

Highland School District #203
Special Board Meeting
Marcus Whitman Cowiche Elementary School Library-LOCATION CHANGE
Tuesday, April 19, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

The **April 19, 2016, Special Board Meeting** was called to order by Chair Chris Garent at 7:05 p.m. Others present included Board Members Lupita Flores, David Barnes, and Matt Barker; Superintendent Mark Anderson; Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu; Recording Secretary Julie Notman; other staff members, and parents/patrons, and students.

Chris led the **flag salute**.

Matt moved, with 2nd by Lupita, to approve the **minutes of the March 1, 2016 Work Study** and the **minutes of the March 15, 2016 Regular Board Meeting**; motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

MWC third grade teacher, Mrs. Hoffee described her Extension Workshop which is a class for higher level readers. She explained their main winter project which was to research and write a biography about a famous person, some of which she shared with the board. She went on to explain that the students, dressed up and speaking as that person, gave a short biographical presentation to their classmates and other classes at the end of the project. At tonight's board meeting four of those students were dressed up and gave the bio of their chosen famous person: Laura Ingalls, Eleanor Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, and Jane Goodall. They also shared their written biography and all did an excellent job.

Mrs. Hoffee, the students and associated parents and family members left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Public Comment: Colleen Christenson asked for an update on the track and field projects. Francis explained the process from financing to installation of the event pits at the far end of the field. The job has been broken down into phases: excavation, asphalt, and cement. The bid has been awarded and is on the agenda to be approved tonight for the excavation phase. The contractor was delayed by weather, another job, and a vacation but will begin work on Monday, April 25 and the work will not affect the team's ability to practice. It was verified that the pole vault is going to be reinstalled and all the events will be in their permanent locations. We are also checking into a rubberized surface. As far as the vandalized damaged section of the track we are in contact with insurance and waiting on cost estimates. The result will have bearing on what parts of the track are repaired/replaced: just the damaged area or more. Full track replacement can cost upwards of half a million dollars. Francis acknowledged that none of the work will be completed in time for use this year but will be ready for next year. The parent noted that they are anxious to see progress but the students are being very patient with the process and are able to practice. It was asked if it is legal to have the track locked against community access and will there be security cameras in the future. Francis acknowledged that it is a public facility yet due to the number of recent vandalism events the district

is wrestling with how best to proceed. Security cameras are being considered and the cost will determine their feasibility. Chris thanked the community for their presence and questions.

Board member Nikki Keller joined the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

All Board members had the opportunity to review the **Administrator Reports** prior to the meeting. There were no questions and Nikki noted that the reports were awesome.

Mindy Schultz left the meeting at 7:28.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark reviewed the **Overnight Travel Request** for the **FFA State Convention**. There were no questions nor concerns. Nikki moved with 2nd by David to accept the Overnight Travel Request FFA Convention as presented; motion passed.

Francis presented the **Track & Field Upgrade Cost Proposal**. The board had previewed it and there were no questions so Nikki moved and Lupita 2nd to accept the Track & Field Upgrade Cost Proposal as presented; motion passed.

Due to the current audit and multiple ongoing projects, Francis explained there isn't a **Budget Status and Operations Report** tonight but the books will be closed and available within the week and for next month. He also noted that the board did review a fund balance and operational forecast through the end of the fiscal year at the previous meeting. The board read the **Enrollment Report** and noted that enrollment is up slightly.

Mark explained the **Personnel Report** and noted that HHS Principal Brandon Jensen is conducting interviews for the Social Studies position in the next couple of days. They have been pleased with the level of candidates applying for the open positions and are glad to have found a guidance counselor and high school science teacher. Matt moved with 2nd by Nikki to accept the Personnel Report as presented; motion passed.

Legislative Report: David noted that there was nothing to report.

Following a brief discussion, it was moved by Nikki and 2nd by Lupita, to approve payments of **General Fund bills** for \$164,904.30 with warrants 645512 through 65631; the **ASB Fund bills** for \$14,934.55 with warrants 5728 through 5744; **Capitol Projects bills** for \$39,854.26 with warrants 370 through 372; and the **Payroll Fund bills** for \$320,108.22 with warrants 65632 through 65666 and \$592,072.54 by direct deposit as presented; motion passed.

DJ Duncan and Haley Amos left the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Amendment to the Agenda: Nikki moved and David 2nd to add **MWC Electrical Upgrade Cost Proposal** as reviewed and discussed at yesterday's Work Study Session to the agenda as an action item; motion passed.

Nikki moved with 2nd by Lupita to accept the **MWC Electrical Upgrade Cost Proposal** as reviewed and agreed upon at yesterday's Work Study Session; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bond Update and Maintenance Shop Discussion Mark asked for the board's thoughts on the proposal to move 3rd grade to TIS and 6th grade to HJH making MWC a Pre-2 building, TIS an elementary school with grades 3-5, and HJH a middle school with grades 6-8 which will match common educational practice in Washington State. What is in the best educational interest of Highland students? There was mentioned some concern about cohesiveness and support at TIS vs MWC as 3rd grade is the first grade for state testing but the thought is TIS is improving and a shake up there would further improve the culture especially as the third grade team would move up with the students. It was noted that it would be easiest to keep things as they are but are we adequately addressing student needs. Moving 3rd grade to TIS would eliminate the need for a new portable at MWC. We will still need two new portables at HHS/HJH and the board would like to get those ordered. There was discussion about wet vs dry portables and Ryan Monson noted that the sewer needs to be extended in order to be able to put in wet units and that it will be installed for the CTE upgrade of the bus/maintenance building. Board Chair Chris Garent and some of the other board members feel wet portables are an unnecessary expense but we should look at both options.

The board expressed excitement with the new preschool and it was reiterated that there is currently an afternoon class which will be expanded to have a morning and afternoon class next fall, utilizing the same classroom, which is currently the room adjacent to the special needs preschool room.

It was asked and each of the board agreed that the art room should be moved to the CTE building and the current art space be divided into two classrooms thus helping to keep the junior high in their own section of the building. Chris wants a cap of \$1.875 million which is significantly lower than estimated costs presented by Monson Architects. Matt noted that he is not in agreement with any remodel but that we should buy the portables. It was noted that wet portables are safer as students won't need to leave them to use the restroom or get a drink of water.

Discussion followed about the placement of the new portables so they face the building resulting in better security and whether or not there is room for a third portable. It was noted that the existing pads will not be used and that ordering and receiving new portables is a slow, several month process (won't be here for 2016-17) and so there is time to do research to address all concerns and plan for placement of classes. Each board member agreed that moving the third and sixth grades needs to be researched so Mark will start visiting with the staff about it.

Bus/Maintenance Building: The board, per Chris, wants to reconsider a service contract with Mobile Fleet or other provider and not build a bus/maintenance building at this time, but put aside money to pay for building it in the future. His concern is that if we build a maintenance building before the CTE is finished the community will get the wrong idea that bond money was spent on it and won't

support the next bond measure. Matt asked if the estimate for a mobile fleet service contract is inflated as it seems high. Francis pointed out that we must consider payback period for money spent if we postpone construction, and consider whether to own or purchase services. Both he and Mark had reservations about postponing the construction of a bus/maintenance building. One option presented was to return the old bus barn/boiler building to use as the bus barn/maintenance shop with the addition of an awning since it isn't big enough to bring in a bus, but that would displace the current shop/welding classes until the CTE space is completed. Chris reiterated is that it will look bad to the community to build a bus barn/maintenance shop before the CTE is done. In extensive discussion the board suggested that Howard and Danny can do their work in Mr. Hazen's shop around the shop class schedule, storing desks under the art room overhang; hiring a mobile fleet for large repair and Mark and crew can change oil and do other minor repairs on the district vehicles in the driveway or under a pop-up tent (it was noted that it doesn't rain or snow under a bus); renting a construction office trailer or utilizing the old band room (current IT office/storage) for their office space; and renting shipping containers for storage for their tools and supplies. Chris repeated that the bond language stated funding five (5) areas: HHS roof, MWC electrical upgrade, new portables, CTE, and upgrade technology. Initially the bus barn/maintenance shop looked feasible but costs came in too high. It was noted that General Fund transfers plus unassigned Capital Projects balances accumulated in the Capital Project Fund and not bond money, would be used to build the proposed bus/maintenance shop. Estimated cost of the shop would be anywhere from \$240,000 to \$260,000.

There being no further business, Chris adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Chair

Secretary