

Highland School District #203
HHS/HJH Library – Location Change
Monday, May 10, 2021-Date Change/Action Items added

Special Board Meeting-7:00 a.m.

The **May 10, 2021, Special Board Meeting** was called to order by Chair Nikki Keller at 7:04 p.m. Others present included Board members David Barnes, Lupita Flores, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member Carlos López was absent.

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOLS REVIEW

This is a standing agenda item for the board. No specific discussion this meeting.

3. ACADEMIC AND STUDENT WELL-BEING RECOVERY PLAN

Mark described the plan, which will be for 2-3 years, and must be submitted by June 1st after approval by the board. It is a ‘live’ plan and can be updated as needed. Part of that plan was hiring Manny Rangel as Assistant Director of Student Success. He is excited to join the Highland team and we are excited for the outreach opportunity he will bring to the district and community. Francis has been working on the budget to make the Plan changes sustainable [beyond ESSER funding]. The student count is 1035 and we will budget for the lower number when drafting next year’s budget. We are working to match staffing to enrollment so we don’t become overstaffed while honoring K-3 class size criteria.

4. MATH CURRICULUM

Mark: Committees were created to review several curriculums which included presentations by vendors. K-5 and 6-8 selected the same curriculum, *Envisions*, while *Illustrative Mathematics* was chosen for 9-12. Board adoption is needed today so the order can be placed as it takes several weeks to fill. The new ELA curriculum will be presented at the next work study. David moved to adopt the new **Math Curriculum** as presented, Lupita 2nd; motion passed.

5. 2021-2022 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR

Mark said he has met with junior/senior high Leadership students about moving to a Balanced Calendar and they were excited about it. Conferences will be done differently this next year. The Board’s initial reaction to the calendar chosen by HEA is that it is not in the best interests of students from educational, credit retrieval/recovery, nor athletics perspectives. In particular is the placement of the second intersession the week after Winter Break. They asked Mark to go back to the calendar committee to share their concerns before they approve it.

6. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

Francis summarized HB 1660, which is to ensure any student can participate in extra-curricular activities, i.e.: plays, dances, home games, athletics, etc. ASB fees generate about \$10k and we will have to find a way to pay for those things that the fee covered if we can no longer collect it. The bill designates that any student on Free or Reduced-price meals doesn’t have to pay the fee or should get a reduced price for activities that have a cost. Our ASB fee is \$30. We have to identify who is being left out/affected by the ‘Opportunity Gap’ and close it within three years.

Fee Structure: Francis has been working on the CEP which we are required by law to go to. Every student will receive free meals without having to complete an application. Yet, we need the applications for other funding sources such as LAP, Bilingual, Erate and Title I. After review of the fee structure, the board asked for more data: how much ASB fees are generated from students on free or reduced vs those on paid. The

Fee Structure must be approved before the beginning of next school year and will be discussed further at the next board work study.

7. BOARD POLICY: SECTION 0000 PLANNING/STRATEGIC PLANNING

Part of the Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan/ESSER funding requirements is listing the district's equity policy. Some districts' have this under the policy section 0000. Highland has many of the same components such as Mission and Vision statements, but not that particular section. The board will review Highland's statements against the samples from other districts and start the process of making updates at the June Work Study/Retreat.

8. BALANCED CALENDAR SUMMIT

Mark shared that the summit, on Thursday, May 13, will have a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, and a message from State Superintendent Chris Reykdal. There is a breakout session specifically for board members. Mark, Mindy, MWC teacher Lisa Biddick and HHS teacher Vanessa Williams will each present during their respective sessions. It is an opportunity to hear more and ask questions about balanced calendars.

9. RESOLUTION 3-20 ACADEMIC AND STUDENT WELL-BEING PLAN

This is the resolution pertaining to the plan that is required to be adopted by the board as part of the submission to the state by June 1st. The vote will take place at the Regular Board meeting on May 18.

10. CERTIFICATED, CLASSIFIED, & OPERATIONS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

In addition to the written recommendations submitted, the admin shared the following regarding the nominations:

MWC Principal Mindy Schultz joined the meeting at 7:45 a.m. The nominees were voted on by the staff at MWC. Lisa Biddick was chosen as Certificated nominee for how she has stepped up to meet the challenges and needs in the building this year. She has been on every committee and helped whenever and wherever there was a need. Paula Sorenson was selected for the Classified nominee. Paula has worked really hard this year to get books into the hands of students and to get the library open when they came back on campus. She also went to TIS to help in the library there, reorganized it and updated the computer system and fines lists. She does what is best for the students and the district. Mindy left the meeting at 8:04 a.m.

Director of Student Services Kirsten Lenz joined the meeting at 8:12 a.m. Certificated nominee Teresa Long was selected for her 16 years of service to the district during which she worked closely with teachers in both Gen. Ed and Special Ed and was a huge support for students with behavioral issues. She spent a lot of time with families.

Jennifer Reed is the Classified nominee. A para-educator with the district since 2011 Jen has worked mostly in Special Ed Preschool. Jen is always positive, always there, and always willing to do anything for the students.

Kirsten left the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

TIS Principal Kelly Thorson joined the meeting at 8:16 a.m. He collected input from the TIS staff for the nominees. Dennis Richardson is the Certificated choice. He does a lot of things for the building beyond his PE teacher duties, he visits with the teachers weekly, has helped with online questions/issues, created fun tasks for the students' 'brain breaks' and often brings the other side/perspective to topics in discussions. He is always positive.

Rebecca Gamez is the Classified nominee. She has come a long way in a short period of time. This year she has helped other paras with technology, with the 95% and data, and has a great attitude. Kelly left the meeting at 8:21 a.m.

HHS Principal Brandon Jensen joined the meeting at 8:28 a.m. Brandon surveyed the HHS staff. Vanessa Williams is the Certificated nominee. She has worked for the district for a long time, has served on many committees, PBIS, manages the monthly Staffuly award, and is advisor for the National Honor Society. She is dedicated to the students and serving their needs. She has been very positive with everything and has made this year so much better.

Classified Nominee: Traci Connolly. Traci has had to work really hard to keep the scheduling correct in Skyward with all of the changes this year and helps the admin understand how it all works. She tackles a lot of state reporting but is always smiling and willing to do whatever needs doing.
Brandon left the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

HJH Principal Don Strother joined the meeting at 8:38 a.m. Can't say enough about Certificated nominee, Andrea Wickenhagen. She is extremely consistent, has helped the new teachers, has a tremendous relationship with students, participated on leadership teams, and is always there for fellow teachers. Classified nominee is Traci Connolly. Traci is a very, very consistent worker, very pleasant and always willing to find the answers. She fills in with the scanners/attestations in the mornings and also in the office whenever needed.
Don left the meeting at 8:42 a.m.

Director of Business & Operations Francis Badu: Operations looked at the custodial staff and the work they've put in this year with the requirements for Covid cleaning. Sheri Rossow has worked especially hard researching cleaning methods and options and consistently brought information to Francis and shared it with the other lead custodians.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the May 10, 2021 Special Board meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Chair

Secretary