

**Highland School District #203  
HHS/HJH Library  
Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

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

The **June 15, 2021, Regular Board Meeting** was called to order by Vice Chair David Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Others present included Board members Lupita Flores and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, MWC Principal Mindy Schultz, HHS Principal Brandon Jensen, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board members Nikki Keller and Carlos López arrived at 7:02 and 7:03 respectively.

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No one had any questions nor corrections. Lupita moved to approve the **May 10, 2021, Special Board Meeting** and **May 18, 2021, Regular Board Meeting** minutes as presented, Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried.

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

**a. Public Comment:** No public were present.

**b. Administrator Reports:** HHS Principal Brandon Jensen expounded on his board report detailing the plans the high school has for the 2021-2022 school year. Once the go-ahead was given earlier this year to explore options, meetings were held and the staff brainstormed ideas. Of all their ideas, they embraced a block schedule where three days each week they will have the usual six 51-minute periods and two days per week students will have three 95-minute classes, periods 1, 3, 5 on one day and periods 2, 4, 6 on the other. These will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays. With the later daily class start time for HHS and HJH students, those that opt to attend YVC will now be able to be in class at HHS in the afternoons and miss less class time. Moving our late start day from Wednesday to Thursday allows the block days to be adjacent. 95-minute class periods will allow teachers to incorporate more activities, finish student presentations in fewer days and give students more time to engage with each other and the teacher. Passing times and lunch time will be lengthened slightly to allow time to decompress. Brandon and Mindy both mentioned the switch in start time. The MWC staff thought it would be too early for their students but instead found they were more alert and ready to learn, and that more parents dropped off their student on the way to work and they benefitted from that extra time with the parent. Brandon said they've seen less tardiness and absenteeism, especially at the junior high. Mindy's role as Director of Student Success will include helping principal and teachers with all of the changes. She will help them adjust and incorporate their ideas.

Summer Academy: Mindy reported there are 33 high schoolers signed up for summer academy and 62 for credit retrieval. MWC and TIS have over 60. HJH has had less response and staff are making personal calls to explain the program and encourage attendance. Kindercamp has 52 signed up. This is a smaller class size, which mirrors the reduction in overall enrollment. Mindy explained Tier 2 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Step, which help teachers help students manage their emotions in a positive way.

Intersession: Mindy is responsible for the intersession weeks. She said they will start the planning for the three sessions at the beginning of the year. Staff will sign up and then they will plan what to offer. New MWC Principal Andrea Wickenhagen will manage the Hi-Cap.

Brandon left the meeting at 8 p.m.

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. School Day Start Times/Late Start Days:** Mindy said the MWC staff initially balked at the switch in times but then after doing it this spring they found they loved it and all are in agreement to keep it. Research backs up a later start time for older children as their brains are growing at a similar rate to an infant's and they benefit from a longer sleep in the a.m. In checking with other area and league districts

about their end times, she found that HSD was the anomaly and that most other districts release their secondary students at 3:00 or 3:30 pm. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century program will still run until 5:30 pm so elementary students will still have that option and not have to go home to an empty house. David moved to approve the adjusted school day start times and Thursday late start day, Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed.

**b. Self-Appraisal of the Board**

**c. Board Goals for 2021-2022 School Year**

The self-appraisal and goals were discussed and agreed upon at the June Board Retreat. Carlos moved to approve the Self-Appraisal of the Board and adopt the Board Goals for the 2021-2022 School Year as presented, Lupita 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried.

**d. Facility Use and Rental Fee Structure:** Francis reminded the board that they discussed the fees at the last meeting. Breakfast and lunch will be free for all students and the ASB fee will be waived again for 2021-2022. We will review it again next year. Cindy moved to adopt the Facility Use and Rental Fee Structure as presented, David 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed. Nikki noticed an error on the presented document. Cindy moved to reopen the discussion, David 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed. The ASB fee is listed twice with conflicting information. Strike one of the entries and correct the language regarding ASB fees. Cindy moved to approve the amended Facility Use and Rental Fee Structure, Lupita 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed.

**e. Negotiations Update:** Mark said he and the HEA negotiation team have been meeting and are working through offers and counter offers.

**f. Legal Update:** Mark gave an update on two ongoing personnel situations.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Budget Status/Enrollment and Operations Report:** Francis said the GF ended May at \$2.067M, ahead of last year by about \$300K but that will get spent down. The other fund balances remain about the same. There is enough to buy a bus at the end of the school year and we need a mechanic/bus driver to fill Mark Williams' spot when he retires in a few years. Carlos suggested a contract with a local warehouse mechanic to come in when necessary, but we need a driver as well. Enrollment was a wash for June 1, three students enrolled and three withdrew. The FTE ended with 1038 but we had planned for 1074, a difference of 36. July is budget approval month.

**b. Personnel Report:** Mark: resignations were received from para-educators Alejandra Hernandez and Rachel Estrada. MWC/TIS Music/Band teacher Kevin Madson submitted a letter of resignation on 6/8 and then a letter requesting a leave of absence on 6/10 for school year 2021-2022. Salvador Silva requested paternity leave in September and December. Teachers have been hired for nine of the posted positions and a number of those hired happen to be Highland graduates. Trisha Roy has been hired as LPN to start in August. We are still looking for an Elementary School Counselor, a School Psychologist, and a bus driver/mechanic. After discussion, David moved to accept the personnel report as presented, accepting Kevin's resignation but not the one-year leave request, Lupita 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried.

**c. Legislative Report:** Cindy said there is nothing to report at this time.

**d. . Payment of Bills-General, ASB, and Payroll:**

The board had the opportunity to review the check summaries and found nothing of concern. Carlos moved with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy to approve payments for General Fund, ASB, and Payroll as presented; motion passed:

- **General Fund bills** for \$157,076.33 with warrants 74105 through 74193.
- **ASB Fund bills** for \$10,316.00 with warrants 6620 through 6635.
- **Payroll Fund bills** for \$206,481.75 with warrants 74194 through 74209 and \$908,622.97 by direct deposit.

## **6. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

The July Work Study is cancelled. The July regular board meeting will be proceeded by a public hearing to present the 2021-2022 budget. September's Work study will move to Monday, 9/13 since the 6<sup>th</sup> is Labor Day. That meeting will be at the Naches Heights Fire Station and will be extended and also be followed by a board-admin retreat in the evening. Nikki shared that community concerns have been shared about the deterioration of the painted Highland name and Scottie guy on the exterior of the HHS gym and the State Championship signs at the front driveway need replaced. MWC & TIS could use new marquee signs.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the June 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting at 9:22 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary