

Highland School District #203
HJH/HHS Library
Zoom available
Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Regular Board Meeting-7:00 p.m.

The **May 17, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** was called to order by Chair Nikki Keller at 7:02 p.m. Others present included Board members Carlos López and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, MWC Principal Andrea Wickenhagen, TIS Interim Principal Manuel Rangel, HJH Principal Don Strother, HHS Principal Brandon Jensen, Director of Social Emotional Learning and Inclusionary Practices Courtney Sund, Director of Student Success Mindy Schultz, Highland parents: Joe Connolly, Traci Connolly, Tanya James, Jenny Jensen, Cindy Myers, and Adriana Parra, Community member Nancy Richardson, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board Members David Barnes and Lupita Flores were absent.

The **flag salute** was led by Cindy.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No one had any questions nor corrections. Cindy moved to approve the **April 11, 2022, Work Study Session** and the **April 19, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** minutes as presented, Carlos 2nd; motion carried.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Public Comment: Board Chair Nikki Keller opened the Public Comment with an explanation of the duties and responsibilities of the school board, details of the concerns of the parents as understood, and the process for speaking at a school board meeting, and follow-up procedure and expectations. Cindy was declared the timekeeper as each speaker has a three-minute window to present their concerns/opinion. Nikki then opened the floor to the public.

Jenny Jensen: Explained how she came to be there as a reluctant point person about the schedule changes, including effect on students in sports, admin perceived as not listening, and people not having shared concerns thinking they were unique in their feelings. Shared that she has learned a lot through meetings with the superintendent and now feels good about things as she understands the why. Would encourage better communication in the future.

Traci Connolly: Is a Highland staff member but is there as a parent. Has a student at HHS and one at HJH. Her main concern is the start and stop times for the junior high and high school. She stated that the decision to change the times was based in part due to data and presented data that she had created showing the amount of instructional time student athletes missed this school year due to early release for sporting events. Her concern is that if we are trying to bridge an educational gap, how could less time in class help to bridge that gap.

Tanya James: Has a student at TIS and at HHS. Stated that her family is having difficulty organizing family time around the new start and stop times, especially with scheduling appointments for her daughter's physical therapy, and that she has been unable to make up tests. The TIS student is hard to wake up in time for the 7:10 a.m. bus and is struggling with homework, which hasn't been a problem in the past with any of their children. Feels that the district is conducting an experiment at students' expense.

Cindy Myers: Has a student at HHS, two already graduated HHS, and a grandchild at MWC. She expressed that she is pleased with the school district, and we have a good community. Feels communication has been a challenge and would suggest a parent advisory group. She is concerned whether students have been surveyed about how they feel about the block schedule. Pointed out that other districts end their day earlier so sports events are scheduled earlier causing our students to miss more class time. She asked if the intersessions are showing any positive outcome and how will data be measured and used.

Adriana Parra: Has a student at MWC, TIS, and HHS. She would like to know how much homework is being turned in this year compared to previous years. Stated that her younger students get on the bus at 7 a.m. and it is dark at that time in the winter. Said the HS student is missing a lot of school due to appointments before and after school. Shared that all of her students are exhausted with this new schedule.

Nikki acknowledged the speakers and both she and Mark shared that there have been surveys, but the response rate has been poor. The district paid a professional company to administer one particular survey, thinking that would generate a higher response rate. It was sent out via their system and a second time through district email yet still the response was low. Mark agreed that a parent group is valuable and will organize one.

b. Administrator Reports: Nikki encouraged the Board to contact any administrator if they had any questions about their report.

c. Certified School Employees Appreciation Week May 2-6: Mark shared that the certificated staff was feted during the week with lunches and breakfasts and other treats by various groups to show appreciation for all they do for our students and the district.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Building Condition Assessment: Francis: It is an annual requirement to inspect the condition of each of the district's buildings and, after board approval, report the findings to OSPI. This year the district contracted with ESD 112 to do the walk-throughs. The report shows each building received a condition rating of 90% Good in most areas but in some areas received a 30% Poor rating (roof) to 62% Fair (HVAC, electrical/lighting, exterior surfaces, and surveillance components). Carlos moved and Cindy 2nd to approve the Building Condition Assessment; motion carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution 2-21 Delegating Authority to WIAA: This is an annual requirement for participation in the state student athletic/sports governing body, Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association. Cindy moved, Carlos 2nd to approve Resolution 2-21 Delegating Authority to WIAA; motion carried.

b. Policy 6925 Selection of Architects or Engineers: Francis: By state law we must advertise for and accept bids when selecting an engineer or architect for a district project. The district needs to have this law represented by a district policy, as presented by Policy 6925. Carlos moved and Cindy 2nd to adopt Policy 6925 as presented; motion carried.

c. Facility Rental Fees and Guidelines: Francis: Annually we review the fees the district charges for various items in such areas as meals, technology, game admittance, and rental of district facilities. The updated fee schedule goes into effect on September 1 of each year. Cindy moved, Carlos 2nd to approve the 2022-2023 Fee Structure and Facility Rental Fees as presented; motion carried.

d. Summer Programs: Francis: We must submit to the district insurance company a Summer Programs Risk Management Analysis for each sport that may participate in practices, games, tournaments, or camps during the summer months when school is not in session. This is an annual part of risk management. Carlos moved, Cindy 2nd to approve the Summer Programs Risk Management Analysis for Baseball, Boys & Girls Basketball and Soccer, Cheer, Cross Country, Drill, Football, Tennis, Track & Field, and Wrestling; motion carried.

e. Budget Status/Enrollment and Operations Report: Francis: Comparing the General Fund balance of April 2021 to April 2022, we are \$1.58m behind, largely in part due to the drop in enrollment experienced due to the pandemic. Capital Projects, Debt Service and ASB are about the same. This year we will make the final payment from Debt Service and retire the 2015 Bond. Transportation is down as we just purchased a bus. We also were able to purchase a second bus utilizing ESSER funds.

Enrollment: We gained 14 FTEs at the May 1 count bringing the average to 1018 but that is still 10 FTEs below what we budgeted for this school year. There is usually a drop at the high school at this time of year due to students leaving because they are not on track to graduate but that hasn't happened so far in 2022. We hope enrollment will continue to increase as each FTE equals about \$9k in funding.

f. Personnel Report: Mark: The April 19, 2022, Personnel Report has a correction of adding the recommendation to post for an anticipated High School Math teacher. May's report includes the following: Cindy Huck-retiring, Evelia Salazar-non-renewal, Keri Pellicer-One-year Leave of Absence, Elizabeth Thompson-Maternity leave. Hiring: Felipe Alvarez-District Custodian, Sara Crowston PK-12 Coordinator of Mathematical Innovations, Taya Eaton-Kindergarten Teacher, Brenda Marin Perez-K-6 Music/Fine Arts Teacher (one-year position), Shaina Mirza-HHS Math Teacher, Manuel Rangel-TIS Principal, and Kari Stearns-HHS Counselor. We are still in need of a second Speech Language Pathologist to meet the rising student need. Extra-curricular is pretty quiet with Cynthia Acosta hired for the Rosetta Stone Class Advisor and Stephani Kinney-Sophomore Class Advisor. Carlos moved with 2nd by Cindy to approve the Corrected April 19, 2022, Personnel Report and the May 17, 2022, Personnel Report as presented; motion carried.

g. Legislative Report: Cindy said that she had nothing to report at this time.

h. Payment of Bills-General, ASB, and Payroll:

The board had the opportunity to review the check summaries. There were no questions nor concerns. Cindy moved and Carlos 2nd to approve payments for General Fund, ASB, and Payroll as presented; motion passed:

- **General Fund bills** for \$259,529.99 with warrants 75385 through 75488.
- **ASB Fund bills** for \$16,572.40 with warrants 6744 through 6760.
- **Payroll Fund bills** for \$204,261.17 with warrants 75489 through 75503 and \$978,220.53 by direct deposit.

i. Executive Session-Personnel: Board Chair Nikki declared the Board would go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter regarding evaluation of employees for Employee of the Year for an estimated 20 minutes from 7:50 to 8:10 p.m. during which the public is excused to wait to reenter the meeting, or they may leave.

The session was declared extended at 8:10 p.m. for 10 minutes but the visitors/staff/public were no longer present.

At 8:20 p.m. Nikki announced the end of the Executive Session and reconvened the Regular Board Meeting.

6. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

May 30-no school in observance of Memorial Day, June 6 Work Study, June 15 Baccalaureate, June 17 HHS graduation (early release), June 21 Regular Board Meeting and June 24 Last Day of School (early release).

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the May 17, 2022, Regular Board Meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Chair

Secretary