

**Highland School District #203**  
**Board Work Study Meeting**  
**Highland District Office**  
**February 2, 2016**

Board Chair Chris Garent convened the Board Work Study Meeting at 7:04 a.m. Others present were Board Members Lupita Flores, Matt Barker and Nikki Keller; Superintendent Mark Anderson; Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu; and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member David Barnes was unable to attend.

Mark presented the **DECA Overnight Travel Request to State Conference** in Bellevue. The Board members reviewed the request and the associated costs and gave preapproval as Ms. Ellis needs to register and pay for the students this week. It will be approved at this month's Board meeting.

Due to two board members being unable to attend the January Board meeting the request to amend the **December Meeting Minutes** was reviewed. After discussion and review of minute taking practices it was agreed to accept the edit with some clarification. The amended December Work Study Session minutes will be submitted for approval at the February Regular Board meeting.

Ryan Monson in at 7:29 a.m. to give the **Capital Projects Update**.

They are at the end of the schematic design process and are awaiting cost estimates for the proposed upgrades to the electrical system at MWC. Requests for bids are expected to be announced in mid-April with contractor selection in May and construction set to start in June after school is out.

Ryan explained the benefits of utilizing a cost specialist to create an estimate of the costs associated with an upgrade to HHS/HJH and is awaiting the results which are expected in mid to late March.

Due to the winter weather (there is still snow on the football field) and the track season set to begin on February 29, the plan is to set-up temporary sites for the field events and make the permanent placements when conditions are favorable for a good end product. The running/approach mats and pole vault materials are ordered and will be able to be used for both the temporary and permanent placements; and Josh found a discus cage that meets WIAA code and is more affordable than the one in the contractor's estimate.

Ryan out at 7:52.

**Project Management Update:** Mark presented for consideration the possibility of reducing the scope of what project managers Loofburrow & Wetch cover. It was detailed their involvement to this point and expected responsibilities in the projects still in queue. There was much discussion about their responsibilities and capabilities including ensuring federal rules for paygrade are followed in public construction projects. It was decided to leave things as they are.

Mark presented the **Legal Update**.

Barb Gilbert and Mindy Schultz in at 8:03. The board had received supporting documents for offering a preschool at MWC. Barb explained budget considerations and utilizing Title I funds to support a 4 year old morning preschool starting after Spring Break. She detailed the decline the district is seeing in the skills of incoming kindergarten students at MWC and the success with kindergarten readiness other schools have experience by having a preschool. She and other admin toured the preschools of three area schools to view how they operate and pay for their programs and what difficulties they've encountered. The aim is for 15 students with applicants being screened to assess need. She'd like the program to expand next fall to include an afternoon session thus potentially serving 30 students. That number coupled with the 20 that attend EPIC plus those children that attend private preschools adds up to nearly the entire incoming kindergarten class having a chance to learn basic entry level skills and discipline. This is expected to affect academic success in later years as these students won't be starting kindergarten 'behind'. Funding is expected to continue via Title I funds as ESSA, which goes into effect in August, will eliminate the need for setting aside money for SES tutoring. Concerns were expressed about not utilizing these monies for older students that are struggling in reading or math. The expectation is that this will alleviate some of that due to early learning. No current programs are being eliminated nor reduced to implement a preschool. Transportation options were discussed. The Board agreed to the proposal and to posting the pre-school teacher and para-professional jobs.

Mark noted that district staffing and programs will be presented at the next Work Study session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 a.m.

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Chair

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Secretary