

**Harmony Union School District  
Special School Board Meeting  
March 14, 2024  
Minutes (draft/unapproved)**

**Board Members present:**

Andrew Cone (AL), Amanda Solter (AS), Yuri Koslen (YK), Mariah Lander (ML), Charlie Laird (CL)

**Also present:**

Suzi Heron, Stacy Kalember, Matthew Morgan

**Meeting opened:**

**Entered into closed session:**

**Entered into open session:**

**Meeting adjourned: 11:00 pm**

**1.0 Call to Order**

**2.0 Approval of the Agenda**

*No changes to the agenda.*

**3.0 Public Comment**

*No public comments on non-agendized items.*

**4.0 Closed Session**

4.1 With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957:Public Employee - Discipline/ Dismissal/ Release, Info/Action

**5.0 Reconvene to Open Session**

*The Board adopted a resolution of non-reelect of a probationary teacher as authorized by the District superintendent.*

*Cone: aye*

*Solter: aye*

*Koslen: aye*

*Lander: aye*

*Laird: aye*

*Motion approved—all in favor*

## 6.0 Action Items

6.1 Consideration of budget allocation and initiation of hiring process for Assistant Principal position for 2024-2025 school year, Action

*Matthew gave some background about the admin configuration: short period with a vice principal and a principal/superintendent; before that principal superintendent; before that principal and part-time superintendent. Lost assistant principal position during COVID: with student attrition, it was tenable; currently, with increase in student population, it's untenable—it's impacted principal's effectiveness and needs of students, families, and staff.*

*Principal/superintendent duties are more than one person can handle—risk losing effectiveness as an institution. Faculty recognizes need for more support, even with increased costs. Faculty wants to be involved in writing of job description and hiring process. Also need to think about "institutional changing of the guard" when Matthew leaves: will the person who takes the position step into the principal/superintendent position or will they remain assistant principal? Ideally, eye to have them step into principal or princ/sup position. But most important is that students have services and teachers have support. It will "punch a hole" in the budget (approx \$100–120 K). The district would need to move forward quickly, as this is the time to attract quality applicants.*

*Stacy agreed with Matthew's comments, and the cost of an assistant principal is included in next year's budget—the deficit of \$150 K is about the cost of an assistant principal.*

*Per Amanda's question, Matthew will discuss with faculty re the job description and post the job asap (in the next two weeks). The Board would need to adopt the salary schedule at one meeting and then a contract upon hire at the next meeting.*

*No public comment at this time.*

*Yuri said that this conversation has been in process for quite some time and that he's supportive of the move—believes it will stabilize things and is glad to hear that faculty is supportive.*

*Andrew asked about reduction in other staff. Matthew said that per the Board's decision to retain the music position at 1.0, next year's budget deficit is currently at \$180 K, but things may change in May and July (per property taxes and economy). Amanda is glad that this motion has been brought forward; the work is too much for one person. Yuri agreed.*

*Motion to move forward with hiring an assistant principal:*

*Motion: AS*

*Second: ML*

*Motion approved—all in favor*

## 7.0 Adjournment