

Highland School District #203
Board Work Study Session
TIS Band Room
February 7, 2022, 7:00 a.m.

The February 7, 2022 Board Work Study Session convened at 7:00 am. Present were Board Chair Nikki Keller, Members David Barnes, Lupita Flores, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed; Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, Athletic Director Josh Borland, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman.

HEA and PSE honored the Board for School Board Appreciation with fruit, muffins and coffees. These were much enjoyed by all.

1. Admin Report-AD: Josh shared participation numbers from 2017-18 through 2021-22, stating that prior to pandemic shut-downs, the numbers were going in the right direction [on the rise] but participation has been low since, particularly with junior high girls. COVID cases and a need to be home to help with family members have been a factor. Sign-ups are open for Spring Sports and he hopes to see an increase then. COVID disrupted Winter Sports as well. Josh would like to implement a common standards of expectations for attendance and participation for all of the sports for coaches to follow with their athletes. The board agreed this is a good idea. Discussed coach performances and renewing or non-renewing for the upcoming year. Coaches need good support staff and we need parents to be involved and supportive of their student athletes. Josh has received updated mascot/logos from league districts and is exploring signage options, including banners on the light poles with ‘buzz’ words, metal-work signs for the exterior and interior HHS gym. Nikki brought pictures of what Cascade School District in Leavenworth has and said it is modern, very attractive and encouraging of district/team spirit. Zero-hour weight class and PE classes were discussed.

Josh left the meeting at 7:35.

HHS Principal Brandon Jensen joined the meeting at 7:20 a.m.

2. Admin Report-HHS: Brandon shared the two main goals for this school year 1) the implementation of co-teach/co-planning for the 9th grade English and Algebra 1 & 2 classes and 2) managing a more effective way to track and assign students to Scottie Time intervention/enrichment. 1) There have been positive results with co-teaching/co-planning English and math classes in HJH and we are seeing far and away more progress of students than in a typical class. The Master Schedule has to be organized to align certain prep times and classes so the teachers can do the co-teach/co-planning. He hopes to add co-teach/co-planning to the sophomore class next year but lacks the staff to do so right now.

2) Of the 350 students in HHS, about 2/3 signed up for intervention or enrichment classes during Scottie Time and they are working on how to get the remainder to sign up for relevant classes.

Brandon reported that the state has changed how CTE programs are approved/re-approved. Reapproval must be done every five years and is work-intensive. This year was reapproval for Agriculture and we were approved as of January 31. Last year was DECA/Business and next year will be Skills USA then we’ll have a break for a couple of years as we do not have CTE classes in all categories. We are seeking approval for Photoshop and Web Design.

Next year’s schedule is under consideration. Students will have opportunities to hear about class options and be able to ‘forecast’ their choices which will then be shared with parents at Spring

Conferences. Spring Conferences will follow the usual format of one week of half days but alternative schedules will be considered for next year such as we had this past fall for HHS & HJH.

Brandon left the meeting at 8:09.

HJH Principal Don Strother joined the meeting at 7:45 a.m.

3. Admin Report-HJH: Don shared charts showing 7th and 8th grades math and English academic growth. He said they are excited to focus on essential learning and the Standards Based Learning and Grading. Training for the teachers began last summer with various options including a book study whose author later came onsite and taught about the progression of learning for all students. The next PLD will be about transitioning one area of study to SBG. It is important to teach students and parents what the SBG grades represent. It was noted that some high schools also use SBG and more are going that way. One goal is to progress to the SBG report card for HJH next school year. They will continue with progress reports every three weeks and teachers are expected to individually/personally reach out to parents when a student is failing. Don shared PBIS Tier 1 data and noted that transitioning from 6th to 7th grade has been a challenge for this year's class, especially after so much time spent in distance learning during the pandemic.

Don left the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Director of Student Services Kirsten Lenz joined the meeting at 8:05 a.m.

4. Admin Report-SSO: Kirsten shared that one of her professional goals is to have building principals and district staff breakdown district STAR data into subgroups (Migrant, SpEd, ELL etc.) and with that info determine how to increase/change/enhance support for those groups to improve success. Another goal is to form a district -wide parent advisory counsel that would include parent representation of students in State and Federal Programs (Basic, Title 1, Hi-Cap, Migrant, SpEd, LAP, Bilingual, McKinney Vento, and Pre-K). She also plans to begin planning to form a Special Education Advisory Council which would be one avenue to increase support for parents and provide information on outside resources. She described Prevail, a program with devices that nonverbal students can use to communicate. A trainer will be out soon to train our staff and we are working on getting devices to students that they can keep even after leaving public school at age 21. The Prevail device becomes the differently-abled student's 'voice' and lets them communicate with anyone.

They are continuing to cross-train in the Student Services office and create a manual per area of focus. Two manuals are completed and were able to be shared with the remote psychologists that were recently hired/contracted through an agency. They were impressed with the manuals and said they are the first they've seen in a school district. We have posted for an on-site psychologist but the trend seems to be remote service through a contracting agency. The same for SLPs. Highland needs more than one psychologist and more than one SLP but not quite two so contracting for a certain number of hours helps solve this although on-site would be the ideal.

Kirsten left the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

MWC Principal Andrea Wickenhagen joined the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

5. Admin Report-MWC: Andrea shared details of two new curricula purchased this year: MyView-Reading and Envisions-Math. Also purchased was Successmaker, an adaptive supplemental program to help Tier 2 students with math and reading. She reported that MWC has seen significant academic growth since the fall and credits in-person learning for much of that. Students that missed out on Winter Intersession will be invited to the Spring session where the focus will be on phonics. The Transitional Kindergarten class started on January 10 and they are

very excited to offer this class to prepare and support next year's kindergartners. Inclusionary practices/Least Restrictive Environment had great success, especially with one particular student. A final focus has been to bring back MWC traditions. Jog-a-thon was a resounding success with the students raising \$15K. The Parent Association, which hosts and runs the fund-raiser, will look at possible playground equipment with the money raised. First-year teacher Brenda Marin did an outstanding job with the Christmas program. They offered three performances to abide by distancing rules. Jump for Heart was recently started and 4-Year-Old Nights have been resumed. Andrea thanked the board for their support and opportunity as the MWC principal.

Andrea left the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Director of Student Success Mindy Schultz, Associate Director of Student Success Manual Rangel, and Director of Social Emotional Learning and Inclusionary Practices Courtney Sund joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

6. Admin Report-OSS: Manny noted that he has been acting as Interim Principal at TIS. He shared that Highland is serving 121 Migrant students and 58 McKinney Vento students. He has had some success in helping some families obtain housing in the new development in Tieton. CORE PAC is slowly building. They've gone from 6-7 participants to 14-15 as he builds trust and relationships with the district's families.

Courtney: She is excited for the next PLD where the topic will center around building social emotional capacity for educators so they know how to ensure they are 'OK' and can therefore support the work of learning. HSD has implemented *The Highland Way*, a character word per month for staff and students to focus on. The words are connected to social emotional state and national standards. Discussed state COVID survey that resembles the Healthy Youth Survey.

Mindy shared her 15/30/90-day plan and prioritizing tasks process. The new curricula staff trainings are nearly complete. She has been observing the Tier II and Tier II system and found areas that need refining. The Winter Intersession on-site visit by area district administrators was switched to a zoom event and 30+ attended. One question is how will change be measured for the adjustments to the calendar: intersessions, block schedule, daily start time switch. The ESD 105 is paying for assistance from MA Eds to help gauge results/growth/effect.

7. 2022-2023 Instructional Calendar and Intersession Dates Discussion: Spring Intersession will be first offered to those students that signed up for the winter session. Thinking about rebranding the sessions as 'HALO', Highland Additional Learning Opportunity. Number of days to offer and when are under review and it was noted that tying an intersession to a vacation/break period makes the break too long. May do something different at different grade levels but must consider parent/family/childcare needs. Funds not spent for the lost Winter Intersession will be used for Spring. The purchase of reusable kits that will last is highly encouraged. Discussion about lost teaching days at the end of the school year. Curriculum is organized into 150 days of teaching, leaving room for review. Plan to move final DIBELS and STARS testing to early June, after the state testing in May.

8. Co-Curricular Policy Discussion: Francis shared the travel request for DECA students to go to the state competition in Bellevue, 18 students qualified. Expenses are paid from DECA funds, CTE budget and district funds. The district pays for district sports teams when they qualify for state and district policy states the district will pay for reasonable costs. Also submitted was an estimate of the cost for qualifying students to go to Nationals. Concessions profits are split between the sport managing the stand and ASB and it was asked where does the profit from the student store go? The board supports setting a travel budget for DECA.

9. HHS Gym Mural Update: We have had contact with a mural painter who is interested in more information and are awaiting a further response from him. Nikki shared pictures of metalwork signs at Cascade School District in Leavenworth. The exterior gym sign needs corrected to read “Home of the Scotties”. It is agreed that all buildings should be Scotties to have consistency in the district, to build Scottie spirit from MWC on up and to put signs on each building. Options for replacing the state championship signs could include separate signs for each sport or one sign with space to add to when state events are won. We need to include a budget item for signage and would area businesses be interested in supporting the district for new signs?

10. State Board of Education Letter: Mark reported that he received a letter from the state listing areas of instruction that are either required or recommended that the district needs to implement with the 2022-2023 school year. He thought we already covered some of it such as Tribal lessons but will investigate further.

11. Staffing Discussion: Per Mark we are starting to look at staffing for next year. What can we keep or must let go, how do we best utilize remaining ESSER funding while planning for future funding. Our population [declining enrollment] has not met our budget. He will have more information for further discussion in March.

Francis and Julie left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

12. Superintendent Evaluation & Contract Review

Chair

Secretary