

Highland School District #203
Meeting conducted via Zoom
Tuesday, June 16, 2020

Regular Board Meeting-7:00 p.m.

The **June 16, 2020, Regular Board Meeting**, which was held remotely via Zoom due to the state COVID social distancing requirement, was called to order by Chair Nikki Keller at 7:02 p.m. Others present included Board 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.

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No one had any questions nor corrections. David moved to approve the May 4, 2020 Work Study Session and May 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented, Lupita 2nd; motion carried.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Public Comment: No public present nor had any submitted questions nor concerns for the board.

b. OSPI Waiver: Mark said that the waivers the district has submitted have now all been accepted and approved by OSPI: hours, credits, and seniors.

c. Administrator Reports: No one had questions regarding the administrator reports and Nikki directed the board to contact any administrator should a question or concern arise.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. OSPI Reopening Guidance Discussion: Mark encouraged the board to read the lengthy reopening document from OSPI and said there will be changes as we move through the summer. He pointed out the workplace safety guidelines and the anticipated challenges with providing safe working conditions, health-compromised/concerned staff, reassignments, limiting exposure etc. He is part of a health work group comprised of area superintendents and health officials that meets every Monday for discussion about restrictions and reopening. The state-declared metric for reopening is 25 new cases per 100,000 people in the previous two weeks. Yakima County had over 700 these past two weeks and does not expect to be out of Phase 1 for months. We are the only county that hasn't applied to move to the next phase. There is discussion with OSPI and the health department to look at the metric in relation to Yakima County. Mark said districts must draft a start-up plan that OSPI and the health department must approve. There will also need to be a start-up resolution for the board to approve. The local superintendents have agreed to work together with a 'tight/loose' arrangement where there will be 'tight' areas they'll all agree on such as health screening at each district and 'loose' areas that each district will customize to fit their situation. He expects we'll need to adjust the calendar to add 'COVID' days and that the legislature will not be as flexible as they were this spring with regards to waivers of the required hours and days of instruction. Mark meets weekly with HEA Advisory, HEA Leadership and PSE Advisory to keep them apprised of guidance and restrictions. He stressed that we are looking at upgrading teachers' devices to ensure they have good functionality for distance teaching so we can provide instruction that would match established online schools. We extended the parent survey hoping to get more feedback from parents about how things went this spring and are brainstorming how to meet with parents in August to share with them what we're doing to support better education and teach them about distance learning, their child's device, and expectations. The newly issued state guidance states that all staff and students must wear masks and we are looking at purchasing 300 face shields and 5000 masks. Students will be encouraged to provide their own masks so they can express some individuality as long as they meet mask guidelines and building dress codes. It is hard to plan right now as much can and will change by August. Mark will forward guidance updates to the board as he receives them.

b. ESD 112 PPE Purchasing Co-op: Francis said that ESD 105 reached out to Mark about ESD 112 establishing a co-op for districts to pool together to buy personal protective equipment at bulk purchase

reduced rates. They provided a list of products and asked interested districts to declare the quantity they expect to need for a set length of time, for instance 1-3 months. We have decided to participate and have submitted an initial order. We will revisit our needs after school starts and can place another order then. David moved to approve joining the ESD 112 PPE Purchasing Co-op as presented, Lupita 2nd; motion passed.

c. Dairy, Bakery, and Produce Recommendations: Francis reported that Highland is part of a purchasing co-op with area districts for dairy products and bakery goods but advertised for bids for a produce vendor. He shared Angie Sanders' recommendation for awarding the bid to three produce vendors since produce prices are not static but change frequently. She will conduct price evaluations periodically and buy from the vendor with the best price until the next evaluation. David moved to adopt the produce vendor recommendation as presented, Lupita 2nd; motion carried.

d. Budget Status/Enrollment and Operations Report: Francis said that this is the first time in eight or nine months that the general fund balance in 2020 exceeded that of 2019 of the same time, \$1.7M vs \$1.5M but warned the board to not get too excited about that as we have some purchases coming up that will take it down.

e. Personnel Report: Mark pointed out that Kirsten Lenz and Courtney Sund have been moved from HEA to the administrative group HAG. Eva Lamas earned her National Speech certification and a bonus will be paid out of program for that, akin to a teacher earning National Board certification. Linda Manske submitted a new retirement date. There is a volleyball coach resignation and we hired a new HHS head boys basketball coach although fall sports may not be allowed due to the current COVID-19 situation and winter sports are iffy. It is a very sad situation for our student athletes. David moved, Lupita 2nd to adopt the Personnel Report as presented; motion carried.

f. Legislative Report: Cindy said there is nothing happening with the legislature right now...could be good, could be bad in the present COVID situation.

j. Payment of Bills-General, ASB, Capital Projects, and Payroll:

The board had the opportunity to review the check summaries and found nothing of concern. Carlos moved with 2nd by Cindy to approve payments for General Fund, ASB, Capital Projects, and Payroll as presented; motion passed:

- **General Fund bills** for \$319,651.83 with warrants 72584 through 72931.
- **ASB Fund bills** for \$8,446.13 with warrants 6552 through 6559.
- **Capital Project bill** for \$30,456.22 with warrants 682 through 683.
- **Payroll Fund bills** for \$210,601.87 with warrants 72932 through 72949 and \$894,097.56 by direct deposit.

7. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Nikki confirmed that we will have a July work study session at 7 a.m. on July 13 via zoom to discuss the 2020-2021 budget. There will be a zoom budget hearing at 6:45 on July 21 followed by the regular board meeting, also conducted via zoom.

Mark reported that food service is finished for the school year. They served 165,000 meals since 3/23 and it couldn't have been done without the great support of the community and the donations of boxes and fruit. It was a positive thing that we could do, to serve this need. Too bad we can't continue through the summer.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the June 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Chair

Secretary