

Highland School District #203
Board Work Study Meeting
Highland District Office
March 1, 2016

Board Chair Chris Garent convened the Board Work Study Meeting at 7:05 a.m. Others present were Board Members Matt Barker, David Barnes and Nikki Keller; Superintendent Mark Anderson; Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu; and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member Lupita Flores was unable to attend.

Mark explained the two **2016-2017 School Calendar Options**. They are not very different from each other as options are limited due to the construction upgrades at MWC that are projected to be completed in late August and the desire to finish the 2017 school year before the third week of June. He noted that the calendar committee is leaning toward Option A and the Board concurred due to the placement of Conference week in November.

MWC Preschool Program Update: Mark reported that they are pleased with the progress in implementing this program and that about 40 students have already been registered without there having been much advertising. Testing the applicants will begin soon and they hope to begin the program ahead of the initial proposed start date. Expectations are that there will be a morning and an afternoon class offered next fall. Bus concerns were raised and it was noted that there will be a para on the bus that transports the preschoolers.

Mark presented the district's side of the **Negotiations Discussion**. He asked the Board to review the HEA contract and get back to him with suggestions for improvements or language that needs updating. He noted a number of areas that are expected to be brought to the table by the negotiations teams, both HEA and PSE, plus those that the district would like to present. Francis will be in touch with area districts that have completed negotiations to find out what they agreed upon. Mark noted that HEA President Gary Packard has expressed the desire for the negotiation team members to give clear updates to each building so all personnel are aware of what is happening.

Mark shared that PE Teacher Dennis Richardson and AD Josh Borland have applied for a \$200,000 Healthy Kids Grant. If awarded some of the items that are being considered to purchase/improve include: fitness equipment, new salad bar for kitchen, landscaping at TIS to remove goat head weeds, and many others.

Mark also shared that Highland just completed a food service audit that went very, very well. He explained some of what is required for meals served to students and therefore checked by the auditors: from ounces of whole grains and fruit per serving to detailed tracking on spreadsheets to verify compliance. It was explained that when a meal is noted as being 'short' it refers to the lack of calories or required ounces of grains or fruits rather than lack of quantity of food. He noted that Mrs. Kramer has done an excellent job of processing free/reduced meal applications which is an area that commonly fails inspection.

Mark next brought up the Social Media information that he'd sent to the Board for their consideration. Discussion ensued about if, how, and when to share this critical information with parents. Cyber bullying is a very real threat as is the longevity of anything posted on a social media site which can later be detrimental for a job applicant. Mark noted that another area school district is concerned about legal issues due to not having policy in place prior to adding social media sites as a way to stay in contact with families.

Brian Johnson in at 7:36 a.m.

Brian gave a **Tech Update** including:

- The phone system is in, completed with just a small amount of 'clean-up' needed.
- New virtual servers are here. Two are installed and the rest will be completed over the summer. It is on track to be completed on schedule. He explained the process of changing the current system to the new virtual system.
- NCCE conference: 9 Highland staff members attended. They saw and heard about different devices and options the district will consider for student use. He would like to take Brandon and one of the teachers to visit Selah and Zillah to learn how they use Google Apps and Office 365 respectively.
- He noted that the tech team is trying to have one of them at each building each morning to ensure that all systems are working properly at the start of the day, He praised Carlos for doing a great job in this and other areas.
- Brian noted that if we have students use the HSD Wi-Fi we will be better able to monitor/filter the content they access although they always have the option of using their own 4G data.

Mark noted that he, Brandon, and Mindy are going to a career fair tomorrow at CWU and later in the month to one each in Spokane and Tacoma. Roberta made up some nice benefit packets and they'll take some contracts with them in case they meet a good candidate so they can offer them a position on the spot. The district is considering offering a signing bonus to new hires in all positions. We're expecting 5-10 open positions for 2016-2017.

Brandon Jensen in at 7:49.

Brandon gave the **JH/HS Update**. He shared a data chart showing the improvement in the number of student D's and F's since implementing 'Scottie Time'. He also credited the improvement to more consistent grading practices and policy. The board had a number of questions which he answered about classroom management, higher grades affecting discipline and attendance, among others.

Brandon said they are anticipating multiple position openings for 2016-2017 and is cautiously optimistic about filling them. He noted the surprising results of a survey taken by students in grades 7-11 to gauge interest in having a choir class. Choir would be another option for satisfying the Fine Art credit requirement. One big job to fill is that of high school counselor. Student scheduling will start later this month with a new requirement that classes have a minimum of 10 students signed up or the class will be cancelled. He described other potential changes in class offerings to better serve struggling and other

students. ELL and SpEd numbers are going up which present a space issue. Under consideration is offering a GED route for ELL students.

Brandon out at 8:33.

Francis presented and explained the **Capital Projects Update** with an *Actual and Estimated Capital Projects Cost Summary*. He answered questions from the board and briefly described bus barn, and track and field options. Under consideration is a small bus/big van that would safely and more economically transport small teams (at least 10 people) to sporting events, academic competitions, and YV Tech.

Mark noted that the MWC Parent Association is considering installing an electronic reader board at MWC and the district is also considering one without a product logo on it for TIS.

Due to not having a full board present, the Superintendent Evaluation is postponed until next month.

April's Board Work Study Session will be on Tuesday, April 12 to avoid family travel conflicts of having the meeting during Spring Break.

Meeting adjourned 9:01 a.m.

Chair

Secretary