

**Highland School District #203**  
**Board Work Study Session**  
**Highland District Office-via Zoom**  
**July 13, 2020, 7:00 a.m.**

The July 13, 2020 Board Work Study Session convened at 7:01 am via Zoom. Present were Board Chair Nikki Keller, Members David Barnes, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed; Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member Lupita Flores was absent.

**1. 2020-2021 Proposed Budget & Fiscal Discussion:** With the 2020-2021 Budget Revenues/Expenditures Indirects report open on the screen, Francis, Director of Business and Operations, explained the anticipated revenues and expenditures for the upcoming school year. He pointed out particular areas of focus: revenue from property tax, apportionment, Special Education, Title I, Child Nutrition and Transportation and how these match to their projected expenditures. Per the Board-set limit, the General Fund balance cannot go below 7.5%. There were no questions about this section so Francis moved on to the chart showing the fund balances of area and like-sized school districts stating it is important to see how our district compares. We are just below the middle with four districts with lower and eight with higher fund balances. The six with significantly higher balances have different circumstances, either a larger tax base or more government assistance or, in the case of Union Gap, no high school.

The next chart showed how Highland compares to other districts for levy rate. Again, we are below middle with a combined levy and bond rate of \$3.63. Four districts are lower and nine are higher as is the case with our tax base: \$588M.

Next was a graph showing the HSD student headcount since 1999 when the new high school was proposed. The headcount that year was 1213, which then rose and fell until a high of 1227 in 2013 but then steadily decreased to a low of 1108 in 2020. A decreasing trend does not support new building.

Francis next shared the Outstanding Debts and Levy chart. Three debts will come due in the next three years: Non-Voted Debt-Athletic Field Upgrade due 12/1/2020, Non-Voted QZAB (loan to fix the ailing heating system at MWC) due 12/1/2021 and 2014-2015 Bond (paid for CTE building, MWC electrical upgrade, HHS roof repair, new portables, Tech upgrade, and new bus radio system) due 12/1/2022. Per the Long Range Capital Facility Planning chart the next possible bond vote will be in February 2022 and the next possible levy vote in February 2023. He outlined the timelines for identifying projects and planning for these votes. We will be eligible for new construction &/or modernization in 2029 or 2030.

**3. End of Year Survey Discussion:** Mark had sent the survey results to the board as soon as they became available at the end of the survey. Disappointingly, only 10-12% of parents responded, despite extending the survey an extra week, so the data isn't very conclusive or helpful. The consensus is that people are weary of the virus, the restrictions, and how information and guidance keep changing.

**2. Reopening Document Draft Discussion:** Mark emphasized that the main overall concern is safety for staff and students. The custodians are currently measuring every space in every building to determine how much room we have to accommodate spreading students out. The current guidance is still 6' apart. We do not expect any final guidance until August but are hoping the 6' spacing will be reduced to 3' which would allow more students to be in a classroom. The HSD Reopening Plan, which is a work in progress through the summer, has been approved by the health department and will be shared with families later this week. Mark meets weekly with HEA and

PSE and those meeting are going well despite the fact that so many areas are still being worked on and much cannot be determined without directives/guidance from state and local governments and agencies. There is still time for a lot of changes to occur.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

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Chair

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Secretary