

Highland School District #203
Board Work Study Session
Highland District Office
April 9, 2019, 7:30 a.m.

The April 9, 2019 Board Work Study Session was convened by Board Chair Nikki Keller at 7:34 a.m. Also present were Board Members Matt Barker, David Barnes, Lupita Flores and Carlos Lopez; Superintendent Mark Anderson; and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu was excused.

1-Overnight Travel Request-FFA State Convention: Nikki said that FFA Instructor Pat Hazen takes up to five FFA students to this annual convention held in Pullman, WA. The board approved the request to be on the April Board meeting as an action item.

HJH Principal Don Strother joined the meeting at 7:36 a.m.

2-HJH Title I Plan: Don explained that Highland Junior High is a *Title I Targeted Assistance School*. Title I schools are determined by their Free & Reduced numbers and a targeted assistance school means certain categories of lower performing students, determined by state test scores, are targeted for more assistance. He said that the state released a new structure for targeted schools to follow for improvement, which he has started implementing at HJH. Part of the process is to rank students from their Smarter Balance test results and from that ranking the lowest 20% are placed in intensive support classes. The 20% above them get extra help during Scottie time. His goal is to have all of the HJH teachers qualified/prepared to teach intervention and to work on skill improvement not just focus on improving grades. STAR math scores seem to indicate an improvement.

Next Don reported on the process of the junior high adopting a new language arts curriculum. A committee was formed that included admin and teachers from 6th through 9th grades. They identified standards for selecting a curriculum and vendor, and narrowed the options down to three. One criteria they looked for was a curriculum that offers the same standards for core students, EL students and resource students so that as students enter and exit these programs they'll still be at the same place in materials in the next class. After more research they used the district's rating form and Pearson looks the most likely choice as it has a good core book, plus supplemental and enrichment options.

3-Annual State Audit: Mark reported that the annual state audit is complete; the exit interview was last week. Highland had no findings, no recommendations. In fact, the auditors bring trainee auditors when they come to Highland because of our clean records and practices. Francis does an excellent job of managing the district's budget and finances, and Kirsten has done a very good job with the federal program I-Grants and finances. Mark reminded the board that the CPR is on April 25 and will be a very in-depth look at federally funded programs such as civil rights and select Title I programs.

4-HAG Contract Discussion: Mark said they've had a preliminary meeting with the HAG (Highland Administration Group) and shared a comparison chart they provided that shows what other area districts of similar size are planning to pay their admin in the coming year. He and Francis are gathering information to help budget an increase for our administration. He said that to survive the upcoming levy budgets cuts they are looking at a 10-15% across-the-board budget reduction to avoid having to RIF any staff. Discussed areas of potential budget cuts, new hires for replacing staff that are leaving and class-size guidelines for K-6.

High school principal Brandon Jensen and Athletic Director Josh Borland joined the meeting at 8:47 a.m.

5-Senior Exit Requirements: Brandon detailed the current Senior Exit practice for students and that it used to be a state requirement but has been replaced by the High School & Beyond Plan. He'd like the board to consider other options that will have more value to a graduating senior. Several ideas were shared and suggested including educating the students to understand how their choice of classes, grades and community service impact their future college and career options, mentoring of 8th and 9th grade students to understand this, and how to get middle-of-the-road students to buy into volunteerism and community service.

Jim Kemp joined the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

6-Tieton Lion's Club Building: Jim thanked the board for their time and effort in accepting the building in Tieton. He said they have submitted papers to the Tieton mayor and the city council will vote on accepting the building at their meeting next week. Acceptance is expected.

Jim left the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

7-Staffing Discussion: Josh detailed his history as an HHS graduate, teacher, coach and AD. His philosophy for coaching focuses on the impact the coach has on the student-athlete. He prefers coaches to be staff members as it helps build positive relationships and a more positive culture overall. Discussion followed regarding current and past coaching staff, the board meeting in March and concerns voiced there, contact from concerned parents and student-athletes, and options for the future. The board expressed their unanimous support for Josh and his decisions concerning coaching staff and the athletic programs at HSD.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Chair

Secretary