

Highland School District #203
Special Board Meeting
Highland School District Office
Tuesday June 2, 2015, 7:00 a.m.

Board Chair Chris Garent called the Board Work Study Session to order at 7:00 a.m. Others present were Board Members Nikki Keller David Barnes, Becky Laughery and Matt Barker; Superintendent Mark Anderson; Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, HHS Ag Instructor/FFA Advisor Pat Hazen and Substitute Recording Secretary Sharon Fisher.

Pat Hazen discussed **FFA affiliation fees**. He referred the Board to the handout that was provided and requested the Board waive the student participation payments of \$18 each. He said this would get more kids involved. Chris asked about the cost of the affiliation and Pat replied it is a little less than \$1,000 for about 25 students. Chris stated this doesn't seem any different than sports where there is a \$30 participation fee. Pat replied that FFA is not extra-curricular, but is intra-curricular and class-associated. This follows the National FFA model. There was further discussion about student buy-in, ASB fundraising and other ways to fund the participation fee. Becky moved to support FFA by having the District pay half of the fees with the other half paid from FFA ASB funds; David 2nd; motion passed. Pat left the meeting at 7:30 a.m.

TIS Principal Mindy Schultz joined the meeting at 7:30 a.m. She discussed Smarter Balance and said there were 13 gains this year as compared to 3 last year. She said she feels the key is getting strong 5th grade math teachers. She added the growth factor is a big influence on academic index scores. Mark said 2012, 2013 and 2014 are factored in, but we didn't receive the information until May of 2015, so couldn't address the problem; we are always a year behind. Mindy said the ELL Coordinator will help the teachers. TIS had 70 ELL students last year and she projected there will be 85 next year. Mindy feels the new math and reading curriculums have helped. They made other changes but don't know how or if the changes have helped because of the lag in reporting. Overall, Mindy said she is very happy with the progress.

Mindy and Mark reported on the **recommendation of the Math Curriculum Committee**. The Committee recommends Houghton-Mifflin-Harcourt's GoMath for grades K-8 and AGA for grades 9-12. Mindy said the teachers were excited about learning the new curriculum. Mark said the actual cost will be less than projected. Mindy left the meeting at 8:10 a.m. Nikki moved, with 2nd by Becky, that they approve the math curriculum recommendation as presented; motion passed.

Mark discussed the **HAG Agreement** and said we need to negotiate some changes. Some language needs to be changed and the four extra workdays will need to be added to the administrator calendars. He said he would recommend the Athletic Director position be removed from coverage under the HAG agreement. Russ will be removed from the HAG and go to a 260-day contract as Director of Technology. His salary will stay basically the same with the addition of some stipends. There was discussion of the position and duties. Mark said this is not really a new position, but is a compilation of several existing responsibilities. Assessment would be removed from Barb's duties and Russ would be doing assessment, technology, some curriculum and also E-Rate.

Mark presented the **Legal Update** – he said we are waiting to hear from the other side on the personnel arbitration issue. He said the mediator received a deposition on the Newman case and the attorneys will be working on the case this summer when they're finished with the Seattle case.

At 8:40 a.m. Chris declared a brief recess of 10 minutes.

The Special Board Meeting resumed at 8:50 a.m. **HHS Update** - Principal Brandon Jensen and Athletic Director Don Strother joined the meeting at this time. There was discussion on the future of football for this year. Don said 20 students, Sophomores through Seniors, are planning to play football plus 8 more who may play. There are also 10 to 15 Freshmen who will play football. Don said he received positive reviews from the references regarding the individual who has been selected and offered the coaching position. However, there may be an issue with release from his teaching contract with his current school district. He could possibly do coaching only at Highland, but it might be difficult because of the long drive. Don and Brandon said the worst-case scenario is that we would need to reopen the position. Don will continue to meet with the kids and assess their desire to play football.

Nikki asked about the Junior High and flipping of the seasons. Don said there has been nothing yet. He added they will be holding basketball coach interviews – there are three candidates who also applied for teaching positions plus one who doesn't need a teaching job.

Brandon and Don left the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

There was discussion on what should be done if we can't get a coach; do we say we have a football program or not? Mark said he will talk to Brandon and Don to check status of the coaching hire and what to do if we end up without a coach.

Francis presented and discussed **Resolution #8-14 – Capital Projects Fund Budget Extension**. Nikki moved they approve Resolution #8-14; 2nd by David; motion passed.

Student Incentives - Francis discussed the Incentive forms authorization. Nikki suggested the principals be asked to do more narratives and develop building policy on incentives.

Update on Bond Issue - Francis is working on rules and a resolution on delegation of authority. He added Jim McNeil will be here June 16 to review requirements and what needs to be done.

There was brief discussion on the track/field renovation and ways to accommodate larger field for Boys soccer at the track venue.

Board Retreat Preparation – The Board self-appraisal forms were passed out and Chris requested the members bring the self-appraisal forms and their ideas on better definition of the goals to the Board Retreat.

There being no further business, Chris adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Chair

Secretary

