

**Highland School District #203
TIS Library
Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

Regular Board Meeting-7:00 p.m.

The **November 16, 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, Carlos López, and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, TIS Principal Kelly Thorson, TIS Teachers Karin Skone and Marcie O’Neal, High School Leadership students Jose and Marisol Carrasco, Anahi Garcia, Rachael Keller and Ruben Lozano, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member Nikki Keller joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

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

TIS Principal Kelly Thorson gave a short presentation. He shared a Qball, a ball-shaped microphone that some teachers are using in their classrooms to amplify voices that are damped by masks. The Qball can be tossed from person to person, it turns off while airborne or when set down and students respect when one has the ball and listen carefully. Next, he shared a PBIS rewards chart and explained the rewards and how students earn them, which is by effort rather than academics. This year’s Tartan Races raised \$9180, which will support PBIS rewards and field trips. Fourth grade teacher, Karin Skone, told about a recent trip the fourth graders took to the National Park for a National Park Service program. The program has grants that help finance transportation. It was the first time some students had been so far from home or got to ride on a charter bus. The activities were well received and the experience was ‘amazing’. Finally, Mr. Thorson shared about the Fall Intersession. He detailed the class offerings, which were almost all hands-on: math and English done with games and skits, Tinkercad that students used to design virtual playgrounds, Human Body, Art, and the Science of Soccer. It went very well and they are looking forward to the next intersession.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No one had any questions nor corrections. Carlos moved to approve the **October 4, 2021 Work Study Session** and the **October 19, 2021, Special Board Meeting** minutes as presented, Cindy 2nd; motion carried.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Public Comment: The HHS Leadership students shared that they were there as a requirement for their leadership class.

b. Administrator Reports: The Board had read the reports and had no questions but were directed to reach out to the admin if any arose.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Special Education Determination Level Report: Mark said the Special Education team does an outstanding job as the report shows that we met all requirement in all categories.

b. Out-of-State Travel Request-DECA: Mark shared that he had one of the scheduled meetings with the ASB Leadership that morning, that it is really nice getting to know these students, and that they had a good conversation about this trip. Two students have qualified to go to DECA Nationals the past two years but could not go due to COVID. They researched this conference and feel it will give them good information to bring back to share and improve the student store and other business classes/ventures. They plan to attend

the January Work Study Session to visit with the Board. Cindy moved and Carlos 2nd to approve the Out-of-State Travel Request-DECA; motion carried.

c. Capital Projects Levy Update: Francis handed out a revised list of projects with cost estimates. Prices came in very high but we expect them to come down by the time we have the funds. The Facilities Group prioritized the list. The current levy expires soon and this levy proposal will keep the same rate. We plan to have the resolution ready for the December Work Study Session which will be a Special Meeting so they can vote on it as the deadline is Dec. 10 for a February vote. The Facilities Group will meet in early January to finalize the priority list.

d. Budget Status/Enrollment and Operations Report: Francis: We ended October with \$1.7 GF balance, last year was \$2.05m but this drop was expected as last year's spending was down due to the pandemic. Debt Service fund is \$2m but we will pay off the QZAB next month as well as the second to last payment to the bond. Transportation fund is \$154K. We have ordered a bus and still plan to order a second one utilizing ESSER funds to augment our fleet after the double routes run during the spring of 2021 due to COVID. Enrollment is down with 1014 FTE. We planned/budgeted for 1028 and the reduced numbers will result in a loss of \$126-\$140k loss in funding.

b. Personnel Report: Mark: The October report had a correction, adding that new HHS Science teacher Angelica Bustos-Ortiz will work with a Conditional Certificate while finishing up with tests for her Residency Certificate. November's report shows Salvador Silva resigning as Evening Custodian at MWC. There will be discussion about how to proceed as the state doesn't fully fund the number of custodians we have. There is a medical leave request by a bus driver and Francis mentioned that with the State PFML, employees are taking more time off and that affects having enough staff. David moved to approve the October 19, 2021 Personnel Report with Ms. Bustos-Ortiz working with a Conditional Certificate and the November 16, 2021 Personnel Report as presented, Lupita 2nd; motion carried

c. Legislative Report: Cindy said there is nothing to report at this time as the legislature is not in session but things will pick again in January.

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 David to approve payments for General Fund, ASB, and Payroll as presented; motion passed:

- **General Fund bills** for \$182,323.53 with warrants 74682 through 74785.
- **ASB Fund bills** for \$28,045.96 with warrants 6667 through 6685.
- **Payroll Fund bills** for \$192,076.67 with warrants 74786 through 74800 and \$994,297.89 by direct deposit.

6. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Nikki reviewed the upcoming dates for the Thanksgiving holiday and December meetings. Mark said the Work Study will need to move back to December 6 and be a Special Meeting so the Board can vote on the Levy resolution. He mentioned that on January 6 during the Winter Intersession superintendents and admin from 10-15 school districts will visit to check out our Intersession and find out about what other changes Highland has made to address learning loss.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the November 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Chair

Secretary