

March 25, 2022

Highland CUSD No. 5 Parents and Staff,

The last couple of years has brought one challenge after another. I have been proud of the way our schools, our Board of Education, and all of our staff handled these challenges and worked together to create the best opportunities for our students. It couldn't have happened without the support of our families and the entire community. The last month or so has been much different in that COVID has not demanded a majority of our attention. However, many remnants of the pandemic still exist. We have many families, staff and students with ongoing challenges whether it be emotional, physical, or financial. The district continues to look for ways to address the needs of students and staff moving forward.

We know that opportunities to vacation and visit loved ones have been limited during the pandemic and folks are now making up for some of that lost time by traveling more now. The impact has been increased absences from school and work. These absences create a huge burden on teachers and staff when students are out for several days at a time. While we completely understand the impact of the pandemic, we hope that prolonged absences are limited and the expectations on our staff for make-up assignments and such are reasonable. It is getting increasingly difficult to keep a positive outlook on our surroundings with increasing costs, War and the nation's political environment. Summer will be here before you know it and we can all take a pause, catch our breath, and recoup from the unprecedented challenges we have faced. The thought I feel compelled to provide is "Be Kind" to all of your neighbors, we all have challenges we are dealing with.

Now that I have my downer news out of the way, let's go upbeat. We have some very exciting things going on in and around the district. The Highland CUSD No. 5 Board of Education monthly meeting is on Monday, March 28. We will be discussing several topics such as the proposed new Highland Primary building and an addition at Highland Middle School. We hope the meeting will be a kickoff to much public engagement regarding the referendum in June. We have lots to share including "why the work needs to be done", "the scope of the work to be done", and "what impact the cost of the work will have on YOU". I plan to share much of this information via electronic means, but we will also have several public engagement opportunities for those who prefer to receive the information in person. We also hope to approve bids at the meeting for the entrance area work at Alhambra Primary and Grantfork Elementary to make those buildings more secure. If you wish to tune into the meeting via our live stream, please use the following link: <https://youtu.be/hoscaVFr4HM>

Spring is here, the weather just seems to be a little late in arriving☺ It's will eventually get here, but until then, enjoy not having to mow your grass. I wish you all a relaxing and safe weekend!

Sincerely,

Michael S. Sutton, Superintendent