

Highland School District #203
Work Study Meeting
Highland District Office
November 4, 2014, 7:00 a.m.

Board Chair Nikki Keller convened the Board Work Study Meeting at 7:01 a.m. Others present were Board Members Chris Garent, Becky Laughery and Matt Barker; Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu and Recording Secretary Melissa Benicio; MWC Principal Russ Hill and TIS Principal Mindy Schultz. Board Member David Barnes was unable to attend.

Russ and Mindy presented the **Positive Insights K-6 ELA Curriculum Report** and brought samples of the Reading Wonders curriculum they would like to see adopted as the new reading curriculum. They have been working with the first reading unit as a sample and Russ says this is a more accurate curriculum for students and is structured for whole group or small groups. The curriculum is designed to be taught in 120 minutes and although the current reading block is only 90 minutes, they are still able to integrate the rest of the assignments during the day. This curriculum is aligned with all reading levels including students in the resource room so that all students get to read and listen to the same stories, vocab, etc. Because of this, all students are able to participate in class and have different skill practice sheets for each level, such as, ELL or Resource. This curriculum also has a lot of writing components that have been very beneficial to students.

Teachers are very pleased with this curriculum and have had positive insights on it as it is very user friendly and all laid out for them. They have also been able to use all the online resources to help students at every reading level and are hoping to someday be able to do all testing online to help with grading.

The current reading curriculum has been used in the District for more than 12 years and both Russ and Mindy feel that it is time for a change. They are hoping to have the new curriculum adopted by Christmas break so that it gives teachers some time to go over all the materials.

With this in mind, Francis presented the **General Fund Balance** as of August 31, 2014. The fund balance is currently a little more than 1.5 million. This total is broken down into Nonspendable, Restricted, Committed, Assigned and Unassigned Fund Balance. Francis explained each section and said there is about \$132,000 reserved for curriculum & technology under the assigned fund balance. With this he is hoping to upgrade the wireless access points and purchase new computers to help students make online testing faster and reliable. At this point the only schools that will be upgraded will be Marcus Whitman and Tieton Intermediate.

Francis said that if all these purchases were made, the District would still be within the desired budget. However, any amount over that will mean dipping a little further into fund balance to achieve these goals.

The Curriculum Committee will be meeting, and will have a recommendation for the approval of the new reading curriculum to the Board by the November 18, 2014 Regular Board Meeting.

Russ and Mindy left the meeting at 7:39 a.m.

School Attorney Kirk Ehlis arrived at 7:40 a.m.

Kirk Ehlis attended the meeting to update the Board on pending **legal** issues and answer questions.

Kirk left at 8:29 a.m.

Student Services Director Barb Gilbert arrived at 8:30 a.m.

Barb presented the 2nd Reading of Revised **Policy & Procedure 2161 Special Education and Related Services for Eligible** and 2nd Reading of Revised **Policy & Procedure 2162 Education of Students With Disabilities Under Section 504**. These policies and procedures have not been updated since 2002, per State Office, these need to be updated and submitted to the State by January. The Board had no questions and will have a third reading at the December 2, 2014 Board Work Study.

Barb left at 8:38

Francis presented a **Facilities and Infrastructure** draft update. This plan outlines board's goals and objectives to meet our needs based on estimated enrollment count and projections. The plan also lists an assessment of the current district facilities inventory and infrastructure. Based on the assessment, the buildings are in fairly good condition and very well maintained. With that said, the District would still like to see several improvements in order to help achieve its educational objectives. These things include electrical upgrades at Marcus Whitman Elementary, Districtwide technology upgrade, Highland High School's roof, replace portables at all schools and construct or modernize the Career and Technical Education building. Francis also reviewed medium and long range finance options for these projects with the board.

The Board Work Study was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Chair

Secretary