

**Highland School District #203
HHS/HJH Library
Tuesday, August 18, 2020**

Regular Board Meeting-7:00 p.m.

The **August 18, 2020, Regular Board Meeting** was called to order by Chair Nikki Keller at 7:01 p.m. Others present included Board members David Barnes, Lupita Flores, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member Carlos López and Director of Business and Operations, Francis Badu were absent.

The **flag salute** was led by Cindy.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No one had any questions nor corrections. David moved to approve the July 13, 2020 Work Study Session and July 21, 2020 Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented, Lupita 2nd; motion carried.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Public Comment: No public present.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Reopening Plan 2020-2021: Mark: Once we found out that we had to go remote, the building secretaries were organized to contact families to share information about the start of school and to ask about possible evening or Saturday class times, best contact info and parent training sessions. Over 80% of families have been contacted, many are enthusiastic about the parent training. He got approval from the Yakima County Health Department (YHD) to bring in parents in groups of 10 to teach them about the programs their students will use during distance learning. YHD said we can bring in five (5) students at a time for teaching (at-risk students) and that groups of eight (8) teachers may attend an in-service but more than that need to zoom in remotely. August 26-Sept 4 will be used for initial contact, bringing in five (5) students at a time to meet their new teachers, learn expectations and start to build a rapport. We may not bus the students in for this initial meet-n-greet but will be able to bus the at-risk students later. There is no leniency this fall for attendance, grades or testing. Attendance will be taken based on student engagement and grades based on the work done. The principals need to submit the safety plan for their building: health screening, mask usage, escort to room etc.

Mark has met with HEA and PSE on working condition MOUs and just reached an agreement with HEA. Food service is also ready for the start of school. Hopefully PSE will have an agreement soon. The admin group spent a lot of time working out class schedules so classes are staggered to avoid conflicts for families with children in different grades as much as possible. We have purchased an online school program called Edgenuity for grades 9-12 that has certified teachers teaching classes while one of our district teachers monitors the students that choose this option. We hope it will be helpful through this distance learning time to keep some students from withdrawing to attend other online programs, and beyond as well for students that don't thrive in the regular classroom setting. Courtney Sund submitted a report as the new Director of Social Emotional Learning and Inclusionary Practices with information about how her department will help students. The social emotional aspect of a child is more important now with the continued loss of in-person school time and contact with friends.

Cindy moved to approved the Highland School District Reopening Plan as presented, Lupita 2nd; motion passed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Status and Operations Report: Mark: referring to the report noted that the General Fund balance is higher at the moment because we haven't spent as much as usual. Food Service is up because we served many meals last spring and those were all reimbursed. Legislators are hearing a lot of concern about and are trying to work out a solution regarding transportation, which is funded predominately through ridership. If districts aren't transporting students then ridership will be zero and funding will be greatly

reduced. This will become a problem when we return to in-person classes. Also, if we don't have funding we may have to furlough drivers yet don't want to risk losing them to other jobs. The para group is also being looked at as we must consider seniority in addition to funding sources and their rules. The COVID assistance money is carrying through to the start of this school year and will help with related purchases such as PPE.

b. Personnel Report: Mark shared a para resignations (Darcie Wilcox), a para leave of absence request (Jonathan Valencia), and the hires and the shifting of teachers at MWC for 2020-2021. Alexandria Ritchie, who is doing an excellent job in Special Ed at HJH, has a Conditional certificate while earning her regular cert. David moved to accept the Personnel Report as presented including Alexandria Ritchie teaching this year on a Conditional certificate, Lupita 2nd; motion passed.

c. Legislative Report: Cindy said the legislature is not in session right now and the governor won't answer calls or emails so there is nothing to report.

j. Payment of Bills-General, ASB, and Payroll:

The board had the opportunity to review the check summaries and found nothing of concern. David moved with 2nd by Cindy to approve payments for General Fund, ASB, and Payroll as presented; motion passed:

- **General Fund bills** for \$167,907.49 with warrants 73054 through 73126.
- **ASB Fund bills** for \$93.79 with warrants 6564 through 6566.
- **Payroll Fund bills** for \$240,304.78 with warrants 73127 through 73142 and \$811,910.49 by direct deposit.

6. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Mark noted that of the teacher in-service days, one was swapped for the time the teachers spent doing the Jeff Utecht Reimagine 2.0 training. Discussed next work study and chose to have it on Tuesday, September 1st in the HS/JH library if available in the morning or in the evening or via zoom if not. This time will include the board retreat so they can set goals, protocols and perform their self-evaluation.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the August 18, 2020 Regular Board Meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Chair

Secretary