

Highland School District #203
District Office
Monday, September 12, 2022

Special Board Meeting-7:00 a.m.

The **September 12, 2022, Special Board Meeting** was convened at 7:03 a.m. by Board Chair Nikki Keller. Present included Board members Lupita Flores and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board members David Barnes and Carlos López were absent.

1. COMMUNICATION CHECK-IN/ADMIN REPORTS: No one has heard of any website issues. Received one complaint about a sidewalk curb needing backfill. Lower soccer fields need leveled and goals repaired. Admin reports: would like principals to send out weekly emails to parents, can be brief. Discussed streamlining district communication through various apps such as: Parent Square, Blackboard, Class Dojo, S'more, Skyward, Sports U, and the assets and limitations of each.

2. SEXUAL ED HEALTH CURRICULUM: Mindy shared that the state has removed some of the approved/suggested curricula but not the ones Highland is considering, some of which we have used in the past. MWC, HJH and HHS all are in compliance, only TIS needs to update. When the choice is narrowed down, a board member and the new school nurse will need to be on the final selection committee.

3. OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT: Mindy: Staff applications for Fall Intersession are due tomorrow and once the number of available staff is known, then they will start to reach out to students. The goal for HHS is successful credit retrieval, the area of focus for TIS: number sense, and MWC: phonics. HJH is focusing on increasing participation. Mark explained that Mindy works in conjunction with Kirsten on budget matters, on problem solving in buildings so principals can concentrate on supporting teachers and students, is mentoring/supporting new TIS principal Manual Rangel. She will assist in presenting at a Balanced Calendar Summit in October.

4. EL/LAP UPDATE: Mark: the state Igrants were not approved due to a change in emphasis on supplemental rather than supplant. This affects the budget area from which we pay Mrs. Jacobson and Ms. Carlson, both of whom teach EL classes. To address the issue with the Igrants we will be posting for an EL endorsed teacher as this endorsement is required and that teacher must be the one who writes lesson plans. Another change that is coming is the eventual state requirement that all schools teach using a dual-language method. We are looking ahead to how we will accommodate this.

5. GOAL SETTING MEETING UPDATE: After discussion, the board directed Mark to change the dates of the meetings from September to November so they fall after the busyness of harvest and when most sports will have ended. This should make it so more people have the opportunity to attend.

6. CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE: There has been an initial meeting with Monson Architects and a second meeting and site visit will take place later this week. Looking at the old art room for updating to an HJH cafeteria/Commons and possibly an office in the overhang space. With a little adjusting, the portables can be the classrooms for the sixth grade to move up and having the old art room be a Commons type space will allow clear separation of the junior high and high schools.

7. LGO UPDATE OPTIONS DISCUSSION: Capital Project Levy funds are doled out over several years and we are allowed to borrow just \$2.54m this first year. Each year's allotment will address a needs area. The focus for utilizing this first allotment will be the HVAC systems at MWC and TIS, and the upgrades needed for moving the grade levels up.

8. Substitute Pay Increase: We need to increase to \$200/day, \$100/half-day to match other districts in the area to ensure we are able to hire substitutes when needed. Cindy moved to approve the increase in the substitute pay rate, Lupita 2nd; motion passed.

9. Work Study Session to Regular Meeting Discussion: Some school districts have two regular meetings per month so agenda items can be voted on in a timely manner. If a vote is needed early in the month our Work Study Session have to be changed to a ‘Special Meeting’ to allow voting. The board agreed it would be useful to have two regular meetings per month rather than a Work Study and a Regular meeting. Our policy and procedure will need to be updated; this will be on the agenda in October.

10. Policy Committee Options: Discussed the option of rotating the board members that stay after a morning board meeting each month to review/first read new and revised policies. The board agreed this would be good to try. Nikki and Lupita agreed to stay after the October 3 board meeting.

There being no further business, the September 12, 2022 Special Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. by Chair Nikki Keller.

Chair

Secretary