

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Business Meeting

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

6:00 Executive Session Pending on Board Approval

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



Executive Session: (6:20 pm)

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

- 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 by Kim Sweeney at 6:20 pm to enter Executive Session; Motion seconded by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote; (Mike Bakatsias absent at start of Executive Session).

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias to exit Executive Session; Mike Reid seconded motion; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

ATTENDEES

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

Administrators/Directors Present: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Roseanne Bayne, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Louise M. Lynch, Business Administrator; Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services; Pete Harris, High School Principal; Sarah Dudley-Lemak, High School Assistant Principal; Daniel Seyler-Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Megan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal; Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Rosann LaManna, Elementary School Assistant Principal; Pete Ferguson; Athletic Director

Student Representative Present: Nikhil Tikoo (absent)

CALL TO ORDER (7:03 pm)

Alan Barone called meeting to Order and started the meeting by saying on behalf of himself and the members of the Board of Education, the staff, students and community our heartfelt and deepest thoughts and prayers to the families that suffered the horrific event at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Ct on December 14th.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Acknowledge the victims, families and community members in Newtown, Ct.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (7:10)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The following teams were recognized for the Fall Scholar Athlete Team Awards. This award is credited to the fact that the majority of team members met the academic criteria. The teams recognized are as follows: Varsity Girls Tennis; Varsity Volleyball; Boys Varsity Soccer; Varsity Girls Soccer and Cross County.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

a) **Ulster BOCES Update**

BOCES Board member and Highland's Representative, Regina Tantillo-Swanson, updated the Board on the following:

- Received \$2 million dollar in various grants;
- Board continuing to work on Policy's;
- Intermissable Agreement – Internet Services;
- Accepted resignation from Jerry Callahan, Assistant Superintendent and Jane Bullowa, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services;
- Board Appreciation Month;
- Fire & Safety Inspection approved;
- Achievements from the students in Auto Collision curriculum;
- Katie Heindecker, in the Communications Office, received a national recognition award for excellence in leadership skills in communications field.
- Workshops attended on December 4th and December 7th.

b) **Dr. Charles Khoury**

District Superintendent of Ulster BOCES addressed the initiatives for 2013-2014 school year. (Hand-out on file in District office.)

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Emergency snow days used for Hurricane Sandy. Response – at this point no exceptions have been made.
- Grant money and how it is to be applied;
- Pre-University Program.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public was allowed to voice their opinion relating to the sliding income scale in regards to Real Property Tax the §467.

- Darlene Plavchak read a letter on behalf of Holly Brooker and the 60% Group. (letter on file in District office).
- Jack M., Highland resident, expressed concern for the retired people having a flat income compared to the population of those community members that work and receive an increase in pay. Stated schools have to provide education that a community can afford.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Any topic related to the agenda may be addressed except for personnel or specific student issues.

- Nicole Conte, parent of an elementary school student, read a letter expressing her concerns of safety issues at the elementary school.
- Patrick Tomaszewski, parent of an elementary school student, discussed concerns of safety issues at the elementary school and encourages higher security even if it results in tax increase.
- Melissa Swinton-Ghafor, parent of an elementary school student, discussed safety concerns at the elementary school.

Alan Barone stated the Board has always taken security issues at the schools very seriously. The Board is currently working and addressing public concerns since the horrific incident in Newtown, Ct and results of these meetings will be seen in near future.

Deborah Haab stated that since Monday, December 17th, the following has taken place;

- Increase in police attendance in all three buildings;
- Meeting with Chief of Police has taken place;
- Staff training;
- District wide safety plan will be reviewed and practiced in near future;
- Front door coverage;
- Facilities needs which include security measures;
- Safety committee continues to meet and encourages public to address concerns.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS: (Report on file in District Office)

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2012
- b) Treasurers Reports and Budget Status & Revenue Status Reports – November 2012
- c) Claims Auditor Report – Warrants November 2012
- d) Enrollment and Attendance Report – Period 3 – November 1, 2012-November 30, 2012

Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: Question on the number of students enrolled according to the Enrollment and Attendance Report. Deborah Haab commented this is typical number.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

a) **Principal's Report:** (Principal's reports are on file in District Office)

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments for Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal:

- Thanked the Hawk Swim team and the members involved in the food drive for Thanksgiving collection.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments for Daniel Seyler-Wetzel, Middle School Principal:

- Sue Gilmore requested a follow-up regarding possible racial incident in school.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments for Pete Harris, High School Principal:

- Discussion about attendance and schedule for the Regents Preparatory Tutoring.

b) **Director of Student Services Report:** (Report on file in District Office)

Barbara E. Chapman, provided the Board with hand-outs covering the following topic:

- Amendment to Section 100.5;

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments for Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services:

- None

c) **Approval of Committee on Special Education Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education according to the minutes of the CSE meetings of November 26th and 30th 2012, and the amendment – no meetings of November 28th, 29th, and 30th, 2012, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

Motion made by Tom Miller; Seconded by Kim Sweeney; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: None

d) **Approval of Committee on Preschool Special Education**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education according to the minutes of the CPSE meetings of November 15th, 2012, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: None

PERSONNEL:

Motion made by Kim Sweeney to move items "a-g" as a block; Seconded by Tom Miller; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: None

a) **Elementary Before-School Instructor Appointment**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following individual as an instructor in the Before- School Program at the elementary school:

Rosanne Moran
Position: ELA Before-School Program
Purpose: Replacing Eric Peterson

b) **Leave Replacement Appointment**

a) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following leave replacement for the following individual with an Emergency Conditional Appointment consistent with SAVE legislation requirements:

Rosanne Moran
Position: Teacher Assistant
Salary: Step1 Grade 7A \$16,796 + 10% (pro-rated)
Effective Date: November 26, 2012
Purpose: Replacing Eric Peterson

c) **CSE Chairperson Appointment**

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

Lisa Neer
Position: CSE Chairperson
Effective: January 1, 2013

d) **Resignation**

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

Donna Carroll
Position: Food Service Department / MS
Purpose: Resignation

e) **Non-Teaching Appointments**

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

Donna Carroll
Position: Custodial Worker
Salary: Grade 8A Step 4 \$26,260
Effective Date: December 10, 2012
Probation Period: December 10, 2012 – June 10, 2013
Purpose: Replacing Mike Peura

Richard Gallina
Position: Custodial Worker
Salary: Grade 8A Step 5 \$27,254
Effective Date: January 3, 2013
Probation Period: January 3, 2013 – July 3, 2013
Purpose: Replacing Don McMorris

Colleen Rider
Position: LPN – Middle School
Salary: Grade 7B \$23,080
Effective Date: December 19, 2012
Probation Period: December 19, 2012 – June 19, 2013
Purpose: Replacing Roseann Arciuolo

f) **Substitute Teaching Appointments**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached revised substitute teaching list with an Emergency Conditional Appointment consistent with SAVE legislation requirements.

g) **Non-Teaching Substitute Appointments**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached revised Non-Teaching substitute list with an Emergency Conditional Appointment consistent with SAVE legislation requirements.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:

a) **Surplus Equipment**

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education approves the disposal of the attached mentioned technology equipment in the most cost effective manner.

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

b) **Accept Donation & Budget Increase**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the donation in the amount of \$5,000 from the Highland Lacrosse Club Inc.

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: Congratulated girl's lacrosse team.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the budget increase of \$5,000.

<u>Appropriations</u>		<u>Total \$5,000</u>
Uniforms	A2855-560-07-0000	\$1,440.00
Supplies	A2855-501-07-0000	\$2,820.00
Officials	A2855-447-07-0000	\$ 740.00

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Total \$5,000</u>
Donations	A2705	\$5,000.00

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: None.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

Deborah Haab updated the Board on the following:

- Congratulated the Music Department for their wonderful winter concerts;
- Thanked the Music Booster Club for their support of students and program;
- APPR plan re-submitted with minor changes after a few minor changes;
- Thursday, December 20th, Daniel Seyler-Wetzel will be joining Deborah at Orange Ulster BOCES with Commissioner John King to give feedback on APPR system and the impact on school districts.
- Discussions on facilities and budget conversations will begin again in January.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

- a) **Correspondence**
None at this time.
- b) **Future BOE Agenda Items**
None at this time.

Old Business:

- a) **RPT §467 Aged-Exemption**
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, after having given the public an opportunity to be heard, hereby establishes the income eligibility limits for the partial real property tax exemption applicable to otherwise qualified taxpayers over the age of 65, regarding assessments rolls prepared on the basis of the taxable status date occurring on or after January 1, 2013, as follows: **(Refer to Chart 1 OR Chart 2)**

1 Maximum Allowable by Law

\$ -	\$ 29,000.00	50%
\$ 29,000.01	\$ 29,999.99	45%
\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,999.99	40%
\$ 31,000.00	\$ 31,999.99	35%
\$ 32,000.00	\$ 32,899.99	30%
\$ 32,900.00	\$ 33,799.99	25%
\$ 33,800.00	\$ 34,699.99	20%
\$ 34,700.00	\$ 35,599.99	15%
\$ 35,600.00	\$ 36,499.99	10%
\$ 36,500.00	\$ 37,399.99	5%
\$ 37,400.00	above	0%

2 Current Sliding Scale + \$2,000

\$ -	\$ 21,500.00	50%
\$ 21,500.01	\$ 22,500.00	45%
\$ 22,500.01	\$ 23,500.00	40%
\$ 23,500.01	\$ 24,500.00	35%
\$ 24,500.01	\$ 25,400.00	30%
\$ 25,400.01	\$ 26,300.00	25%
\$ 26,300.01	\$ 27,200.00	20%
\$ 27,200.01	\$ 28,100.00	15%
\$ 28,100.01	\$ 29,000.00	10%
\$ 29,000.01	\$ 29,900.00	5%
\$ 29,900.01	above	0%

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby provides that any individual otherwise qualified pursuant to the provision of §467 of the Real Property Tax Law, shall be entitled to such real property tax exemption if she/he becomes 65 years of age after the appropriate taxable status date and before December 31st of the same year.

Discussion took place comparing the effects of Chart 1 and Chart 2 and what the degree of impact, if any, would affect the other taxpayers. As a result of discussion a Roll Call took place to approve Chart 2.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Aye/Nay</u>
Mike Reid	Aye
Debbie Pagano	Aye
Tom Miller	Aye
Mike Bakatsias	Aye
Sue Gilmore	Aye
Alan Barone	Aye

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Sue Gilmore; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

b) **Energy Performance Contract**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Highland Central School District is contemplating entering into an energy performance contract to install various energy conservation measures and equipment at the District's school buildings and facilities, including ancillary costs, (the "Proposed Action"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in the SEQRA Regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617.5 and has determined that the Proposed Action is a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1) & (8) of the SEQRA Regulations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Highland Central School District hereby declares itself as lead agency under SEQRA for the Proposed Action, determines that the implementation of the proposed energy performance project at the District's school buildings and facilities is a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1) & (8) of the SEQRA Regulations, representing routine activities of educational institutions that will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and that no further review of the Proposed Action is required.

The contact person for the Highland Central School District is: Louise Lynch, Business Official.

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: The pay schedule for the bond with the anticipated savings. The upfront payment to Johnson Controls being 15% for the total price of contract. This will be due once the state approves the contract and the district secures funding.

c) **ECG / Johnson Controls**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Energy Performance Contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. for the performance of services in connection with the District's Energy Performance Project, including the installation and maintenance of various energy conservation measures and equipment at the District's school buildings and facilities, to improve the energy efficiency of the District's buildings, to be financed from the guaranteed energy savings to be realized as a result of such improvements, and authorizes the Board President to execute such contract. A copy of such contract shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Contract with ECG

Engineering, PC for the performance of engineering services in connection with the District's Energy Performance Project, and authorizes the Board President to execute such contract. A copy of such c-contract shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Energy Performance Contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. for the performance of services in connection with the District's Energy Performance Project, including the installation and maintenance of various energy conservation measures and equipment at the District's school buildings and facilities, to improve the energy efficiency of the District's buildings, to be financed from the guaranteed energy savings to be realized as a result of such improvements, and authorizes the Board President to execute such contract. A copy of such contract shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Contract with ECG Engineering, PC for the performance of engineering services in connection with the District's Energy Performance Project, and authorizes the Board President to execute such contract. A copy of such c-contract shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Tom Miller; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: None. Board President, Alan Barone, thanked David Booth, Johnson Controls (in audience) for a successful project which lies ahead.

d) **Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement with HAA**

WHEREAS, the negotiating teams for the District and the Highland Administrators Association executed a Memorandum of Agreement on December 18, 2012, calling for the creation of a three-year successor Collectively Negotiated Agreement to the one that expired on June 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, legislative approval is required by the Board of Education in order to implement the funding of said Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby ratifies the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Highland Administrators Association covering the period from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014, and authorizes the funding of those monies necessary to implement the provisions of the 2011-2014 Collectively Negotiated Agreement.

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: Alan Barone thanked Board of Education team and Administrators for working diligently on this agreement. Sue Gilmore also expressed the same.

e) **NYSSBA Membership**

Discussion took place about the pro's and con's of membership. Alan Barone mentioned the services that NYSSBA provides. Kim Sweeney asked if a "menu option" is available. Deborah Haab will look into any payment plans that may be available.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- On behalf of the Highland Administrator's Association, Joel Freer thanked Board of Education for this round of bargaining and looks forward with all as a team.

ADJOURNMENT (9:07 pm)

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Lisa M Cerniglia