

**Highland School District #203
HHS/HJH Library
Tuesday, August 17, 2021**

Regular Board Meeting-7:00 p.m.

The **August 17, 2021, Regular Board Meeting** was called to order by Chair Nikki Keller at 7:00 p.m. Others present included Board members David Barnes, Lupita Flores, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman.

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No one had any questions nor corrections. David moved to approve the **July 20, 2021, Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting** minutes as presented, Carlos 2nd; motion carried.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Public Comment: No public were present.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. College in the High School Proposal: Francis said after meeting with the CiHS teachers, they drafted a proposal for the district to pay for one CiHS 2nd semester class per student that earns an A or B in the first semester as well as the 2nd semester, however, a new grant has since come up that might pay for these classes. The district's portion would be to match in-kind at 25% which would be about \$2,500. Another new grant would help cover the revenue lost by not collecting the ASB fees from students. It is unknown if these grants are renewable or how long they'll be available. David moved to accept the College in the High School Proposal as presented but conditional upon applying for the CiHS grant, Lupita 2nd; motion carried.

Parent Tanya James joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Accounting Rule Regarding Invest Ed Funds: Francis: We've had Invest Ed for a long time although it used to be called HAAS Fund and is money that is donated by this charitable (national) organization for the needs of students in need such as school supplies, rental or test fees, ASB fees or other items that the district is not allowed to cover. We maintain the account but it isn't tracked. A new accounting rule allows it to be put into the GF or ASB fund where it can be part of the audit process. Our plan is to include it as a line item in the ASB fund. Cindy moved to approve implementing the rule by adding an Invest Ed line item in the ASB Fund ledger, Carlos 2nd; motion carried.

b. Budget Status and Operations Report: Francis: As of the end of July the GF balance was \$1.756m, a drop off about \$300k from a year ago because of increases in expenditures. We are projecting to get to around \$2.0m by the end of the school year, which is slightly above our budgeted amount. The final \$800k payment for the QZAB is due in December and we have only one more year before we pay off the regular bond so we will need to go for another bond in 2022 to address some of the critical issues the district is facing. We are planning to buy two buses, one utilizing Covid-relief money and the other from the Transportation fund.

b. Personnel Report: Mark: We received three resignations from two paras and the RN, and those positions have been posted. We will reach out to those that applied for the nurse position before to see if there is any interest. Brenda Marin Perez has been hired for the Music/Art teacher position, Johana Garcia for the MWC EL-one year only spot, Pat Fitterer is returning for MWC PE and Steve Owens has been hired for the Bus Driver/Mechanic position. The HS Science teacher position is unfilled and we will cover that class utilizing Edgenuity and a para to monitor the class until a qualified teacher can be found, hopefully by

second semester. We still need a Librarian/Para at TIS. Four teachers are working without a regular certificate while working to pass the required tests or finish programs: Kelly Fitzpatrick, HJH PE teacher, Residential Teaching Permit, Cesar Farias, TIS 5th Grade Math Teacher, Emergency Teacher certificate, Kendyl Preston, TIS Counselor and Teresita Vega, TIS 5th Grade Math/ELA teacher, both have Conditional certificates. We've reached an agreement on the HEA CBA but next spring will have a big reopener. PSE negotiations meet on the 25th. Carlos moved to accept the Personnel Report as presented including the teachers without their regular certificates, Lupita 2nd; motion carried.

c. Legislative Report: Cindy said there is nothing to report at this time. The governor is giving an address tomorrow where it is anticipated he will mandate the Covid vaccine as a condition of employment for school districts. There are anti-masking rallies occurring in Yakima. The Department of Health determines mask use exemptions. We are implementing the DOH guidelines: 3' apart for students and teacher maintain a 6' distance and all are masked at all times in the buildings. We will determine seating charts on the buses. Found out that we can't offer online classes like last year due to State ALE (Alternative Learning Environment) rules. We have Edgenuity for credit retrieval as well as HS Science. Snow days are not built into the calendar but we plan to make a decision by 2 pm so students can take their devices home and zoom in the next day if school must be cancelled due to inclement weather. Cindy mentioned a parent's concern that Critical Race Theory is in curriculum being taught at Highland but it has been examined and is not. Another concern is teacher ideology posted in a classroom but that is governed by Free Speech but the teacher cannot express personal views.

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 2nd by Lupita to approve payments for General Fund, ASB, and Payroll as presented; motion passed:

- **General Fund bills** for \$149,468.33 with warrants 74321 through 74397.
- **ASB Fund bills** for \$1,780.93 with warrants 6640 through 6643.
- **Payroll Fund bills** for \$246,381.75 with warrants 74398 through 74412 and \$962,373.92 by direct deposit.

6. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

The September Work Study Session will be on Monday, Sept. 13 at the Naches Heights Fire Station. Mindy, Courtney, and the admin will be invited to come in and give an update on the start of the school year. The Admin-Board retreat will be scheduled for later in the year, possibly in late October after the first intersession.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the August 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Chair

Secretary