

**Highland School District #203
Special Board Meeting-AMENDED
Highland High School Classitorium**

NOTE DATE CHANGE →Wednesday, December 16, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

The **December 16, 2015, Special Board Meeting** was called to order by Chair Chris Garent at 7:00 p.m. Others present included Board Members Nikki Keller, Matt Barker, David Barnes, and Becky Laughery (arrived at 7:10 p.m.); Superintendent Mark Anderson; Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu; Recording Secretary Julie Notman; Board Member Elect Lupita Flores. Also present were staff members and community members including: Bruce Pittner, Sergio Parra, Lily Loza, Adriana Parra, Lisa Barker, Justus Barker, Megan Jacobson, Heather Garent, Jennifer Reed, Rachel Erickson, Jim Erickson, Teresa Long, Stacy Williams, Cindy Reed, Bob Reed, Marvin Stewart, and Jennifer McKinney.

David Barnes led the **flag salute**.

Nikki moved, with 2nd by David, to approve the **minutes of the November 3, 2015 Work Study** and the **minutes of the November 17, 2015 Special Board Meeting**; motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

All Board members had the opportunity to review the **Administrator Reports** prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

Mark explained about and read a letter from YCSRA: *Yakima County School Retirees' Association*, about grants that they provide to members working in the schools. Brad and Megan Jacobson, and Vanessa Williams each applied for and received mini grants that will help support activities that may not be possible in the regular school budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark noted that the **Out-of-State/Overnight Travel Request** by John Strahle had been presented and reviewed at the December Work Study meeting. There were no further questions from the board. Matt moved with 2nd by David to approve the travel request as presented: motion passed.

Francis reported on the 2nd *Reading of Revised Policy & Procedure 6700 Nutrition and Physical Fitness*. He noted that the committee met last week and reviewed proposed updates to the policy and procedures. There was some discussion and a couple of edits were suggested which are included in the 2nd *Reading*. The committee will meet annually to review this policy and procedure. The 3rd *Reading* and a vote for approval will be on next month's regular board meeting agenda.

Budget Status/Enrollment and Operations: Francis pointed out that enrollment is higher than projected at the December count. He noted that the budget is tracking very well. He gave a brief description of general fund expenses for the month and year-to-date. The high school re-roofing project came in under budget. He noted there will be a tour of Marcus Whitman tomorrow with the

contractor and architect for planning the electrical upgrades that are needed. There were no questions from the board regarding any of these reports.

Board Chair Chris introduced an open comment time for patrons to express their concerns regarding Board Member Matt Barker. Matt expressed his desire to not use board time for questions and invited all in attendance to take a card with his cell phone number if they desired to have a personal conversation regarding any issues. Becky Laughery arrived at this time, 7:10 p.m., and Chris turned the meeting back to the agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS-continued

Mark gave a brief explanation of WSSDA: *Washington State School Directors' Association*, and presented Nikki Keller with congratulations and a certificate from them in recognition of her service for ten years on the Highland School Board.

Chris acknowledged outgoing Board Member Becky Laughery and presented her with a plaque for her years of service on the Highland School Board.

7:11 p.m. Break for cake to honor Becky's service on the Board.

7:24 p.m. Meeting reconvened

Chris opened the floor: Cindy Reed and Heather Garent read their concerns regarding Board Member Matt Barker staying on the board when choosing to have his students attend other districts' schools. Each acknowledged a parent's right to have his/her child educated at the school they feel best suits their needs but expressed concern over the implication that in so doing Highland appears to not meet those needs. Concern was expressed over the upcoming levy and how this could have a negative impact on voters and reduce the chance of the levy passing. Another concern presented was that of a conflict of interest when Highland competes in an event against Matt's children's schools; and what message is perceived by prospective incoming families considering our district when a person in a leadership position chooses to have their students schooled elsewhere. School employee Marv Stewart spoke, also acknowledging a board member's right to choose a school for their child. He noted that board members are elected officials and proper steps need to be taken for a recall if community members feel that is necessary. He presented three questions for Matt to consider.

Chris noted that each of the board members have taken the opportunity to meet privately with Matt to voice their concerns and have a conversation with him about the situation.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark reported on the **Policy Committee Update**. There are three members on the committee, himself plus two others and they will meet after the monthly Work Study Sessions. They will start up again in February and will review district policy and procedures, and bring recommendations to the board as needed.

NEW BUSINESS-continued

Personnel Report: Mark noted that a Highland alumnus has been hired to fill the IT Tech position and will be available to help when the new phones go in over the winter break. There were no questions or concerns regarding the report. Nikki moved, with 2nd by Becky, to approve the report as presented: motion passed.

Becky reported the **Legislative Update** noting the recent passing of the ESSA: *Every Student Succeeds Act* and that they had to fight hard for it.

No **Legal Update** per Mark.

Following a brief discussion, it was moved by Becky and 2nd by Matt, to approve payments of **General Fund bills** for \$162,362.14 with warrants 64856 through 64984; **ASB Fund bills** for \$9,170.54 with warrants 5670 through 5684; **Capitol Projects bills** for \$37,194.01 with warrants 351 through 355; **Transportation Vehicle Fund bills** for \$116,304.65 with warrant 27; and **Payroll Fund bills** for \$314,688.09 with warrants 64985 through 65022 and \$578,919.00 by direct deposit as presented; motion passed.

There being no further business, Chris adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Chair

Secretary