

Highland Central School District

**MINUTES**

Board of Education Meeting

**Tuesday, April 9, 2013**

6:00 Executive Session Pending on Board Approval

7:00 pm Regular Meeting held in the High School Cafeteria



**Motion made by Tom Miller to enter Executive Session; Second by Mike Reid; Motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:05 pm):**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Highland Central School District conduct an Executive Session to discuss:

- Collective Negotiations pursuant to Article 14 (Taylor Law) of the Civil Service Law
- The Medical, financial or credit, employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation

**Motion made at 7:00 pm by Debbie Pagano to return to Open Session; Second by Kim Sweeney; Motion carried.**

**ATTENDEES**

Board Members Present: Alan Barone, Sue Gilmore, Tom Miller, Kim Sweeney, Debbie Pagano, Mike Bakatsias, Mike Reid

Administrators/Directors/Principals Present: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Louise M. Lynch, Business Administrator; Barbara E. Chapman; Director of Student Services; Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation; Sarah Dudley-Lemek; High School Assistant Principal; Dan Seyler-Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Meghan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal

Assistant Superintendent of Schools: Roseann Bayne (Absent)

Student Representative: Nikhil Tikoo (Absent)

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** (7:10 pm)

Board President, Alan Barone, called meeting to order at 7:10 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

- a) Science Olympiad Teams – Middle School and High School

Middle School Team Advisor Mike Watts and Kevin Rizzo and High School Team Advisor Chris Sgro and Chris Cozzolino presented awards to students participating in the Science Olympiad Teams.

- The middle school students placed 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a recent competition and will be competing in the upcoming weekend at Syracuse, NY. After recognition, students then demonstrated their projects.
- The high school team was recognized for earning medals and making a strong showing at the Regional Competition in January.

On behalf of the Board, Alan Barone thanked advisors and students for their achievements.

### **BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Louise M. Lynch, Business Administrator, presented the Board with an updated 2013-2014 school budget proposal presentation. The power point reflected the following:

- Proposed budget of \$38,524,337 which represents a 4.34% increase
- Increase in state aid in amount \$412,043
- Amount from accrual funds and the tax cert reserve is \$433,106
- Reduce of expenditures by \$405,251
- Closes "THE GAP" by \$1,250,400
- Restorations of programs
- Staffing shifts (BOCES ESL to District ESL and Business Office to CBO)
- New initiatives (AIS Services at middle school /Security Guard / Security Attendants)
- Maximum Tax Levy Limit
- NYS Budget State Aid
- Areas being explored for additional savings (bus runs, overtime in applicable areas, share services with neighboring districts, reduce a BOCES data coordinator; maximize Medicaid billing to increase revenues.)

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Review of the restored programs such as: fourth grade teacher, lunch monitors, JV sports, extra-curricular clubs; music program; English high school teacher; guidance counselor at the middle school. Discussion then took place regarding this.
- Alan Barone reiterate proposed budget reflects a tax levy of 4.34% (which represents voter approval of 50% + 1)
- Sue Gilmore expressed concern about using the accrual funds and tax cert reserve. Discussion followed her concern.

Deborah Haab commented to everyone that she received word from the Senator regarding the number of emails (from link of HCSD website) that was received by our community. She encourages the public to continue communicating with our legislators throughout our school year. Deborah believes it was a positive impact. This link is still available on our website.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- John Margulio, community member, expressed the following:

- Recognized the students involved in Science Olympiad
  - Livestream – quality is not sufficient
  - Surveillance Camera – why is it a separate item from budget vote. *Louise Lynch stated this is treated as a Capital Project.*
  - Proposed tax cap 4.34%? How does this formula comes about? *Deborah Haab went over formula.*
  - Teacher contracts
  - Class sizes including AP classes
- Jeff Paladino, Town Board Council Member mentioned the following:
  - Town of Lloyd discussing ideas of assigning a solar field in the land fill area. This which would generate energy and then be credited back to town at a discounted rate. This idea could benefit school as well as taxpayers.
- Randi Rattick, community member shared her concerns about:
  - New Initiatives – AIS and ELA services – salary amount?
  - Middle school instrument lessons – will that be reduced? *Dan Seyler-Wetzel discussed scheduling ideas of these lessons.*
- Maria Peterson, community member stated the following:
  - Thanked the Board for their efforts on the budget;
  - Expressed concern about support a budget without knowing how a program will be affected (for example music reductions);
  - Security Guard / Security Attendants – what is the difference? *Deborah Haab explained the difference and responsibilities of a civil service position.*
- Laurie Ward, community member stated the following:
  - Supports AP classes;
  - Encourages negotiations with HTA
- Holly Brooker, community member stated the following:
  - Thanked the Board and Administrative Team for the well presented budget proposals during this budget process.
- John Magulio, community member asked about:
  - Online Learning Services

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education acknowledges reviewing the following report:

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2013, March 19, 2013 and March 26, 2013

**Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: None; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

#### **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:**

- a) Director's Report – On file in District Office

#### **PERSONNEL:**

**Motion made by Sue Gilmore to move items “a-c” as a block; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: None; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

- a) **Maternity Leave**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following request for maternity leave:

Meghan Virgadamo

Position: Special Education Teacher – Elementary School

Effective Date: On or about May 28, 2013 – June 30, 2013

b) **Stipend Position**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following stipend position:

Virginia Knauer

Position: Track – Modified (Head Coach)

Stipend Amount: \$ 1,323

Effective Date: April 3, 2013

c) **Employees Given Permanent Status**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following employees with a permanent status:

Mark Pampinella

Position: School Bus Driver

Effective Date: March 2, 2013

Rachele Corcoran

Position: School Bus Driver

Effective Date: March 2, 2013

**BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:**

1) **Health & Welfare Contract – Hyde Park CSD**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the 2012-2013 Health and Welfare Contract for nine (9) students at a cost of \$616.80 per student for a total of \$5,551.20 with the Hyde Park Central District and authorize the Board President and District Clerk to execute the contract.

**Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Second by Kim Sweeney; Discussion: None; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS –** Nikhil Tikoo (absent)

Deborah Haab read an email on updates from Nikhil who was unable to make meeting due to increased scheduling conflicts.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:**

Deborah Haab updated the Board on the following:

- Support Services are reviewing the eleven (11) received RFP's
- Honor Society Induction Ceremony April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm
- Administrative Staff and Data Coordinator continue to meet about APPR assessments

- Medicaid Reimbursement meeting scheduled for May 8th
- Science Olympiad
- Community Expo scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm at high school
- Four (4) classroom observations recently took place

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Will there be a mailing provided to taxpayers on the budget proposal? *Yes and the Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.*

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

### **New Business:**

#### a) Correspondence –

- “Cheating Our Children: The Emotional and Educational Impact of High-Stakes Testing”. Wells to speak as part of a panel at SUNY New Paltz. Board members invited to attend. This will be Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Letter from legal counsel regarding school property adjacent to Casa Mia Restaurant. Discussion took place.

#### b) Future BOE Agenda Items

### **Old Business:**

#### a) Security Greeters / SRO –

Recap of new initiatives was discussed.

#### b) Livestream – Discussion (?)

#### c) Board Priorities

- 1) Improving Building Facilities;
- 2) Education Improvement;
- 3) Improving Community Relations;
- 4) Improving Fiscal Fitness

Tom Miller would like to see Selective Classification be brought up as a top priority by July. Sue Gilmore would like to have alternative ideas that would benefit reduced costs be given top priority.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Steve Bogdanowicz, community member, shared his ideas for next year’s budget process regarding Selective Classification and Modified and JV/Varsity sports.
- Vincent Rizzi, community member, stated the following:
  - Appreciates the decisions the Board has had to make regarding budget
  - Stressed to Board to be cautious regarding contract negotiations

**Motion made at 9:20 pm by Mike Reid to adjourn regular session and go into executive session; Second by Kim Sweeney; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (9:20 pm)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Highland Central School District conduct an Executive Session to discuss the following topics:

5. ☒ Collective Negotiations pursuant to Article 14 (Taylor Law) of the Civil Service Law;
6. ☒ The Medical, financial or credit, employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;

**Motion made at 11:12 pm by Mike Bakatsias to exit Executive Session; Second by Mike Reid; Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT** (11:12 pm)

Minutes submitted by,

Lisa M Cerniglia  
District Clerk