

Highland School District #203
Board Work Study Session
Naches Heights Fire Station
June 7, 2021, 7:30 a.m.

The June 7, 2021 Board Work Study Session convened at 7:07 am. Present were Board Chair Nikki Keller, Members Lupita Flores, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed; Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, HHS teachers Vanessa Williams and Greg Wagner, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board Member David Barnes was absent.

1. WORK STUDY SESSION

a. College in the High School Proposal: Vanessa said there are three teachers that teach college classes for Central Washington University at Highland. They have seen a drop off in enrollment in those classes by students who choose to go to Running Start at YVC. We lose about \$10K per student that enrolls at YVC. Another concern is that while some students do fine at Running Start others do poorly and end up not graduating and they all miss out on the high school experience of peer connections, teacher relationships, assemblies, sports, clubs and other extracurricular activities. In the past HSD has paid half of the CWU College in the HS tuition, which was funded by McCleary, GearUp or IGrant, all of which have dried up. CWU credits cost \$55 each. A student could earn up to 50 credits and does not have to take those classes when entering college after high school. The students learn how to study for college level classes by taking CiHS. The board shared experiences of their own students that took CWU classes at Highland and how they benefitted. The teachers are asking the board to consider having the district reimburse students for half their CiHS cost, if they earn a certain grade (A or B). It was recognized that the pandemic has affected student choices.

Vanessa and Greg left the meeting at 7:20 a.m.

Francis shared that the district has paid out \$12-15K in the past. Some students will still choose to go to Running Start even if the district reimburses a portion of the CiHS cost but some might stay at HHS. Is there financial aid available or could local scholarships be used? The board asked Francis to investigate these possibilities and do some calculations to see what amount the district might be able to pay and report back.

b. Blackboard Web Site Update: Brian projected the new website for the board to see and showed progress thus far. All pages will have a similar layout and color scheme. He met with HHS Leadership students to find out what is important to them. There will be a training for teachers to learn how to personalize their individual pages. The Board asked Brian to move the Anonymous Reporting button to one of the global buttons and have an 'About Us/Celebrations' button/window.

Brian gave an update on plans to update all district mobile (laptop) devices with a program that allows them to be remotely accessed by the tech department. This program was to be installed last summer but was interrupted by the pandemic. It requires physically loading the program onto each device so they will be collected from students by the last day of classes.

Brian left the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

c. Communication Protocols Review: Pushed to the Board Retreat after the Work Study.

d. Facility Rentals/Fees: Francis shared that some teachers are concerned about ASB fees not being collected and what that will do to raising funds for activities. He shared a chart from school year 2018-2019 that showed 214 students bought ASB cards, 48 were 'regular' and 166

‘Free/Reduced’. HB1660 restricts collecting ASB [and other] fees from ‘Free/Reduced’ students due to this possibly causing a hardship to families. Parent booster clubs or student clubs will have to hold fundraisers instead. Most districts are struggling with the ramifications of this house bill. One concern is that students will stop coming to events, feeling that it isn’t worth the effort. Parents need to be educated that extracurricular activities, such as dances, are mostly not school sponsored and there is a cost involved. Some districts have sponsors such as businesses or families that ‘host’ or pay for a game so no one has to pay a gate fee and the donated amount goes to ASB. The Board asked Francis to look more into what other districts are doing.

e. Budget Update and Enrollment Update: Francis is looking at a projected 1018 enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year and use that number for planning the budget as enrollment drives funding. The District will have to adapt how many staff we have and be creative to ensure we function well.

f. Building Times: Mark: research shows that a later start time is better for older students. We reversed the start times for K-6 and 7-12 when we returned to full-time in May and after trying it the administration feels the benefits outweigh any drawbacks. The vast majority of school districts already have later start and end times for their high schools. We are looking at 9:00-3:30 p.m. The Board discussed how a later start might affect sports games and practices. Mark was asked to look at adjusting it to an end time of 3:00 or 3:15 p.m. Busing is a consideration so we don’t pick up the younger students prior to 6:45 a.m. and also there has to be enough time to pick up the HHS/HJH students between runs. The high school is moving to a modified block schedule where students will have longer classes on two days a week so the Late Start day is being moved to Thursday from Wednesday to facilitate that.

Carlos out at 10:01 and back in at 10:30 to respond to a fire call.

g. Negotiations: Mark shared the HEA contract proposal that they are working on and explained the areas under consideration. Currently looking at a one-year but the District would like a two-year.

h. Repurpose Art Room: Mark said we thought we might be able to use ESSER funds to help pay for remodeling the old art room but there won’t be. May clean it up for use as an additional lunch room. It still has quite a bit of leftover things in it. Much planning will need to be done and a public hearing held once a plan is decided to address repurposing funding.

i. Legal Update

Work Study over at 11:30 a.m.

2. Board Retreat

Chair

Secretary