

**Highland School District #203  
HHS/HJH Library  
Tuesday, January 21, 2020**

**Regular Board Meeting-5:30 p.m.**

The **January 21, 2020, Regular Board Meeting** was called to order by Chair Nikki Keller at 5:32 p.m. Others present included Board Members David Barnes and Carlos López, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, community member Jenny Jensen, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member Lupita Flores and board-elect Cindy Reed were absent.

The **flag salute** was led by David Barnes.

**1a. Oath of Office: Carlos López:**

Mark administered the oath of office to board member Carlos López. His term will run until December 2023.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The board had read the minutes. David moved to approve the **December 2, 2019 Work Study Session Minutes and December 17, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes** as presented, Carlos 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

**a. School Board Recognition:** January is Board Recognition month. Mark gave certificates of recognition ‘Building the Future of Public Education’ to Nikki, David and Carlos and thanked them for their service to the district and students of Highland.

**b. Public Comment:**

Community member and school volunteer, Jenny Jensen, shared her concerns about the reduction of time for band classes at TIS this year. She explained the time frame in which she contacted Mr. Thorson with her concern, supplied two alternate schedule options per his request, and his response. She also shared her efforts in visiting with other concerned parents.

**c. Administrator Reports:** There were no comments nor questions regarding the administrator reports.

**4. Unfinished business:**

**a. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of New and Revised Policies.** There were no questions nor concerns regarding any of the policies so they will move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading/Consent agenda in February.

New Policy:            #2145 *Suicide Prevention*  
                              #3225 *School-Based Threat Assessment*  
Revised Policies:    #2030 *Service Animals in Schools*  
                              #2413 *Equivalency Credit for Career & Technical Education Courses*  
                              #3115 *Students Experiencing Homelessness-Enrollment Rights and Services*  
                              #3416 *Medication at School*  
                              #3422 *Student Sports-Concussion, Head Injury and Sudden Cardiac Arrest*  
                              #4314 *Notification of Threats of Violence or Harm*  
                              #5201 *Drug-Free Schools, Community and Workplace*  
                              #6700 *Nutrition, Health, and Physical Fitness*

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Overnight Travel Request-DECA State:**

The school district pays for DECA state competition as we do for athletic state events. The board had questions as to financing if any DECA students earn a place at Nationals. Gear Up has paid some of that expense in the past and there followed discussion as to what guidelines Gear Up must follow and if it is possible for that program to help pay for activities that will support larger groups of students. Mark noted that Gear Up is designated to a certain cohort of students, often by grade level and for encouraging students to go on to college. The board asked if the district has any say in who receives Gear Up funds since we are in a partnership with them. Carlos moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David to approve the Overnight Travel Request-DECA State; motion carried.

### **b. Overnight Travel Request-Girls Wrestling-Othello:**

Mark said the girls wrestling team was going to drive to Othello both of the two days of the tournament last weekend but the weather prediction was poor affecting road conditions so Josh Borland, AD requested they stay the night instead. Mark approved the request at that time.

**c. Policy 3211 Gender Inclusive Schools:** Nikki noted that per RCW 28A.642.080 each school district must adopt or amend a model transgender policy and procedure. David moved to adopt, Carlos 2<sup>nd</sup>, Policy 3211 Gender Inclusive Schools; motion passed.

### **d. Budget Status/Enrollment and Operations Report:**

Francis said we saw an improvement with the budget this month but a decline, again, in enrollment. This is the month that we will see a revision in state funding related to the enrollment count. We budgeted for what seemed to be a low of 1105 FTE but enrollment has declined to an average of 1094. If we drop 20 students, that is equivalent in funding to one teacher. In planning ahead for capital projects, there aren't any large expenditures anticipated although the district is experiencing heating system problems again this year. The system for the district office building is 29 years old and having problems, Francis said they hope to maintain it for a few more years, hopefully until the next bond. Mark reported that negotiations with HEA may be getting close to settling.

### **e. Personnel Report:**

Mark pointed out the three maternity leave requests for this spring and one retirement notice with an effective date of February 2021, which, being mid-year is a not an ideal time for students so he'll be looking at options. Gary Packard is teaching one class out-of-endorsement, as is allowed but needs approval from the board. Carlos moved to approve the personnel report as presented, including Gary Packard teaching one class out-of-endorsement, David 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed.

### **f. Legislative Report:**

David said there are a couple of items on the agenda for the current legislative session that could affect school districts, although they are just getting started so it is unknown what will happen. Legislators are trying to fix SEBB and are considering making a rule that substitutes not be eligible for benefits but if passed, it wouldn't go into effect until September 2021 so districts will have to pay SEBB insurance for all substitutes that work 630 hours or more in a school year. This is quite expensive for districts. One aspect of SEBB that isn't widely known is that the state doesn't fully fund it. HSD has about 60 classified staff but, driven by enrollment, the state funds only 19 of those.

The legislative committees are also looking at levy equalization, step pay for teachers, fully funding counselors and Special Ed departments, and equalization for athletic fees. Francis spoke about federal programs not increasing funding to match district costs, which in turn ends up coming out of basic ed.

### **g. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carlos to approve payments for General Fund, ASB, and Payroll as presented; motion passed:

- **General Fund bills** for \$170,529.20 with warrants 72253 through 72360
- **ASB Fund bills** for \$14,866.85 with warrants 6466 through 6486

- **Payroll Fund bills** for \$199,497.77 with warrants 72361 through 72375 and \$880,930.42 by direct deposit.

**6. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

Reviewed the dates on the calendar. February's regular board meeting falls on the 18<sup>th</sup>, which is a teacher optional work day/no school day. The board will discuss that date at the work study session.

**7. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the January 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting at 6:16 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary