

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

5:30 Executive Session Pending on Board Approval

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



Motion made at 5:32 pm by Debbie Pagano to go into Executive Session; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 7:02 pm by Tom Miller to exit Executive Session and go into Open Meeting; Second by Sue Gilmore; Motion carried.

ATTENDEES

Board Members Present: Alan Barone, Sue Gilmore, Kim Sweeney, Tom Miller, Debbie Pagano, Mike Reid (until 8:10 pm), Mike Bakatsias

Administrators/Principals/Directors: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Roseann Bayne, Assistant Superintendent of Schools (absent), Louise M Lynch, Business Administrator (absent); Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services; Carol Potash, Director of Technology (absent); Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Dan Seyler-Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Meghan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal (absent); 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

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. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The floor was open for public comments.

- Mr. Garside, parent of a 5th grader, expressed a deep concern regarding a particular book that was read by 5th graders. The concern of this book involves inappropriate language. The Board responded they will answer this concern once further research takes place.
- Sally Bellacicco, community member, talked about the benefits/success the wrestling program has exhibited. She further requested the Board consider adding a Modified Wrestling Team and asked if the following could be included:
 - A stipend for a modified wrestling coach;
 - Referee for matches;
 - Busing to matches;

(Uniforms will be provided by a fundraiser program)

Alan Barone requested that a letter be submitted to Athletic Director, Pete Ferguson, detailing the expected costs. Mr. Ferguson can then add this item to agenda for upcoming board meeting.

- Tom Pallazzo, Wallkill coach and former Highland graduate, spoke about the positive effects of adding a wrestling program on a modified level.
- Nancy Signorelli (parent) and Justin Signorelli (former Highland graduate), talked about the benefits of the wrestling program and encouraged the Board to consider a modified wrestling team.
- Herb Maynard, parent, talked about the benefits of a modified wrestling program.
- Mike Signorelli, parent of a Highland graduate, talked about the benefits of having a modified wrestling program.
- Jenny Collabella, community member, asked if there were any follow-ups regarding insolvency of district and any updates on contract negotiations.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2013

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

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

- a) Director's Report - Director's provided the board with their monthly updates.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Concern as to how technology update will be funded – Deborah Haab briefly explained a spending plan that will take place over a 4-5 year period;
- Alan Barone recognized student athletes that have made Sectionals and MHAL's.

PERSONNEL:

Deborah Haab, Alan Barone and Board members, thanked and acknowledged each individual that will be retiring at the end of the 2013 school year. Employee, Christine Parker, middle school, was also recognized as one of the 2013 retirees.

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:

Darrell Christman

Position: Custodial Worker

Effective Date: June 30, 2013

Frances Scriber

Position: School Monitor

Effective Date: June 30, 2013

Mary Darcy

Position: Teaching Assistant

Effective Date: June 30, 2013

Regina Heffernan

Position: Science Teacher

Effective Date: June 30, 2013

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

b) Resignation

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

Rose Marie Velie

Position: School Monitor (Part-Time)

Effective Date: May 22, 2013

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

c) Tenure Recommendations & Recognition of Tenure Candidates

Alan Barone recognized the following individuals for their tenure recommendation.

The tenure candidates were introduced and recognized for their accomplishments by their building principals. Due to maternity leave, Krista Petrosoff was not present.

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

Lisa Neer

Position: School Psychologist
Effective Date: September 1, 2013

Krista Petrosoff

Position: English Grade 7-12
Effective Date: September 1, 2013

Rebecca Piazza

Position: Literacy
Effective Date: September 1, 2013

Thomas Schlappich

Position: Physical Education K-12
Effective Date: September 1, 2013

Stefanie Whiston

Position: Mathematics Grade 7-12
Effective Date: September 1, 2013

Joshua Tatum

Position: English 7-12
Effective Date: September 1, 2013

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION/BRIEF RECEPTION

- a) Retirees from the 2012-2013 school year
- b) Tenure Candidates from the 2012-2013 school year

The Board recessed for a brief reception at 8:10 pm and reconvened at 8:35 pm at which time Mike Reid had to leave.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:

- a) Budget Transfer

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the 2012-2013 budget transfer totaling \$19,945 as follows:

- Budget Transfer Number 7483 \$19,945

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS – Nikhil Tikoo was not present; however; Deborah Haab read his email on the following topics:

- The girls varsity softball team had advanced to the Section 9 Class B final game.
- Congratulations to all of the newly tenured teachers at Highland School.
- Many students are going to regent's review after school for their respective classes.
- Friday, May 24th, Highland High School hosted the first Field Day that it's had in several years. This event was made possible largely in part due to the efforts of Laura Arrubla and Megan McGrath, The event was so successful that the juniors are already trying to plan out a Field Day for next year. Over \$1,000 was raised for charity.
- The Foreign Language Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place last Tuesday, May 28th.
- The Senior Award Ceremony took place last Wednesday, May 29th.
- Seniors who went on the Senior Trip to Disney returned to school yesterday. The general consensus: it was amazing.
- The Senior Class will be going to Great Escape this Friday, June 7th.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

Deborah Haab provided the Board with the following updates:

- Thanked Nikhil Tikoo for all his updates
- Senior Award Ceremony
- Middle School Concert
- Elementary School Concert
- Regents and Final Exams
- Upcoming June events in all buildings
- Update of trip to Albany with Senator and Assemblyman. Deborah Haab then acknowledged the concern from an earlier community member during Public Comments.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Question about any updates on regional scores vs. individual scores

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

a) Creation of Positions

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

- Security Attendant Position (2)
- Senior Security Guard Civil Service Position (1)
- .5 FTE K-12 Reading

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

b) Disposal of Textbooks & Books

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the disposal of the attached list of textbooks and books from the high school.

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

c) Board of Education Re-Organizational Meeting Date for July 2013

The members of the Board and Superintendent agreed with the date of July 2nd for Re-Organizational meeting. Location will be at high school library which will remain as the location for July and August Board meetings.

d) Correspondence – None at this time.

e) Future BOE Agenda Items

Old Business:

a) District's Payroll Function to the Ulster CBO

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the transition of the district's payroll function to the Ulster BOCES Centralized Business Office effective June 10, 2013.

Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Second by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none; Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

b) Board Priorities

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

Above mentioned items will be checked-off/discussed during the upcoming year.

CLERK'S REPORT:

a) The Results from the May 21, 2013 Budget Vote

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the below figures as the official results of the May 21, 2013 Budget Vote:

Proposition No. 1 – School District Budget: \$38,524,337

YES – 968

NO – 593

TOTAL VOTES CAST – 1561

Proposition No. 2 - Security Cameras for School Buses

YES – 831

NO – 669

TOTAL VOTES CAST – 1500

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Sue Gilmore; Discussion: none;

Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

b) The Results from the Board of Trustee Election Results

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the below figures as the Board of Education Trustee official results from the May 21, 2013 election:

<u>Name of Candidate</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>	<u>Incumbent or New</u>
Tom Miller *	1,018	Incumbent
Sue Gilmore *	938	Incumbent
Vincent Rizzi, Jr	689	New

**Indicates newly elected board members*

**Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Second by Kim Sweeney; Discussion: none;
Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The floor was open for Public Comments. None at this time.

Motion made at 8:50 pm by Kim Sweeney to enter Executive Session; Second by Tom Miller; Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (8:50 pm)

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

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Motion made at 10:37 pm by Tom Miller to exit Executive Session and adjourn; Second by Kim Sweeney; Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT (10:38 pm)

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Lisa M Cerniglia, District Clerk