

Highland School District #203
Board Work Study Meeting
Highland District Office
January 5, 2016

Board Chair Chris Garent convened the Board Work Study Meeting at 7:07 a.m. Others present were Board Members David Barnes and Matt Barker; Superintendent Mark Anderson; Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu; Board Member Elect Lupita Flores; and Recording Secretary Julie Notman.

Mark presented the **HHS Wrestling Overnight Travel Request** for the teams to go to Castle Rock (January 8-9), Auburn (January 15-16), and Kalama (January 22-23) all in Washington State. The requests were submitted in December too late to be presented and voted on at the monthly board meeting and two of the competitions occur before the next board meeting but all are tournaments to which Highland teams have participated in previous years so after a brief discussion the board agreed that these trips are acceptable and will be approved at January's meeting.

Francis detailed the need for a **Tech. Director Travel Allowance**. It has been determined that a \$200 monthly allowance would be sufficient to cover travel expenses for Brian to travel between Highland district buildings and other local districts as needed and would be a more efficient way of compensation than a monthly mileage reimbursement form. Out-of-area conferences etc. would be reimbursed per standard policy. After a brief discussion the board agreed this was the best way to proceed and will be recorded on the January Personnel Report.

Mark gave the **Policy Committee Reminder**. David and Nikki are the two board members on the committee, which will have its first meeting after next month's work study session. Mark noted that the committee will review and submit for approval policy changes as recommended and/or required by WSSDA and encouraged the board members to submit requests as to any other district policies that need review.

Brian Johnson presented the **Tech Update** including:

- The switch to the new phone system was completed over winter break. The old phone numbers for the district will 'point to' the new numbers for 6 -12 months until all parties know our new numbers. The district enjoyed a substantial cost savings with Brian doing the programming. One glitch in the updating was with the current bus barn which lacked appropriate wiring. For now calls can be made out but Mark W. or Danny can be called only via their cell phones. A temporary solution is in the works. The new bus barn will have the current system installed.
- The email server is updated. The old server had the 2003 program and has been updated to 2013. This caused some problems with some teacher's computers but Brian found a work-around and all are working properly.
- RFP's are in/Bids are in. A vendor should be chosen in the next day or two. A virtual server will be installed, wireless conversion will happen over the summer, storage capacity will double from 800 GB to 16 TB (terabytes). This should start in

February. Brian explained the pros and cons of passwords, encryption vs no encryption, and guest internet access.

- The Tech Committee met once before winter break. Some of them will attend an NCCE conference at the end of February. Currently plans are in place for them to tour other schools to see how technology is being utilized in the classroom. This is in preparation for a switch to teaching from the front of the room (currently teacher desks are in the back of the room) with all technology located in one place which is part of the electrical upgrade scheduled to take place at MWC over the coming summer break.
- Brian gave a brief description of how other schools are choosing to use Chrome books and the varying levels of success and problems encountered.
- Questions were raised about students accessing online games and Brian explained spam filters, options provided by different spam filter vendors and how they work in a school system.

Nikki Keller in at 7:43 a.m.

Mark gave the **Legal Update**: One case is completed, one case is still pending, and one case has been dropped.

Kelly Thorson in at 8:11 a.m. to give the **TIS Update**. He handed out CEE data sheets showing results from a staff survey given in November. He answered questions and noted the make-up of staff at TIS: roughly 50% each certificated and classified, and the current attitude/feelings of job satisfaction which is reflected in the results. About half of the teachers are new to TIS and they had two new paras at the time of the survey (3 now). He described the atmosphere at meetings, expectations of staff, goals, students, and the Hero theme. The overall atmosphere is positive.

Kelly out at 8:59 a.m.

Ryan Monson in at 9:00 a.m.

Mark had given a brief **Facilities Update** which Ryan expounded upon noting that an estimate for work on the HHS/HJH update is expected within a week or two. He reported that the electrical engineer toured MWC before winter break in preparation for a fee proposal then explained the discrepancy between the 2013 proposal and the actual proposal. He described to the board the level of work involved and the associated increase in fee that is needed. The board expressed understanding with the cost and process.

Ryan described the electrical needs for circuitry and tech updates at MWC to meet current and future demand. He noted other areas under consideration for upgrades and that codes change every three years.

Other projects: MWC upgrade still on schedule to take place over summer break; the bus barn is in the design phase. It must be constructed, which might take place this spring, before the CTE upgrade can occur but that is also in the design phase. He noted that the bus barn is currently on a septic system and will have to be connected to the sewer when it

is converted to the CTE building. This is an additional cost but will improve the overall system.

A consultant came to look at plans and options for the track and field and should have information for the board soon.

Ryan out at 9:17 a.m.

The board continued with discussion about the topics covered this morning and noted the importance of the school calendar being set to accommodate construction timelines.

Board reorganization was discussed and settled: Chair: Chris; Vice Chair: Nikki; WIAA rep: Chris; Legislative rep: David; Title IX rep: Matt Barker.

Meeting concluded at 9:58 a.m.

Chair

Secretary