

**Highland School District #203
Regular Board Meeting
HHS/HJH Library
Tuesday, August 21, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.**

The **August 21, 2018, Regular Board Meeting** was called to order by Vice Chair David Barnes at 7:01 p.m. Others present included Board Members Matt Barker, Lupita Flores and Chris Garent, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, several staff members, students, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board Member Nikki Keller was absent.

The **flag salute** was led by Matt Barker.

Board Chair Nikki Keller arrived at 7:02 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no questions nor comments regarding the **July 18, 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes**. Matt moved and Chris 2nd to approve the minutes as presented; motion passed.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Public Comment: Nikki gave instructions to the audience regarding public comment protocol then opened the floor for comment. HHS students Destanee Stillwaugh and Jalayna Ruland each spoke for preserving the drama class. They stressed the positive impact that Drama has had on themselves and other students such as increasing self-confidence. Destanee pointed out that she wouldn't be able to take drama if it was offered after school as she is in sports and also works. HHS Alumnus Luke Williams reiterated their comments about the positive effect Ms. Hostetler and drama has and added that he went on to study theatre in college and was very prepared for those college courses after having taken theatre from Ms. Hostetler. A number of staff spoke about the quality of the drama program, the positive and long lasting effects that teacher Aimee Hostetler and the program have on the students, as well as the unique opportunity of having affordable theatre productions here in Cowiche for community members and their children. Nikki asked HHS Principal Brandon Jensen to explain why the drama class is being changed. Brandon shared that the high school has a need for another English class specifically for students that are struggling to pass the topic and graduate. He acknowledged the importance of, interest in, and value of drama but explained that when there is an academic need then unfortunately it is the elective classes that have to be changed. The school board members spoke up to reassure the audience that it has never been the intent of the board to eliminate drama but that they understood the need for its schedule to be changed.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Board-Admin Retreat Discussion: Mark reported to the Board that the date that works best for the administrators to attend a Board-Admin retreat is Monday, Sept. 10. They checked their calendars and all can make it except possibly David.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Nikki reminded the Board that the Consent Agenda is the third reading of policies and asked if there were any concerns or need to remove any from the agenda. There were none. Matt moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, David 2nd; motion carried.

Revised Policies: *#2320 Field Trips, Excursions and Outdoor Education*
#6620 Special Transportation

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. PSE Contract: Mark reported that the PSE (SEIU/PSE) ratified their contract with a new salary schedule for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. All classified employees will receive a 9% pay increase with the para-educators receiving 10%. David moved to adopt the PSE contract as presented, Matt 2nd; Chris abstained from voting; motion passed.

b. Negotiations update: Covered in the Executive Session.

c. Budget Status/Enrollment and Operations Report: Francis reviewed the budget: the General Fund is tracking well, it is inflated at the moment with money that is earmarked for tech needs. He reminded the Board that we wanted to be current with technology for the students and bought devices for them to use at school and home. Now we must develop a plan to maintain and replace those devices, the monies for which will come from the tech budget in the general fund. The Fund Balance is at \$1.5m, Capital Projects is at \$622k with money moved there from GF in anticipation of maintenance needs, and the Debt Service Fund is building up and nearly complete for making the upcoming loan payments.

h. Personnel Report: Mark noted the July 19, 2018 personnel report was amended for clarification. The August personnel report records the move of Evelia Salazar from para-educator to the Special Ed teaching position at HJH/HHS. She will work as a long-term Emergency Sub (with a plan) while she studies with a mentor to take and pass the WESTB test, Makize Barragan took the para position at MWC so TIS has an opening, and HHS counselor Lynsey Westfall has requested a decrease in FTE to .8 for this year. Brandon has worked with her to do this and approves the request. Dale Curfman is a new hire that will work on a Conditional Certificate while finishing his course and earning his residency certificate. Item 3c is an MOU for Aimee Hostetler to teach drama during her prep period. David moved to remove item 3c from the personnel report for more discussion, Lupita 2nd. Matt moved to approve the amended July 19, 2018 Personnel Report as presented, David 2nd; motion passed. Matt moved to approve the August 21 Personnel Report as amended with the removal of Item 3c, David 2nd; Nikki abstained from voting as she is on the report as a coach; motion passed.

Discussion continued regarding Item 3c MOU for the drama class. It was noted that this MOU is for one year only. The regular stipend for Drama is about \$3200 for the three annual performances whereas buying out a prep period costs about \$17,000. Chris pointed out that this (MOU) is not what was originally discussed and he'd like it to stay as originally presented by the two admin at the work study which was to add the needed English class and have drama after school. Matt expressed appreciation for the students who made their presentations about the drama class and Ms. Hostetler. He noted the 'red shirts' and acknowledged there are budget constraints. He'd like to see any change made be revenue neutral and during the school day. David agreed it should be revenue neutral. Lupita stressed to the audience that the board never wanted drama to go away. She expressed that a solution has to be made with the resources we have. Matt moved to reject 3c, Chris 2nd, motion passed unanimously. Matt made a formal motion to negotiate to schedule drama during the school day and revenue neutral, David 2nd; motion passed with four in favor and one against.

i. Legislative Report: David said there was no legislative report this month.

j. Payment of Bills-General, ASB, Capital Projects, and Payroll. The board had the opportunity to review the check summaries and found nothing of concern. Chris moved with 2nd by Lupita to approve payments for General Fund, ASB, Capital Projects and Payroll as presented; motion passed:

- **General Fund bills** for \$143,634.49 with warrants 69741 through 69837
- **ASB Fund bills** for \$4,596.36 with warrants 6197 through 6204
- **Capital Projects bills** for \$18,841.50 with warrants 671 through 672;
- **Payroll Fund bills** for \$366,473.25 with warrants 69838 through 69867 and \$606,330.83 by direct deposit.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:35 pm the Board went into Executive Session to discuss the negotiations update and the MOU for Drama. Mark announced the session was expected to take 30 minutes. The audience exited the library during the session. He came out at 8:05 pm and announced the session would continue for 15 minutes.

The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 8:20 pm. Nikki announced that they will appoint two board members to be on a subcommittee during negotiations.

8. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Nikki pointed out the dates on the calendar, reminding the Board that the September Work Study will be on Monday, Sept. 10 as Sept. 3 is Labor Day.

There being no further business, Chair Nikki adjourned the August 21, 2018 Regular Board Meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Chair

Secretary