

**Highland School District #203
HJH/HHS Library
Zoom available
Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

Regular Board Meeting-7:00 p.m.

The **January 18, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** was called to order by Chair Nikki Keller at 7:00 p.m. Others present included Board members David Barnes and Cindy Reed, Superintendent Mark Anderson, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, High School Leadership students Fietka Dorantes, Naomi Jimenez, Madison Monson and Lupita Silva, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board members Lupita Flores and Carlos López were absent.

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No one had any questions nor corrections. David moved to approve the **December 6, 2021 Special Board Meeting** and the **December 20, 2021, Special Board Meeting** minutes as presented, Cindy 2nd; motion carried.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

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

b. Public Comment: The HHS Leadership students introduced themselves. All are HHS seniors.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. In-Person Learning: Updated Guidance: Mark: Working on a ‘cheat sheet’ to send home to parents with the updated information for quarantine/isolation of five days and also the Test-to-Stay program. It has been a great help to have the ESD person [Yami Chavez] in the old art room doing the covid testing. She has been very busy. MWC & TIS have had 60-70+ students absent while HJH/HHS have had 100+ absent related to covid illness or close contact with family members. We also have several staff members absent and have been scrambling to cover. We are doing everything we can and have a plan in place to avoid going to remote instruction unless we are told to do so [by YHD or the state]. The two trainee bus drivers have finished class and will now get oriented on our buses as they are different than the buses at the training center.

b. Capital Levy Projects Discussion: Francis: We are at a good point. The Voter Guide is being delivered to homes now and our levy brochure will go out in the mail tomorrow. We have gotten good press in the newspaper as several districts are running levies so there have been positive articles.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Status/Enrollment and Operations Report: Francis: The GF was \$1.4m in December, down \$500k from 2020 but that was expected as we are spending more now, including the recent purchase of new curriculum. The Debt Service fund is down after making the final QZAB payment. The final bond payment will be in December 2022. Transportation is at \$154k. The new bus, purchased with ESSER funds, should be delivered soon and we plan to order one more in the near future.

Enrollment is down again with three more withdrawn than enrolled. We budgeted for 1028 FTE, January’s FTE was 1019 and the average was 1017. This is a loss of about \$110k in state funding. We are losing students but our spending stays the same. We hope the new housing in Tieton will bring families with students to the district. OSPI is pushing for a change in how funding is calculated.

b. Personnel Report: Mark: The Personnel Report does not have much on it this month. We’ve hired a couple of para-educators to address student needs for the remainder of this school year and some coaching

staff positions have been filled. Cindy moved and David 2nd, to approve the **January 20, 2022 Personnel Report** as presented, motion passed.

c. Legislative Report: Cindy: The legislature is in session. No voting/action has taken place but there are a couple of items to watch: The governor wants to make the state superintendent an appointed position rather than a voted-in position. Some legislators are pushing to make CRT a requirement. Wahkiakum School District is suing the state to provide more capital funding. Big districts can generate more revenue due to their larger tax base but small districts cannot. State mandates don't include funding to help with the mandates and small districts struggle.

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

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

- **General Fund bills** for \$359,032.19 with warrants 74928 through 75012.
- **ASB Fund bills** for \$4,636.56 with warrants 6701 through 6709.
- **Payroll Fund bills** for \$198,189.71 with warrants 75013 through 75027 and \$903,889.17 by direct deposit.

6. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Nikki reviewed the upcoming dates for the February meetings. There is no school on President's Day, February 21 or February 22, a PLD.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the January 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Chair

Secretary