

**Highland School District #203**  
**District Office**  
**Monday, May 1, 2023**

**Regular Board Meeting-7:00 a.m.**

The **May 1, 2023, AM Regular Board Meeting** was called to order by Board Chair Nikki Keller at 7:02 a.m. Others present included Board members Lupita Flores, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Student Success Mindy Schultz, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board Member David Barnes was absent.

Flag salute led by Lupita.

**2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. Health Curriculum Update:** Mindy: The members of the review committee, which included board members and parents, recommended the Flash curriculum. It is straightforward and direct, has a family connection piece, provides facts, and teaches how to find and talk to a trusted adult. The opt-out form will offer opting-out of the entire program or specific parts. Notice of the upcoming lessons and opt-out form will be shared through Class Dojo and a notice sent home with the students. Cindy moved to adopt the Flash Health Education Curriculum, Carlos 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried.

Mindy left the meeting at 7:13 a.m.

Director of Business & Operations Francis Badu, Athletic Director/Dean of Students Josh Borland, and Grounds/Maintenance Lead Danny Wise joined the meeting at 7:15 a.m.

**2c. Athletic Field Discussion:** Danny: The district has nearly 80 acres of irrigated land in three locations, three soccer fields, a baseball field, and a practice field. We have four mowers, one at MWC, one backup, and the others are trailered between HHS/HJH and TIS. One PT staff person, Mike Sommerville, mows a couple hours between bus routes. There has been an increase in the number of games played from previous years so the playing and practice fields don't have adequate time for recovery. Steps that could be taken to strengthen the lawn and level the surface include aeration and fracturing. Aeration leaves plugs on the ground which should be left in place for the nutrient/bacteria benefit but would have to be removed for sports playing. Fracturing would help to level out the unevenness created by voles and cleated shoes. Danny was directed to get a quote for fracturing. Ultimate solution would be to have turf installed. Striping machine: Danny: It doesn't make sense to buy a \$45k machine that would still require him to be in the area to reload it with paint and reprogram it for the different sizes of fields. Seems faster and more cost effective to just keep on with the paint machines already in use. One suggestion was that the AD schedule the teams to practice and play on specific fields to help avoid overuse. Need to look at irrigation and staffing and discover how to find a balance with what needs to be done while staying in budget.

Danny left the meeting at 7:47 a.m.

HHS Principal Brandon Jensen and HHS Math Teacher Cesar Dominguez joined the meeting at 7:47 a.m.

**2d. Staffing Update:** Josh: A meeting was held to which were invited the student-athletes and parents of next school year's sophomore, junior, and senior football players. Six incoming senior players, parents and extended family members attended. Concerns were shared by the parents over how coaches have attended to injured players, playing time, and allegations about language around the athletes. Some concerns relate to incidents that occurred last fall and in previous years. It was shared that no one has met with the coach personally to express their concerns and that some concerns that were brought to the AD's attention were not shared until near the end of the season. The Board members asked numerous questions and Cesar

answered each and described the incidents that the parents expressed concerns about. Much discussion ensued after which the board said they support the coach recommendation.

Cesar left the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Francis and Josh left the meeting at 8:52 a.m.

Mark: Shared next year staffing by building: MWC has one teacher in need of final certification and needs one 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher to have an EL endorsement so that all grades have an EL endorsed teacher. TES has a good mix of staff lined up. HMS: have posted for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science and 7<sup>th</sup> grade PE/Social Studies teachers. HS has a recommendation for the Spanish teacher and has posted for Math, and Special Ed/Life Skills teachers.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

**3a. Employee of the Year:** Brandon: Shared his process for selecting nominees, which included input from his staff. He expounded upon his nominations for Ashley Weaver, certificated and Kandi Vopat-Steiner, classified.

Brandon left the meeting at 8:58.

Student Services Director of Special Ed and Social Emotional Learning Courtney Sund joined the meeting at 9:00.

Courtney was representing all departments of the Student Services Office. Beyond the written nomination statements, she shared endorsements including those from other staff members for Sara Crowston, certificated and Lori Mayfield, classified.

Courtney left the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

MWC Principal Andrea Wickenhagen joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m. and gave further recommendation for the MWC nominees of Rhonda Boyle for certificated and Jennifer Reed for classified.

Andrea left the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

HJH Principal Don Strother joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m. He shared recommendations for Gary Packard, certificated, and Luis Silva, classified, including endorsements from HJH staff.

Don left the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Director of Business & Operations, Francis Badu rejoined the meeting at 9:16 a.m. and presented two recommendations for Business & Operations Employee of the year: Denise Trapp and Brian Johnson.

TIS Principal Manuel Rangel was unable to attend the meeting, so Mark shared his nominees: Irma Dorantes, certificated and Carmen Rodriguez, classified.

Student Services Director of State and Federal Programs, Kirsten Lenz joined the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

**3c. Migrant & Bilingual Programs Q & A:** Kirsten: There are 165 students (78 families) in the migrant program (birth to 21). A child qualifies for services starting at 3 years old. Elizabeth Thompson, Migrant Home Visitor and Records Clerk, interviews families that move into and enroll in our district to see if they qualify and then every year thereafter. Qualifying is contingent upon working in agriculture, which includes but is not limited to forestry, fisheries, and local crop-related work. The district is allocated funds to provide services and support for the education of migrant program students. Migrant Program students

also have the opportunity to attend leadership events, a small group got to attend a STEM camp, and soon we are getting a [PT] Migrant Program nurse.

ELL, English Language Learner, has been renamed ML, Multilanguage Learner. We have 325 students, K-12, in the program. To qualify, a family completes a state-required, state-created language survey when they enroll their student. The responses trigger a requirement to screen the student. The state sets the exit criteria, which measures academic language, not just conversational English. The state is looking at lowering the exit criteria as only 5% statewide are successful. Highland is working on how to include academic language in all classrooms, not only the ML classroom so students are more familiar with it and could then be more successful passing the WIDA, the exit test. Parents can opt-out their student from the program but not from the exit testing. The district receives funding for the ML program according to enrollment in the program.

Francis rejoined the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Kirsten left the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

**3d. Resolution #5-22 Transfer of Funds CP to DSF-June 2023**

**3e. Resolution #6-22 Transfer of Funds: General Fund to Debt Service Fund**

Francis: Payments are due June 1 so we need to move money from Capital Projects and General Fund to the Debt Service Fund to make the required payments. Carlos moved with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lupita to approve both resolutions; motion carried.

**3b. Policy 2150-Update Procedure and Form P2:** Francis: The proposed additional language makes a distinction between extra- and co-curricular activities expenses that the district will pay for. Discussed the accommodation-allowed rate, most hotels will honor the government rate if requested. The Board agreed the proposed language is appropriate.

**2b. Capital Projects Update:** Francis: Shared about estimates and how they are shaping up. The repainting of the awnings will be included. There is concern the HVAC update will take longer than hoped. The architect drawings/plans for the remodel of the old art room/awning area should be finished this week and go out for bids next week. We hope to have the contractors in place and ready to start work by early June. Completion deadline is August 11.

Francis left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

**3f. HS Principal Position Discussion:** Mark: The application deadline was extended to May 5 and we currently have eight applicants, including one in-house. None of applicants have HS principal experience although some have assistant principal experience at various grade levels. Interviews are planned for May 18.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be conducted at this meeting, Board Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the May 1, 2023, AM Regular Board Meeting at 11:45 a.m.

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Chair

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Secretary