

Highland School District #203
Board Work Study Session
Highland District Office-via Zoom
June 1, 2020, 7:00 a.m.

The June 1, 2020 Board Work Study Session convened at 7:01 am via Zoom. Present were Board Chair Nikki Keller, Members David Barnes, Lupita Flores, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed; Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman.

1- COVID 19 Update: Mark gave updates regarding developments related to COVID 19.

Graduation: Mark described a Plan A: Divide senior class into three groups, one group each at 6-7, 7-8, and 8-9 p.m. Only Mark, Brandon and Don on stage, socially distanced. Teachers, wearing masks, may volunteer for a shift to help direct family cars in lot. Students arrive in car with only immediate family (that they live with). Grad gets out to walk across stage, Don announces the grad, Brandon puts diploma cover on lectern/table, social distance is maintained when grad picks up cover and exits stage. Returns to car, which leaves campus, goes home. At 9:30 pm, zoom meeting for valedictorian to lead grads in turning the tassel and tossing the caps, then all face toward the HHS campus to watch fireworks. If any member of the car gets out other than the grad, the ceremony is cancelled. Staff have been directed to also draft a Plan B. Facemasks with 2020/HHS logo have been ordered for the grads and staff. The board unanimously approved of Plan A.

Mark mentioned that AD Josh had made a nice display on the fence by Summitview with a poster for each of the Spring senior athletes but the weekend storm ruined it.

Fall 2020: Scheduling and organizing for the start of school next fall is extremely difficult and complex to manage. Mark is meeting weekly with HEA Advisory, HEA Negotiations, and PSE Advisory to discuss working conditions, phasing in of on-site classes (if allowed) and remote learning. The groups have been excellent to work with. PSE is willing to roll-over their contract for a year and for staff to be moved/used (temp. reassignment) where needed next year without adjusting pay.

Points of consideration/planning:

- Transportation: buses will be running all day if staggering classes. Checking temperatures before students get on bus would require an extra staff person on the bus (para-ed). Social distancing on bus: children can sit side-by-side if wearing a mask.
- Teaching: Alternating days for grade levels to be on-site: affects families where older siblings watch younger ones. Students in one class/area and teachers rotate. Shift the hours of operation.
- Nutrition: Resume weekly grocery box distribution rather than bagging lunches.
- Safety: Face shields for staff (vs masks). Masks for students: what effectiveness can be hoped for with children. Keeping bathrooms clean with students on-site. What happens when a student is ill, how to isolate, will a 3-day, 14-day shut-down be required?
- Building secretaries to call parents: will they allow their child to attend school, will they be able to transport them. Update who can pick up their child from school.
- State testing: How Yakima county schools will be viewed for state testing if still in Phase 1 when other counties are in Phase 2, 3 or 4. It will be difficult for the state to issue state-wide rules.
- How to balance what we need to do as a school district with what families need? Child care needs of families and staff.

COVID-19 related expenses: masks, thermometers, face shields, gowns, hand sanitizers, wipes. Francis said we are going ahead with purchasing as much as we can to build an inventory. He is looking at a number of scenarios about how to build the budget as we need to build expenses into it for future COVID costs.

Employee of the Year: Some nominations have been received. Once the winners are chosen, Nikki will make a video announcement.

In place of the usual one-to-one budget meeting with a board member and Francis and Mark, we will have a zoom work study session July 13, 7:00 a.m.

The board praised Mark for doing a great job during the upheaval caused by the virus.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 a.m.

Chair

Secretary