I see is that so many voices are not getting heard. They don't feel like they're being heard. You have Salmon Creek, you've got Burien, you've got Normandy Park, people who are all jumping up and down, North Hill. They're becoming more vocal. And it's apparent, it's absolutely necessary for you to start listening. And aviation, for crying out loud. You need to start listening to people. You need 60% of voters to approve this bond. And if they don't feel heard, that's not just opposition. It's a warning.

Thank you very much. Kristen Price.

Can you hear us?

I can. Are you ready?

Yes.

Good afternoon. I'm back to speak on district leadership, transparency, and accountability. True accountability is not a public relations campaign. It's a commitment to open doors. Unfortunately, recent actions show a clear pattern of keeping the public in the dark.

First, look at the proposed voter pamphlet committees for propositions one and two. When independent parents volunteered to serve on these committees to provide balanced scrutiny, they were completely bypassed. Instead, leadership handpicked an institutional coalition for the pro side behind closed doors. They didn't appoint regular parents. They stacked the deck with a former King County prosecutor, a former School Board member, a state representative, and a state Senator. Handpicking powerful political insiders, while locking out independent parent reviewers, compromises the integrity of our local elections.

Second, look at our public records process. This week, the records department issued an astonishing eight month delay for basic, simple email keyword searches. They are pushing public information disclosure timelines back clear to next February 2027.

When I formally challenged this delay, the district claimed an eight month wait is just an estimate. Then to stall the clock even further, the records office sent me a formal letter pretending they did not know the names of their five elected School Board Directors. All of this is recorded and reviewable by any member of the public.

Playing word games to pause legal clock is not transparency. It's an intentional barrier to shield election year decisions from current public scrutiny. If this administration has the staff and technology to produce slick promotional video podcasts, it has the capability to run a simple email search in less than eight months. Taxpayers cannot blindly trust a \$595.4 million budget when leadership actively blocks parent participation and shuts public records. I urge this board to reclaim its independent authority and demand real transparency now. Thank you.

Thank you very much. That concludes our scheduled communications this afternoon. With that, we'll move to our consent agenda. Can I please have a motion to approve our consent agenda?

I make a motion that we approve our consent agenda. I'll need a second.

I will second that.

All those in favor?

Aye.

Yes.

Any opposed? Seeing none. Thank you. Now we'll move on to action items 8.1, motion to approve revisions to board policy 5406, leave sharing. Any questions or comments?

I do have a comment. Last time that this was introduced, I had a question around whether there were circumstances where staff members needed to use this. And since then, I've heard from staff members of their appreciation for this and that it's needed. And so I just wanted to bring that forth and just say that we are reacting to something that's very meaningful to staff. And I'm proud to be able to do that.

Thank you, Dr. Espinoza. Any other questions or comments? With that, can I please have a motion?

I make a motion. Just one second. I move that the Highline School Board approve the revisions to board policy 5406, the leave sharing.

Second, please.

I will second that.

Roll call.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. Action item 8.2, motion to approve resolution 10-26, fixing and adopting the '26, '27 budget. Any questions or comments on that?

I would like to make a comment.

OK.

I believe that the school district here in Highline has done a very good job of trying to be fiscally responsible throughout changes that are occurring. And I just want to thank Jackie and her team, along with Dr. Duran, for trying to steward the dollars that the community spends for the school district. I just want to Thank you for that. With that, I move the Highline School Board adopt-- what? Oh, someone has a comment.

Apologies. I just have a comment before. I just want to second that I really appreciate doctor Duran, Jackie, and the team having conversations with numbers of school districts not only across the state, but across the nation and seeing the state that we are in. In Washington, if the state would fulfill its paramount duty to fully fund education, we wouldn't be making these cuts. I know it's been conversations we've been having as early as last year about the cuts, if it's going to be necessary, and what that could potentially look like. So I really appreciate Dr. Duran being proactive in that.

But I mean, we're in a crisis right now. There is unprecedented numbers of school districts that are in binding conditions or very close to binding conditions. So even though it's not ideal, the situation that we're in fiscally, I do appreciate that we are in a lot better position than a lot of these districts, unfortunately, are right now. And I can only hope that this next legislative session we can have this day fulfill that paramount duty to fully fund education so that we don't have to make these cuts. And that's all I have.

I just wanted to thank Jackie and the team for all the work sessions throughout the year. Really helpful. I also want to bring to the conversation comments that we've heard and comments and conversations that we've had to make our information more accessible, more folks in the community to be able to go online, get answers to their questions in real time.

And I just want to share that those are conversations that we've had, and I'm hoping to see that in the future. It's really important for all of us who are invested in this ecosystem of Highline to be able to get information that we need to make our decisions for the future of our students and our community. So I wanted to bring that to the conversation as well.

I also want to just briefly, again, I know it's kind of like, thank you, thank you, thank you. But these monthly updates that come to the board has given me even-- saves me time in a way, because I have to dig through all these documents to better understand. And I still do that, but now I can have a better summary of what is it that I really need to pay attention to and focus, but also knowing in the state where many districts are in their budgets and being thankful around how we've been stewards of our own budget and not, I would say, fall into a place where it's very dangerous where other districts are.

And so I'm just thankful for the management and for always kind of thinking ahead and really answering our questions. I know that things happen behind closed doors around just wanting to know more, wanting to know more. And I feel like I've never had a pushback. It's like, what do you need? You need more graphs? What do you need? You need more.

And it's never been anything around-- and I'm thankful for that, because I know that at times, we add more work to your load just because we want to get better understanding. And all your team always does it so willingly. I'm thankful for that. So again, just thank you for all the work that you and your team do, Jackie, to keep us on track.

It's my turn, huh? All right. So just want to thank everybody. I'm just going to echo every Board Director's comments. But also just want to share the gratitude to our building leaders, part of RAM. It is a huge, huge effort when our central office staff is going out there and working alongside our building leaders to ensuring that they have what they need when they need it. We have to make some tough decisions sometimes, and we have to support them.

I also want to thank the business services team for bringing a program in, software [INAUDIBLE] to give them real time numbers of what they got to work with. That is huge for our building leaders as CEOs of those buildings to see where they're sitting at day to day. And they can drill those numbers all the way down. So thank you for that. Greatly appreciate it. With that, I think that's all the comments. Can I please have a motion?

I move the Highline School Board adopt resolution 10-26 to fix and adopt the 2026, '27 budget. May I have a second?

I'll second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. 8.3, motion to approve the '26 to 2031 strategic plan goals. Any questions or comments? Hearing, seeing none, can I please have a motion?

I move that the Highline School Board adopt the 2026 to 2031 strategic plan goals and descriptive outcomes as listed in the background information section of the board action report. And I'll need a second.

I will second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. 8.4, motion to approve resolution 11-26, bonds to replace and rebuild deteriorating schools and improve safety. Questions or comments from the board?

I have a handful of comments. It's been really great to hear from the community regarding this, and it is our duty as a board to give it to the public to decide this. That's their due diligence. They can pick what they want to do. And so I really appreciate all of the work that the CFAC has done to put into this, because it's a community effort. So I strongly agree that the community should actually decide this, not just five individuals. So that's all I would like to say.

Thank you, Director Holien. Any other questions or comments?

So I want to start by saying that I believe that students deserve to have schools that match their brilliance and their potential, and that it's our job here as board directors and all of yours to help create the conditions for students to fulfill their promise and their potential.

I appreciate the work of CFAC, a volunteer group, spent two years dedicated to this process. I see that work and I appreciate it. I also appreciate all of the people who have shared with us their hopes and their desires for our district. I think with anything in life, there's opportunities to learn and improve processes, hear from more people, and understand the dynamics. And I take that seriously as a Board Director. It's important to preserve places that matter in community. Schools matter. Gardens matter. Our relationships and community matter.

I also want to say that I've gotten emails and phone calls from residents, and some of the assumptions are that I'm against the bond because I've been asking questions along the way. And I want to say that it is my job to ask questions. I'm here to ask questions. I would want somebody else to ask questions if I wasn't in this position.

So when I ask questions, when I seek information and clarity, it's not because I've settled in a position. It's because I care about the district, and I care about my commitment and my responsibility to my kids and everyone's families. So I'm here asking questions, seeking for information and clarity, and I'm doing it with an open heart and commitment. Thank you.

Thank you, Dr. Espinoza. And I just want to echo what our directors also said. This is a community engagement. And our CFAC community, just thank you. A lot of hard work from our communities, from our business partners, our cities. This work is far from over if we put this on the bond or on the election. So we will still need to work alongside each other and listen to our community and what their needs are.

I do have a quick question in regards to the pros and cons committee from our election services. How is Highline's process involvement with that? How are our community members selected?

Thank you for the question. I actually have two guests here to speak to that. Andrew Burgess, our controller, and Lee Marchisio, who is our bond counsel with Foster Garvey. So I'm going to invite them up to answer your questions.

Thank you very much.

Thank you, Jackie. President Van, members of the board, Superintendent Duran, thank you for the question. So again, Lee Marchisio with the Foster Garvey law firm, bond counsel and special counsel for levees. And the question on this process.

Since 2021, so relatively recently, counties have been required to print and produce a local voters pamphlet for every election. It used to be only the general and the primary, but now, for every special election. And the local voters pamphlet needs to include information from all of the jurisdictions, including information on your measures. And the information that will be included in the local voters pamphlet is the ballot title, the explanatory statement, and then also pro and con statements or for and against statements, as it's known in the statute.

For the pro and con statements, the statute provides that the Board of Directors of the jurisdiction or the school district is to formally appoint a committee to prepare statements advocating voters' approval of the measure, so that's the pro statement, and formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters rejection of the measure. And so those appointments are made by approving the appointment forms that have been put together by Mr. Burgess, and they are included in the Board packets.

The qualifications for committee members are that each committee member must reside within the district's boundaries. That is also a relatively new requirement in the last couple of years. And then for each committee, the committee must be made up of members who are known to favor the measure to serve on the committee advocating passage. And then for the other committee member, they must be known to oppose the measure to serve on the committee advocating rejection.

Each committee is limited to three individuals by statute. So you cannot appoint more than three. However, the committees are able to receive and consult with others for information and assistance in preparing their statements. So there's no limitation on how much they can engage in the community and receive input on their statements before they submit them to King County elections.

King County administrative rules state that districts should take formal measures to notify the members of the public when seeking committee members to be appointed to the pro and con committees. And then if the appointments are not made by the board, or if you cannot find volunteers, then King County elections would submit a media release and try to recruit members of the board and then appoint them through their own processes. But here, the district has received applications from a sufficient number of people to serve on the committees. So that's the general process. Andrew, did you want--

And the process Lee described is the process we followed. We placed an advertisement in the *Seattle Times* for interest in both the pro and con committees for both propositions. It's the first time the district has had two. So that was an added wrinkle. So there was that in the *Seattle Times* as well as on the website. We received interest from many folks. We did, as Lee described, we confirmed residents within the boundaries of the districts.

And what I can say is that every eligible individual who expressed interest is on one of those committees. There's a total of four, because we have two for proposition one and two for proposition two. And we'll be sending those committees' forms to King County elections, and King County elections will take it from there, working with the committees on the deadlines to meet the statements and rebuttal submissions.

Thank you so much. Directors, any follow up questions or comments?

No, I just want to say thank you. Thank you for-- I think this helps me better understand the process, especially having two, and understanding that we have to have both sides pros and cons. And we hear a lot sometimes in the community only about the pros are saying you hear more about the cons, and the cons are saying you hear more about the pros. In reality, it is something that there is a process for.

And I think making it public like this, people understand how it works and it's not that we're only hiring one or presenting one side or the other. And it is good to hear both sides. People get an opportunity to understand. So I'm just thankful for the process and for today, for explaining it in a way that we understand that also King County elections plays a huge part in this, and it's just not us. So thank you.

Thank you very much. Appreciate it. With that, Directors, can I please have a motion?

I move the Highline School Board adopt resolution number 11-26, which places on the November 3, 2026 ballot school board action report for voter approval of proposition authorizing Highline to issue general obligation bonds in the principal amount of no more than \$595,400,000. Proceeds from the sale of these bonds would pay the cost of capital projects, including rebuilding Sylvester, Cascade, and Chinook Middle Schools and making other capital improvements and addressing critical needs. Do I have a second?

I will second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Alvarez.

Yes.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. 8.5, this is motion to approve resolution 12-26, the educational technology and capital improvement levy. Comments or questions, Directors?

I have a handful of comments. There's been some questions regarding where this money is going to with regard to whether it be technology or capital improvements. And I just want to make sure that everyone is aware that you can look on our website-- that will be posted on the Highland Public Schools website-- of where potentially most of this money is going to go to. And I just want to make sure that voices were heard. And we asked the questions and we were provided with where the money is going to head. So I just encourage you to look at that.

Currently, rough estimations, technology will be \$10 million out of the \$12 million annually and \$2 million for capital improvements. Of course, these are estimates, but it sort of answers some questions that have come from the community. So that's all I have to say.

Thank you, Director Holien. Any other questions or comments, Directors? Seeing none, can I please have a motion?

I move that the Highline School Board approve resolution 12-26, which places on the November 3, 2026 ballot for voter approval a proposition authorizing an excess property tax of \$12 million annually to be made for four years, commencing in 2026 for collection in the years 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030 in the aggregate, total amount of \$48 million for the district's capital projects fund to make district wide educational technology improvements and to support the modernization and remodeling of school facilities. I need a second.

I will second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. 8.6, motion to approve resolution 13-26, bond refunding delegation. Any comments or questions? Hearing, seeing none, can I please have a motion?

I move the Highline School Board to approve resolution number 13-26, bond refunding delegation. May I have a second, please?

I'll second that.

Roll call.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. 8.7. This is motion to approve resolution 14-26. This is the issuance of bonds. Any questions or comments? Hearing, seeing none, can I please have a motion?

I move the Highline School Board approve resolution number 14-26, issuance of bonds. May I have a second?

I'll second.

Roll call, please.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you. Moving on to 8.8. This is motion to approve resolution 16-26, which is the 2026 to 2031 capital facilities plan. Authorization to submit the capital facilities plan to local jurisdictions and continuance of exemption of impact fees for King County Housing Authority. Any questions or comments? Hearing, seeing none, can I please have a motion?

I move that the Highline School Board adopt resolution-- no. Oh, sorry. I think it is--

8.8.

Yeah. I was right. I move that the Highline School Board adopt resolution 16-26, approving the 2026, 2031 capital facilities plan, authorizing submission of the plan to King County and cities, and continuing the exception of impact fees from the King County Housing Authority. I further authorize the superintendent to sign any and all documents to carry out the actions authorized by this resolution. I'll need a second.

I will second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. Move to 8.15. Motion to approve a contract between Highline Public Schools and Sunburst Workforce in the '26, '27 school year. Any questions or comments?

I do have a question.

OK.

So this amount is a lesser amount than last year, correct?

It's the same amount as last year that was requested, but we did come significantly under comparatively to previous years.

That's true. OK. And moving forward?

Continuing to aim to keep reducing. Yes.

OK. Sounds good. Thank you.

Yes.

You heard all of that?

I got you. I can be loud enough for both of us.

Any other questions or comments? Thank you. With that, Directors, can I please have a motion?

I move the Highline School Board, approve the contract with Academy School for \$356,774.

Director Holien, we're looking at 8.15, Sunburst.

Oh, sorry. I had the wrong page over here. I move the Highline School Board approve the contract with Sunburst Workforce for \$5 million for the 2026, 2027 school year to support special education staffing needs. May I have a second?

I second.

Roll call, please.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. And our last action item, 8.16. This is motion to approve Southern Heights rebuild project. Award of general contractor, construction manager, GC/CM,

Contract for pre-construction services. Any questions or comments? Hearing, seeing none, can I please have a motion?

I move that the Highline School Board approve the Southern Heights rebuild project, award of general contractor slash construction manager, GC/CM, contract for pre-construction services contract, which allows the superintendent, upon receipt of all submittal requirements, to sign the construction contract with Forma in the amount of \$362,264.35, including Washington state sales tax, with any minor additions, deletions, or modifications deemed necessary by the superintendent. I need a second.

I will second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. We're going to move into intro and action items. We have three on here today. I'm 9.1. This is motion to approve the '25, '26 annual evaluation for superintendent Dr. Ivan Duran. So with that, as per outlined in policy 1613, the board is responsible for setting the evaluation criteria and evaluating the superintendent's performance. Board procedure 1630 BP also requires us to use the Washington standards based superintendents framework.

Each year, the board and superintendent agree on specific focus areas. Within that framework, the board approves the focus areas for the '25, '26 school year. Well, we approved it on September 3 of 2025. So this afternoon, the annual superintendent's evaluation is before us for intro and action. So at this time, I'll pause for any questions or comments from the board.

I do have one comment, President Van. I do want to thank Dr. Duran for being a very good steward of the Highline community, the students. Your communication is top notch. You are looking at the budget from a very high and low level. And I just want give my appreciation to you for all that you have done over the last year and just give you thanks.

Thank you, Director Holien. Any other comments or questions? I do have a quick comment in regards to directors. Just want to thank you so much. We've spent a lot of time together these last few months going over Dr. Duran's evaluation and making sure that documents matched up. And I just appreciate the willingness to work along each other and just also being open and sharing your thoughts is what makes this process so much easier and better. So thank you for that. With that, can I please have a motion?

I move the Highline School Board approve the attached 2025, '26 annual superintendent evaluation for Dr. Ivan Duran. May I have a second?

I second.

Roll call.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. Next item is 9.2. This is motion to approve an amended superintendent's employment contract between Highline Public Schools and Dr. Ivan Duran for the '26 through 2029 school year. So just want to give everybody a quick high level here. On March 16, 2022, the board voted to hire Dr. Ivan Duran as superintendent, with an initial contract running from July 1, 2022 through June 30 of 2025. The board extended Dr. Duran's contract in June of '24 and again in June of 2025. The current contract now runs through June 30 of 2028.

Under policy 1630, the board may renew or extend the superintendent's contract up to three additional years based on the evaluation. The motion before us this afternoon is to approve the amended contract covering 2026 through 2029. The summary of the proposed changes is included in the Board action report, including voluntary adjustments that Dr. Duran has proposed in recognition of this year's budget reductions. So this item is before intro and action. With that, I'll open it up for any questions or comments.

Just to clarify, it runs through 2029?

Correct. 2029. I did say '28, didn't I? I apologize and thank you. Any other questions, comments, or corrections?

I don't have any corrections. I think that a lot of times, people are wondering-- I hear a lot of at times in the community about salaries or whatnot. And the whole time that Dr. Duran been here, he's never asked for any kind of raise. He's never asked. And in fact, this year he is taking some non-paying days. He's taking some furlough days. He's also not getting the inflationary increase that most staff do get.

And I think it's good to note that it's hard to talk about people's salary. It's hard to talk about, but I think that we're always looking at what's happening and we fail to name what is not happening. And in this case, I'm just thankful that I've never had to have that difficult conversation about, you know what? We can't give you a raise, because we're not giving anybody a raise, because he's never asked for one. And so I just want to thank him for his service and thank him for even doing that.

I can say that I work with other districts, and not every other superintendent is taking any furlough days or non-inflationary increases. So to say that is that, yes, are we talking about knowing our communities also and our students and our staff, but knowing our superintendent is important as well.

And when things get tough, this is when we start noticing about-- these might be small things for some, but for me it's huge to see that the interest of our kids and our community is at the forefront. And so thank Dr. Duran for his service and for leading this district in the way he has. So thank you, Dr. Duran.

Thank you, Director Alvarez. No other questions or comments? Can I please have a motion?

I make a motion that the school board-- wait, I have the wrong one too. Hang on. Oh, here we go. I make a motion that the school board approve the attached 2025, 2026 annual superintendent evaluation for Dr. Ivan Duran.

So we're going to go for 9.2.

Yeah, sorry. I move that. The Highline School Board approve the attached 2026, '29 employment contract between Highline Public Schools and Dr. Ivan Duran.

Thank you. Second, please?

I'll second.

Roll call.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you. 9.3. Motion to approve a year contract with Edulog for student transportation resource management. Any questions or comments?

I do have a question.

Hi, Claire. Come on up.

So at the beginning of the school year that just closed, there was some issues with transportation. This will help us solve some of that?

I believe so. I hope so. And I think through our process, it shows that it will.

OK. So this is just updating the software?

Correct. And I can speak a little bit to that.

Yes.

We did go through a collaborative process with digital transformation and transformation and really gathered feedback from the hardships and what parents were asking for and some gaps in our system. And in that process, we looked at a variety of different companies, a variety of different software options. And ultimately, the recommendation was to go with the cloud based upgrade with Edulog, which is called Athena.

And it meets many, many of our needs. And I believe that with this update in technology, both on the buses and some of the parent features that are included in this upgrade, that will be able to be more transparent, more efficient, and to iron out any gaps that we weren't able to identify during the process, but that this tool will give us through data.

OK. Thank you. So parents can see real time status?

Mm-hmm.

OK. Thank you.

Thank you. Any other follow up questions? OK. Thank you. Can I please have a motion?

I move the Highline School Board approve the five year contract with Edulog from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031, for a total of \$450,000, with minor modifications or adjustments as approved by the superintendent. May I have a second?

I'll second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you very much. And much. And that concludes our intro action items. We have four intro items this afternoon. 10.1. This is motion to approve the annual renewal with Brown and Brown and Schools Insurance Association of Washington for the district insurance coverage. Any questions or comments on this?

I have a question.

Yes.

Do we know of the top of our head what the increase will be percentage wise compared to last year?

He didn't move. Sarah Baker, Executive Director of Human Resources. I'm here on behalf of Associate Superintendent Steve Grubb, and I have with me Phil Crocker, who is our broker agent. Is that the right title?

Risk Manager.

Risk Manager is the right title. On this topic. So he can answer questions, and I'm here kind of as backup muscle.

A key clarification. I was your broker for 18 years, and now I'm on your side of the table as your risk manager. Your broker is not here, but I have been in conversation with them. And I'm sorry?

The question is about the number. We have a rough sense.

Yes, we do. We did receive notification that SIW is looking pool wide at increases of 14% to 20%, and we will be in the not to exceed 20% category.

Thank you.

Directors, any other questions? No comments, please. With that, Thank you very much. 10.2, motion to approve the '26, '27 annual contract with EverDriven LLC for McKinney-Vento qualified students transportation services. We do have a presentation this afternoon.

Board directors, Dr. Duran, I've been asked to present on both 10.2 and 10.3, as well as provide an update on our hiring and transportation. So I hope to do that all now.

So first, I want to give thanks to Sarah Baker and her team in HR for supporting transportation with hiring. It has been a good year and it has been hard at points, but I'm proud to say that since February, the transportation department-- excuse me, transportation department has processed 19 candidates across driver trainees, guest drivers, and bus monitors. To date, we have successfully hired or advanced 11 employees, including four driver trainees, one permanent driver, two guest drivers, and four guest bus monitors.

While we continue to make progress, we have experienced three candidate withdrawals, primarily due to a number of personal factors. We currently have five candidates who are new hires working their way into the driver training program or other roles. Recruitment remains active, and we continue to work closely with human resources to move candidates through the process and continue to work at filling vacancies, particularly our full time driver role.

As for 10.2 and 10.3, as part of our annual transportation contract renewal process, we request the renewal of the supplemental transportation contracts. First Student provides additional capacity for field trips and extracurricular activities that cannot be accommodated with district resources, helping ensure schools can continue with scheduled programming.

EverDriven continues to provide transportation services for students eligible under the McKinney-Vento Act, allowing the district to maintain continuity of service and meet federal transportation requirements while supplementing district operational needs. And I'm happy to take any questions about either contract or hiring.

Thank you so much for that, Claire. Directors, any questions in regards to 10.2 or 10.3? I don't see any. Thank you very much. I'll read into the record 10.3. This is motion to approve the '26, '27 annual contract with First Students for supplemental student transportation services.

And our last intro item is 10.4, motion to approve the use of WCP solutions for the purchase of custodial supplies for the '26, '27 school year. Any questions or comments? Hear and see none. That concludes our intro items. Any calls or addition for the upcoming consent agenda?

I make a motion to move. Since it's an annual contract that we approve, is the-- the Evergreen McKinney-Vento qualified student transportation services and the annual contract with-- and 10.3 with First Students for the supplemental student transportation services. Since they're both annual contracts, that they're just renewed. Do I need to read the whole thing into the record?

So the motion is to move 10.2 and 10.3 to consent.

Correct.

I would also like to add 10.4.

So is there a revised motion?

So there's a revised motion to add 10.4. So 10.2, 10.3, and 10.4 to the consent agenda.

I think that I accept it and I will second that. So then all three are added into the consent agenda.

Could you please just revise the motion again? One Director revise motion reading all three items, and then we'll have a second.

OK, then I'll start again. I move that we move 10.2, 10.3, and 10.4 into our consent agenda. And I'll need a second.

I will second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Holien.

Yea.

Director Alvarez.

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you so much. That concludes it. Can I please have a motion to adjourn?

I make a motion we adjourn.

Second, please.

I will second that.

All those in favor?

Aye.

Aye.

Yes.

That concludes it. Thank you very much. Thank you, Dr. Duran.

Yes. Thank you all.