

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

6:00 Executive Session Pending on Board Approval

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



ATTENDEES:

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

Administrators/Principals/Directors: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Roseann Bayne, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Louise M Lynch, Business Administrator; Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services; Carol Potash, Director of Technology; Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Rosann LaManna, Elementary School Assistant Principal; Dan Seyler-Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Meghan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal; Pete Harris, High School Principal; Sarah Dudley-Lemak, High School Assistant Principal

Student Representative: Nikhil Tikoo

Alan Barone called meeting to Order at 6:05 pm; Kim Sweeney made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:08 pm; Motion carried (6-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (6:08 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 Sue Gilmore to go into Open Meeting at 6:58 pm; Seconded by Tom Miller; Motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (7:06 pm)

Board President, Alan Barone, called meeting to order and pledge was recited.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PRESENTATION

Pete Harris congratulated student Kourtney Gillo for successfully completing diploma requirements and to be the first graduate for the 2012-2013 school year. Unfortunately due to illness, Kourtney was unable to attend. Pete Harris acknowledged the successful regents review program that Kourtney and other students had the opportunity to attend.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Special recognition was credited to students, staff and community members that have generously shown great efforts and achievements in the community.

a) **Elementary School Playground Committee Representatives**

Cheryl Richter and Debbie Monahan were presented certificates for organizing a fundraiser that netted over \$6500 for adaptive equipment for the elementary school playground.

b) **Hurricane Sandy Relief for Schools**

Certificates were presented by the Board and Superintendent to the following individuals who organized "Supplies for Schools" impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Those recognized are as follows:

- Francine Delmar
- Debbie Maietta
- Sandy Beal
- Jill Parker
- Dana Wood
- Leigh Weaver

Peer Leadership

- Caleigh Duggan
- Leslie Chardon
- Joceelyn Covarrubias
- David Peterson

Girl Scout Troop 60259

- Brianna Beal
- Kaitlyn Childs
- Amanda Darmochwal
- Becky James
- Alyssia Kelly
- Gabriella Kiss
- Alicia Lee
- Marissa Maaietta
- Victoria Minard
- Kristen Parker
- Kaitlyn Poluzzi
- Nikayla Schlosser

- Chelsea White
- Stephanie Wood

Girl Scout Troop 60143

- Jazmine Childs
- McKenna Gallinari
- Karrington Knauer
- Kayla Lee

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Student budget input encouraged and welcomed.

- Kyle Welch, senior, suggested an opportunity for students to express their concerns during their English class by expressing in writing concerns they may have about upcoming budget decisions. Kyle also expressed his gratitude for programs that he has benefited from.
- Osmaan Shahid, Junior, expressed the benefits of AP and college courses and how they prepared him for college.
- Sarah Kassel, high school student, expressed the value of music programs and AP courses.
- Andre Dias, senior, spoke about the value of second language in early childhood development and full-day kindergarten.
- Shannon Ward, high school student, articulated the benefits of AP classes when it comes to being accepted to colleges.. Shannon also expressed benefits of sports and music programs.
- Kim Caso., community member, reported that girl's lacrosse currently has 36 girls signed up for lacrosse. Kim requested Board to consider adding a girl's lacrosse team to the 2013-2014 school year and consider the possibility of a JV team.
- Sally Bellacicco, community member, made a request to the Board for their support for a modified wrestling team. Currently a proposition is being distributed among community to support this request.

The Board had the following questions/comments/concerns:

- Alan Barone thanked students for presenting their opinions on current programs. Alan encourages students, regardless of age, to express their concerns. If one should be uncomfortable to speak, then student representative Nihkil Tikoo can assist with the use of note cards. Public comments are for all community members to speak. The 60% Group will continue to provide night care child services for parents.
- Sue Gilmore asked about the number of students the town wrestling program enrolls.
- Alan Barone suggested to Sally Bellacicco to speak to Athletic Director about proposition for a modified wrestling team.
- Debbie Pagano asked if there was an age requirement for town recreation sport wrestling that currently takes place
- Kim Sweeney asked about other schools competing in wrestling.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Roseann Bayne presented to the Board and public an overview of the Response to Intervention and Academic Intervention Services. Presentation is available on the HCSD website.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Dollar figures identified and related to AIS services.
- Discussion about co-teach (collaborative teaching) method
- Who is following the progression of students?
- Parent involvement
- Students anxiety on tests
- Elimination of Teaming at middle school and the effects

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2013
- b) Treasurers Reports and Budget Status & Revenue Status Reports – January 2013
- c) Enrollment and Attendance Report – Period 5 – January 1, 2013 – January 31, 2013
- d) Claims Auditor Report – January 2013

Motion made my Tom Miller; Seconded by Mike Reid; Discussion: None; Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

- a) **Principal's Report:** (Reports on file in District Office)

Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal, spoke about the following:

- As of today's date, 54 kindergarten registration packets have been signed out for which 29 have been returned.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- A successful lock down drill recently took place
- Continued coverage remains at the front door entrance

Daniel Seyler-Wetzel, Middle School Principal, spoke about the following:

- PBIS sponsoring Have a Heart, Give a Heart
- Successful lock-down drill that recently occurred during a period change
- March 6th is designated for Dignity for All Day. One of the several guest speakers will be County Executive Michael Hein who will address to the students about bullying.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- The "after school meeting time" is to be used for teacher meeting and opportunities for students to catch up on missed/extra help work.

Pete Harris, High School Principal, spoke about the following:

- Expressed thanks to Nik Tikoo on speaking to student body about budget process. Also, thanked students for expressing their concerns/comments at tonight's public comments.
- Fifth (5th) graders to preview HHS harlequins Musical, "Schoolhouse Rock, Live"
- SRO Officer has begun interacting with students in the hallways and cafeteria, as well as conducting home visits.
- Four (4) specific areas for 2013-2014 scheduling:
 - Input from the instructional leadership
 - Allocation of Resources
 - Common core Initiative
 - Sharing of resources with neighboring districts

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Thanked for the explanation of block scheduling
- Regents results of January's exams – over 2 dozen students met the graduation requirements
- Transfer of AP/College courses to colleges
- Expressed gratitude to the students for representing HHS in Quiz Bowl and Math Team
- Acknowledged all events going on at high school

- b) **Director of Student Services Report:** (Report on file in District Office)
Director of Student Services, Barbara E. Chapman, spoke about the following:

- Annual Review going well and smoothly
- Residency Issues
- Commissioner's Advisory Panel on Special Education

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Discussion of Proposed Regents Certificates of Work Readiness and timeline;
- Director's participation in Observation and Evaluation

- 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 January 24th, 25th, and 31st, 2013, and the amendment – no meetings of January 23rd, 30th, and February 9th, 2013, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: None; Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

- 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 February 7th, 2013, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

**Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: None;
Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.**

PERSONNEL:

Motion to move below mentioned items as a block made by Mike Reid; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: None; Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

a) **Resignation**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools accepts, with regrets, the resignation from the following:

Roberto Gonzalez / Custodial Worker / effective January 31, 2013

a) **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.

b) **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) **Health & Welfare Contract**

BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education approve the 2012-2013 Health & Welfare Contract for eight students at a cost of \$507.83 per student for a total of \$4,062.64 with the Wappingers Falls Central School District and authorize the Board President and District Clerk to execute the contract.

Motion made by Mike Reid; Seconded by Sue Gilmore; Discussion: None; Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

b) **Acceptance Of Donation**

BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education accepts, with thanks, the \$100 donation from the Town of Lloyd PBA to be used to purchase back packs for the “to go” bags.

**Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: None;
Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.**

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Student representative, Nikhil Tikoo, spoke about the following:

- Expressed thanks to Pete Harris for the opportunity to speak to students regarding budget process;
- Thanked students for speaking at tonight's board meeting;
- Several conflicts in students schedule with tonight's board meeting;
- Gathering ideas for students to be comfortable with expressing their concerns/comments about budget process;
- Opportunity for national honor society students to volunteer for evening childcare services

The Board had no questions/comments/concerns.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent of Schools, Deborah Haab, spoke about the following:

- Reiterated thanks to Town PBA for their donation;
- Basketball fundraiser event scheduled with faculty and Town of Lloyd PBA to raise funds for "to go" bags;
- Attended lockdown drill at elementary school. Over 800 students participated in this remarkable drill for which was taken seriously;
- Due to inclement weather, the scheduled meeting with local legislators will be rescheduled. Board members are invited to participate.
- NYSCOSS (New York State Council of School Superintendents) will be held in Albany;
- Last emergency day was used on February 11th, March 8th was suggested as a possible make-up day however this would have to be board approved prior to any final decision;
- Roseann Bayne and Barbara E. Chapman will be meeting to update Emergency Response Plan;
- February 22nd and February 23rd Harlequins Musical, "SchoolHouse Rock, Live" will perform at the high school;
- Choral Scholarship concert will be performing March 6th at 6:30 pm. This to benefit student scholarships;
- International alliance – program to start in Fall;
- With the direction of Ms. Meisel and Think, Drive and Arrive Grant Program, mix of students will be attending conference in Denver this spring. Fundraiser efforts have begun by selling t-shirts.
- Livestream of board meetings;
- Highland Educational Foundation will be sponsoring a snowball fundraiser dinner on March 9th. Proceeds from event will benefit the elementary school playground for children with special needs. For further information, please contact the district office.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

- a) **Correspondence**

No correspondence discussed at this time.

b) **Future BOE Agenda Items**

Please inform Alan Barone, Deborah Haab or District Clerk of any upcoming items you would like to have listed by Tuesday prior to meeting.

- o **Livestream** – Item to be Tabled for March 5th Board meeting.
Discussion took place about the livestream features and alternatives to videotaping board meeting. Discussion also took place about costs involved.

Old Business:

a) **Capital Project**

- Legal notice – Architect's RFP will be recorded into paper Sunday Feb 24th.
- RFP's are being sent out.
- Support Services will meet again and conduct interviews.
- Suggestion about scheduling another roundtable with administrators and directors for Step 2 in near future.
- The first round table meeting took place prior to Newtown tragedy. 10% bldg aid security improvements window of time June 1, 2013 expires June 30, 2016 incentive for board to move forward with security.

b) **Budget Discussion**

Louise Lynch, Business Administrator, stated the following points relative to the budget:

- Without a minimum of 60% support from the voters, the maximum tax cap levy is \$24,456,544 which equates to estimated tax rate of \$20.59 per \$1,000 assessed value which represents approximately a 3.8 % tax levy.
- Currently the gap is \$1,223,749. If the district continues existing programs without reductions, a 60% supported vote will be required yielding estimated tax rates of \$21.62 per \$1,000 assessed value, an increase in the tax rates of approximately 9%.
- Separate propositions (capital purchases including transportation purchases or capital improvements) may be considered which would not be factored into the tax levy cap.
- District Administration will provide options for budget reductions which will be presented at the March 5th board meeting.
- The state anticipates an approved budget proposal by March 26th.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Costs regarding Special Needs School-Year-Tuition and Maintenance report;
- Questions were raised regarding the expense associated with maintenance expenses on the aging buses.

c) **Budget Calendar**

- March 5th Administration's Proposed Budget – Community Input
- March 12th Tentative BOE meeting regarding Budget

- March 19th BOE Workshop and Presentations

d) **Board Priorities**

- 1) Improving Building Facilities;
 - 2) Education Improvement;
 - 3) Improving Community Relations;
 - 4) Improving Fiscal Fitness
- Continue discussion of board priorities took place

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Vincent Rizzi, community member, questioned the aged “66” passenger school buses; confirm the 9% levy would reflect possible roll-over
- Community member, Stephanie, expressed her admiration for her child’s accomplishments in the Kindergarten level; gratitude for how the lockdown drill was effectively handled at the elementary school

ADJOURNMENT (9:46 pm)