

Highland School District #203
Board Work Study Session
Highland District Office
October 7, 2019, 7:00 a.m.

The October 7, 2019 Board Work Study Session was convened by Board Chair Nikki Keller at 7:05 a.m. Also present were Board Members David Barnes, Lupita Flores and Carlos López; Superintendent Mark Anderson, Board Member Candidate Cindy Reed, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board Member Matt Barker was absent.

1- WSSDA Conference Discussion: This year's conference is Thursday, Nov. 21 through Sunday, Nov. 24 in Bellevue. Carlos will attend the Board Boot Camp and Open Government Training at the Pre-conference on Nov. 21 and the first day of meetings and workshops on Nov. 22. Mark will attend Friday. Cindy and Lupita will check their schedules. David and Nikki do not expect to be available. Outgoing board member, Matt Barker, had expressed an interest in going but the board feels that is not a good use of district funds since he will be leaving the board in December.

HHS principal Brandon Jensen joined the meeting at 7:18 a.m.

2-CTE Program Evaluation for 2019-2019/5 Year Plan/Perkins Grant: Brandon said that each CTE program, Agriculture, Business/Marketing, and Skilled & Technical Sciences has a required advisory board with whom they meet on a regular basis. He explained how many and who are on each department's board. The program evaluation is completed by the program's teacher but signed off by the advisory board. There is state and federal funding for CTE programs. We will not pursue the federal/Perkins grant funding this year as it requires a lot of work but provides very little funding. The state funds a more significant amount, which is used fund the CTE teachers. Gear Up has also provided much funding for the programs by purchasing equipment and supplies. The CTE teachers do a lot of extra work to satisfy CTE program requirements and we were pleased to be told at the Comprehensive Program Review last April that they are meeting all of the state and federal requirements. Brandon said that all students are required to take the Microsoft Certification program in 9th grade and can earn up to 16 business credits at YVC. Other schools require the certification program to be taken in 7th or 8th grade and then offer more advanced Microsoft classes, such as coding, at the high school level. That is a long-term goal for us. More students are taking CTE classes than before and Brandon noted that the classes are open to all students with few prerequisites. FFA (AG), DECA (Business) and Skills USA (Skilled & Technical Sciences) are the organizations in which CTE students compete to hone the skills learned in class. They can progress through local, regional and state competitions, all the way to the national level. The 5 year plan includes increasing student success, adding a computer science class, expanding the horticulture program, continuing with articulation with YVC and more. Brandon asked for questions and let the board know that he is open for suggestions.

Brandon left the meeting at 8:08 a.m.

3-Highly Capable Program/Grant Application: TIS Principal Kelly Thorson was unable to attend the meeting this morning so this topic is moved to the November Work Study Session.

Sheryl Stansell with the Office of Rural & Farmworkers Housing, Holly Anderson, Bryan Ketchum and Keelan Naasz from Catholic Charities joined the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

4- Rural and Farmworker Housing Presentation: Introductions were made all around. Sheryl reported that the Yakima Valley has a vacancy rate of less than 1% whereas a healthy rate is 5%. To address the lack of rental housing a 53 unit, multi-family, housing project on acreage owned by Catholic Charities west of Evan’s Fruit on Summitview Rd. in Tieton has been proposed. Pre-development work on the site consisting mainly of environmental studies and surveys has been done since 2017. A rezone application to the City of Tieton has been submitted and an application for funding from the Washington State Housing Trust Fund has been made. If that funding is approved then an application for Low Income Housing Tax Credits will be made in January 2020. The hope is to start construction Fall 2020 and have occupancy in the winter of 2021. The development will have a communal area for the residents to use and will be well monitored by Catholic Charities Housing Services. The group shared information about what Catholic Charities Housing Services provides and statistics supporting the benefits of adequate housing. CCHS has constructed housing developments in Quincy, Sunnyside, Toppenish and Wapato. They have invested \$6.9m into single-family housing stock (10% of all housing stock) in Tieton plus seven additional single-family homes are scheduled to be built. They offer Resident Services, coordinating with a number of local and regional service providers across five main Areas of Focus; Crime Prevention, Education, Health/Nutrition, Community Engagement and Economic Opportunities. It was noted that their services are not faith specific but that they seek to be a positive influence in communities and pro-actively address the emerging issues that arise.

Sheryl, Holly, Bryan, and Keelan left the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Chair

Secretary