

**Highland School District #203  
HJH Room 155 and Zoom  
Monday, December 6, 2021**

**Special Board Meeting-7:00 a.m.**

The **December 6, 2021, Special Board Meeting** was called to order by Chair Nikki Keller at 7:02 a.m. Others present included Board members David Barnes, Lupita Flores and Cindy Reed, Director of Business and Operations Francis Badu, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Superintendent Mark Anderson, and Board member Carlos López were absent.

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

**1a. Swearing in of Re-elected Board Members:** Francis, as authorized by Superintendent Mark Anderson, administered the oath of office to returning board members Nikki Keller and David Barnes. Their terms will run until December 2024.

**1b. Reorganization of the Board:** Nikki opened the floor for discussion. It was agreed that each member will continue in their current role: Nikki-Chair, David-Vice Chair, Lupita-WIAA Rep, Carlos-Title IX Rep, Cindy-Legislative Rep. David moved and Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the Reorganization of the Board as presented; motion carried.

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. ESSER Funding Discussion:** Francis: We have received three installments of ESSER funds: the CARES Act, ESSER 1 and ESSER 2 for a total of \$3.2m. Each has a spending deadline: The end of school year 2022, 2023 and 2024 respectively. The first funds received were spent mainly on PPE, air purification at MWC, online curriculum and technology. The remainder of those funds and the other ESSER funds have been and will be used to hire staff to supplement our counseling and nursing staff, provide COVID checks and supervision on the school buses and administration of the transportation system (routes and discipline), purchase a bus to replace an older model used up during 2020-2021, purchase more PPE as needed and to meet the ever-changing needs of the district as impacted by the pandemic. Most new positions were created as one-year or two-years only and will be evaluated at the end of those terms to determine if each position is still needed and if so, can we continue to fund them.

**b. Business & Operations Update:** Francis: We paid off QZAB this month and made the second to last payment on the current bond. We have learned much as a result of the pandemic and plan to make some changes in the areas of transportation, custodial, grounds, and maintenance to economize and optimize staff and services and to plan ahead for retirements. Changes that are being considered include customizing staff responsibilities to cover multiple areas such as having a bus driver work part-time in custodial, grounds or maintenance, and creating a supervision role over custodial and maintenance in the most efficient and effective combination.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Resolution #1-21 Capital Projects Levy:** Francis shared a chart showing the different tax rates of area school districts. We'd like and plan to keep our rate the same as it has been. The board discussed rates. David moved to adopt Resolution #1-21 Capital Projects Levy as presented, Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote by roll call: Nikki-Aya, David-Aya, Lupita-Aya, Cindy-Aya; motion carried.

**b. Appointment For/Against Committee Members:** Cindy explained that there is a new law in regard to the Voters Pamphlet requiring a For and Against statement to be submitted for our levy proposal. We have advertised on the website for patrons interested in serving in either capacity and received one letter of interest for the 'For' committee from Cameron Howell. No one responded about the 'Against' committee. David moved to appoint Cameron Howell for the 'For' Committee, Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Nikki Keller adjourned the December 6, 2021 Special Board Meeting at 7:39 a.m.

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Chair

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Secretary