

**Highland Central School District**

**MINUTES**

Board of Education Meeting

**Monday, June 17, 2013**

6:00 Executive Session (Pending on Board Approval)

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



**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

**ATTENDEES**

Board Members Present: Alan Barone, Sue Gilmore, Kim Sweeney, Tom Miller, Debbie Pagano, Mike Reid, 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 (absent); 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-Lemek, High School Assistant Principal; Pete Ferguson, Athletic Director (absent); Maria McCarthy, Food Service Director (absent); Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation (absent)

Student Representative: Nikhil Tikoo

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President Alan Barone called meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

- a) Nikhil Tikoo, Student Representative

Alan Barone recognized and thanked Nikhil Tikoo for serving as student representative for the school board for the 2012-2013.

- b) Maxwell Rogers, Tech Services  
Alan Barone recognized and thanked Maxwell Rogers for his role as Technician for the school board meetings for the 2012-2013 school year.
- c) Valedictorian, Pratoool Gadtaula and Salutatorian, Gabrielle Lichtenstein  
Deborah Haab recognized Salutatorian and Valedictorian for the 2012-2013 school year.
- d) Igniting Creative Energy (I.C.E.) Competition Students  
Chris Cozzolino, high school science teacher, and Jessica Cozzolino, elementary school teacher, recognized the following students involved with the Igniting Creative Energy competition: Hanifam Hajiani, Sarah Brown, and Ishani Bansal.
- e) Student recognition for music positions  
Roseann Bayne, along with Lynda Keech and Karen Adamec, recognized several students that are involved in the music program.
- f) Retiree, Anna Beck  
Deborah Haab recognized and thanked Anna Beck for her many dedicated years as teacher with the Highland Central School. Alan Barone acknowledged all the retirees from the 2012-2013 school year for their many dedicated years with the HCSD.

### **BRIEF RECEPTION**

The Board recessed for a brief reception at 7:30 pm and reconvened at 8:10 pm.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The floor was open for public comments.

- Randie Rattick thanked the Board for the thorough budget process that took place. Randie questioned the Board if they are considering reinstating any programs and/ or staff, particularly the .4 position in the music department. Deborah Haab responded that the District is looking into reinstating some programs/staff.
- Jim Kokoszynski and family thanked the teachers, principal, aides, bus drivers, etc. that all took part in their kid's memorable year at Highland Elementary School. It is with some regret that they will be moving out of district and will always remember the good memories they made here. Alan Barone thanked Jim for his time on Board and wishes him and his family the best in his future endeavors.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:**

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2013
- b) Claims Auditor Report
- c) Treasurer's Report
- d) Enrollment and Attendance Report – Period 9 – 5/01/2013 – 5/31/2013

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

**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:

- Enrollment for upcoming school year – similar to what it was two years ago (decline)
- Thanked PTA for organizing year end picnic
- Recognized Summer Academy offered to students for ESL, ELA & Math

Daniel Seyler-Wetzel, Middle School Principal, updated his report with the following:

- Year-End Picnic rescheduled to June 19<sup>th</sup>
- June 19<sup>th</sup> 6&7 grade awards ceremony
- June 19<sup>th</sup> Middle School Moving up ceremony
- Referrals down 30%

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Who physically scores the SLO's? Dan replied with the help of Pete Harris and faculty at the high school for proctoring exams, the MS teachers became available to score SLO exams

Pete Harris, High School Principal, updated his report with the following:

- As of today's date, two regents remain to be taken
- Procedure on scoring Regents was explained
- Graduation rehearsal took place
- Thanks to the Rotary Club, two students are going overseas and the Rotary is currently looking for a family that would be interested in hosting an exchange student here in Highland.
- Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, graduation 7 pm

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- On-line regents exams
- Is schedule available for the 2013-2014 school year – response currently being worked on.

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

Director of Student Services, Barbara E. Chapman, was absent from tonight's meeting. The Board no questions/concerns/comments.

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 May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and the

amendment – no meetings of May 15<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 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 June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS** – Nikhil Tikoo

- o Thanks the Board for being given the opportunity to sit on the Board. Nick plans to pursue his education at Cornell University.

**PERSONNEL:**

a) **Retirement**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves, with regrets, the resignation for the purpose of retirement from the following individuals:

Christine Parker

Position: Special Education Teacher  
Effective Date: June 30, 2013

Anna Beck

Position: Reading Teacher  
Effective Date: June 30, 2013

Theresa Eckert

Position: Physical Education Teacher  
Effective Date: June 30, 2013

**Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: Alan Barone congratulated and thanked the individuals for their years they have put into the district and wishes them all the best; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

b) **Extension of Maternity Leave**

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

Kristin Candia

Position: School Counselor

Effective Date: September 1, 2013 through February 1, 2014

**Motion made by Mike Reid; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: explanation of leave; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

c) **Maternity Leave**

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

Kristin Candia

Position: School Counselor

Effective Date: February 1, 2014 through February 1, 2015

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

**BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:**

a) **Accept Donation & Budget Increase – Southern Ulster County Chamber of Commerce**

BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education accepts the donation in the amount of \$50.00 from the Southern Ulster County Chamber of Commerce.

**Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education approves the budget increase of \$50.00.

<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Total \$50.00</u>
MS Supplies A2020-501-02-0000	\$50.00

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Total \$50.00</u>
Donations A2705	\$50.00

**Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

b) **Accept Donation & Budget Increase – John Quinn DBA Southern Ulster Lacrosse League**

BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education accepts the donation in the amount of \$1,100.00 from the John Quinn DBA Southern Ulster Lacrosse League.

**Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education approves the budget increase of \$1,100.00.

<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Total \$1,100.00</u>
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Coaching A2855-160-07-0000	\$1,100.00
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Revenues	Total \$1,100.00
Donations A2705	\$1,100.00

**Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

c) **Budget Transfer**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the budget transfer dated June 12, 2013 as follows:

- Budget Transfer Number 8034 \$107,377.94

and budget transfer dated May 31, 2013 as follows:

- Budget Transfer Number 7902 \$ 80,046.16

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

d) **Arlington CSD – Health & Welfare Contract**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the 2012-2013 health & welfare contract for forty-two (42) students at a cost of \$533.79 per student for a total of \$22,419.18 with the Arlington Central School district and authorizes the Board President and District Clerk to execute the contract.

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

e) **New Paltz CSD – Health & Welfare Contract**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the 2012-2013 health & welfare contract for five (5) students at a cost of \$741.00 per student for a total of \$3,705.00 with the New Paltz Central School District and authorize the Board President and District Clerk to execute the same.

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

f) **Poughkeepsie CSD – Health and Welfare Contract**

BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education approves the 2012-2013 health & welfare contract for four (4) students at a cost of \$809.59 per student for a total of \$3,238.36 with the Poughkeepsie City School District and authorize the Board President and District Clerk to execute the contract.

**Motion made by Mike Reid; Second by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

g) **Diesel Fuel Bid**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Highland Central School Board of Education award the Diesel Fuel Bid to Petroleum Traders Company for marketer differential prices of \$0.065 for Premium Diesel.

**Motion made by Tom Miller; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Deborah Haab updated the Board with the following:

- Thanked and acknowledged the principals and building coordinators for the efforts that took place in scoring state assessments.
- Attended several events that recently took place among the buildings. One in particular was the talent show that recently took place.
- Athletic Awards was a well attended event
- Currently reviewing the possibility of reinstating, if any, the following position(s):
  - .5 Guidance
  - .2 Art (restores to .8, still a reduction of .2)
  - .2 Music (restores to .8, still a reduction of .2)
  - 2 Clerk Positions

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Concern about class sizes
- Music restorations

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

#### **New Business:**

- a) **Modified Wrestling Team** – Discussion about cost and the impact was discussed. Items of discussion included:
  - Winter sports being offered
  - Season from December to end of January
  - Coaching stipend
- b) **Review Request for Shared Athletic Teams** – Discussion took place. Board members would like to receive feedback from coaches and Athletic Director as well as what the possible impact would be.
- c) **Review Procedure for New Hires** – Further discussion took place regarding the hiring process for all teaching, non-teaching and substitute staff.
- d) **Correspondence** – No correspondence took place.  
*Board member, Kim Sweeney, stepped out and then returned..*

- e) **Future BOE Agenda Items** – Re-Organizational meeting date, July 2<sup>nd</sup> or July 10, discussed.

**Old Business:**

- a) **Selective Classification** – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
- Discussion of modified policy discussed
  - Suggestion that Highland Central School set-up their own model
  - Benchmark seems unreasonable
  - Concern about the current policy appropriately being followed through
  - Concern if merging with other schools will affect selection classification policy
  - More time requested to review policy prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- b) **Senior Aged Exemption**
- Further discussion took place regarding potential subsequent changes to increase the maximum allowable income limit for the elderly exemption relative to \$467 Real Property Tax.
- c) **Energy Performance Contract Update & Review Financing**
- Deborah Haab updated the Board with the following:
- Plans have been submitted to the State Education Dept for review
  - Time frame for review to be completed by State is late November to early December

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Alan Barone shared a concern about bond rate. Further discussion also took place about anticipated savings.
- d) **Board Priorities**
- 1) **Improving Building Facilities**
  - 2) **Education Improvement**
  - 3) **Improving Community Relations**
  - 4) **Improving Fiscal Fitness**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Floor was open for Public Comments.

- Sally Bellacicco, community resident, thanked the Board for looking at the possibility of adding a modified wrestling program. A concern was also brought up about the current stipends.
- Larry Ratick, community resident, expressed concern where the funds would be coming from to support a modified wrestling team. Would like the Board to consider restoring programs, prior to adding new programs.



**Motion made at 9:40 pm by Tom Miller to enter into Executive Session; Second by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Any matter which may disclose the identity of law enforcement agent or informer;
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Information relating to current or future investigations or prosecution of criminal offices, which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Discussions regarding proposed, pending, or current litigation;
5.   x   Collective Negotiations pursuant to Article 14 (Taylor Law) of the Civil Service Law;
6.   x   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;
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The preparation, grading or administration of examinations;
8. \_\_\_\_\_ A proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

**Motion made at 11:00 pm by Tom Miller to adjourn Executive Session; Second by Mike Reid; Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT (11:00 pm)**

Minutes submitted by,

Lisa M Cerniglia,  
District Clerk