

Highland School District #203
Board Work Study Meeting
Highland District Office
November 6, 2017

The Board Work Study Meeting convened at 7:15 a.m. Present were Board Members Matt Barker, David Barnes, Chris Garent, and Nikki Keller; Superintendent Mark Anderson; Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board Member Lupita Flores was absent.

Mark opened the discussion regarding the **Board-Admin Retreat** asking for feedback from the Board. The general consensus was that it was a positive meeting, not unlike previous year's meetings. It was nice to get to know new Director of Student Services Michelle Curry and it was expressed that she is a good choice for the district.

CTE Building Walk-Through: The Board left the meeting room for the walk-through at 7:20 a.m., returning at 7:34. Site Superintendent Ray Foucher gave a tour of the building pointing out various items of interest and allowed time for questions. The only concern was that of the large vent hood for the plasma cutter which appears to block the natural light coming through the [translucent] clerestory windows.

Facilities/Budget Update: Francis handed out a summary of the budget to date and explained what each column was for. He detailed the amounts spent and balances available. The Tech category has amounts left that will be put towards updating the camera/surveillance system at the high school/junior high. There was some discussion as to what to do with any bond money that is left over: one consideration is updating the current Art room into a couple of classrooms. Mark talked about the CTE building and what few change orders there have been to date. The location of the plasma cutter vent hood was discussed. Francis continued explaining the cost summary touching on the bus maintenance shop, the athletic field upgrade, and the state grant. Some decisions will need to be made down the road. The status of the gym dividers was brought up: info is still being gathered, particularly regarding what the electrical needs will be. It was noted that our Fund Balance is very, very tight and that Capital Project funds will need to be used for some of the work that needs doing such as a new portable stage. The one currently used for graduation is in a dangerous condition.

Mark shared that he was notified that TIS has been awarded 'School of Distinction'. This prestigious award was received because of all the changes and hard work of the staff there over the past five-six years. Only 5% of schools in the entire state earn this distinction. The official State announcement will be broadcast later this week.

Brief discussion of Trunk or Treat. It went well with more people attending this year than last. Oddly, there were fewer food donations given despite more advertising.

HSD Athletic Director Josh Borland joined the meeting at 7:57 a.m.

Wrestling Program Discussion: Josh explained wrestling coach Ryan Stonemetz's situation as a self-employed business person and how he may not understand how the school district has to follow so many rules and regulations in how we conduct business. He touched on the issues that Ryan presented at October's Board meeting reiterating that 2-

piece uniforms are now being allowed for wrestlers and that our wrestling team is on the rotation for new uniforms with their turn coming up in couple of years. Josh said that the wrestling program, however, has adequate funds in their ASB budget to update their uniforms if they choose to do so before the rotation. He spoke about the challenge of scheduling practice times for seven (or more) sports teams in two facilities/gyms and shared some possible solutions for wrestling plus a practice schedule calendar. There was some discussion about the wrestling mats and how they are moved. The practice schedule, because of having to work around home basketball games, will require that the mats be moved. A new mat dolly is needed and possibly a second foam mat. One possible option for creating a more permanent wrestling practice area would be to utilize the current Ag shop once it is vacated [to the CTE building] as a weight room, moving the weight equipment [purchased with the grant money] out there and keeping the new aerobic equipment in the weight room with the wrestling mats. The current weight room had been the wrestling practice room until it was converted to a weight/workout room a while back. Pros and cons were considered. Josh complimented Coach Stonemetz on his coaching style and how he connects with the athletes. There are currently 15-18 signed up for this season, compared to 30-40 each for boys and girls basketball. Discussion followed about the dates of the Fall Drama performance interfering with sports practices, half days of Conference week and when conferences are actually held and completed, and about the HHS Student handbook and how the information contained therein is shared with parents. It was noted that this year's dates for conferences were good in relation to the Fall sports season except for the smoke issues we had in the area that forced re-scheduling of games.

Josh left the meeting at 8:38 a.m.

Discussion continued about scheduling sports and drama, teacher negotiations, and Trunk or Treat. Mark brought up Board meeting protocol in view of Coach Stonemetz being allowed to share his thoughts during October's meeting despite arriving late, after the Public Comment time. Discussion followed. The policy relating to patron presentations at Board meetings will be reviewed and kept available at meetings.

HEA Negotiations: Mark and Francis jointly shared an update about negotiations. The HEA negotiations team was invited to a meeting to share the budget but only two members attended. They were shown the chart that details the breakdown of the revised funding from the State and how it will be given over a few years plus a chart showing the district's budget from the past couple of years to present. The signing bonus was described and it was reiterated that the district has given their final offer.

Discussion followed as to future staffing options; SpEd considerations; supervision duties; Scottie Time; test scores; student body apathy and apparent lack of support from parents and community, the band/music program, TIS School of Distinction award; and evaluations.

Meeting adjourned 10:18 a.m.

Chair

Secretary