

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

6:00 Executive Session (Pending on Board Approval)

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



EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:07 pm)

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Second by Mike Reid; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote to enter Executive Session at 6:07 pm. to discuss the following:

- 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 Kim Sweeney to return to Open Session; Second by Mike Reid; Motion carried.

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; Carol Potash, Director of Technology; Pete Ferguson; Director of Athletics; Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation; Pete Miller, Director of Building and Grounds; Pete Harris, High 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

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

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION - Science Olympiad

Due to scheduling conflicts this will be placed at a later board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The floor was open for public comment.

- A community member brought up a concern about a particular bullying issue that took place at high school. Alan Barone expressed that this item is a personnel item and needs to be discussed during an executive session.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS – Nikhil Tikoo

Student Representative, Nikhil Tikoo, talked about the recent Albany conference with the Senator, Ms. Haab and fellow students. However, due to inclement weather the conference was done via phone.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: (Power Point available in District Office)

The Leadership Team presented preliminary budget for the 2013-2014 school year. The information for tonight's presentation is based on the feedback from the March 5th Board meeting. At the March 5th meeting, it was suggested that \$300,000 from the accrual account and \$133,000 from tax cert reserve be transferred out which might benefit maintaining some programs.

The topics of this power point presentation reflected the following:

- Increase revenue from 2013-2014
- The only change in revenue is from accrual and tax cert reserve
- Restorations in programs
- Revised instructional reductions
- Revised extra-curricular reductions
- Not-revised support staff – this is due to focusing on student programs
- Revised amount from new total reductions
- Discussion took place about what possible additional avenues can be explored

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Tax Cert Reserve – What are the risks involved from pulling funds out
- Music Program – Elimination of music in Grade 4
- Reductions of JV level teams – Alan Barone expressed a concern about cutting JV for a savings of only \$17,000 – is this cost effective?
- What is the driver force of extracurricular activities being restored? Deborah Haab is currently receiving data on student participation.
- Discussion about reduced rollover budget
- Louise Lynch distributed a hand-out reflecting revised “line amount” due to reductions and transferring money to close the gap
- Pete Harris spoke about the effects of increase in class sizes
- Pro's and con's of 8 period day vs. 9 period day at middle school and the staff required
- Limit of AIS services at middle school
- Costs of transportation for after school activities
- Where will the possible state aid be applied in terms of reinstating programs?

- Preparing a priority list of what programs could be restored
- The following changes are made to meetings - March 26th meeting; April 2nd no meeting; April 9 meeting; April 16th budget adoption meeting
- Capital Project – discussion of security measures continue to take place
- Sue Gilmore expressed concerns about replenishing funds

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2013
- b) Treasurers Reports and Budget Status & Revenue Status Reports – February 2013
- c) Enrollment and Attendance Report - Period 5 – February 1, 2013-February 28, 2013
- d) Claims Auditor Report – February 2013
- e) Activity Accounts – Quarterly Report

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias contingent on the following correction; Second by Kim Sweeney; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

Correction reflected:

Minutes on page 7 to reflect the following language - Motion made by Mike Reid and second by Mike Bakatsias to enter Executive Session / Motion made by Mike Reid and second by Mike Bakatsias to return to Regular Session.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

- a) **Principal's Report:** (Reports on file in District Office)
Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal, reported on the following:
 - Recognized Ms. Cozzolino for overseeing the Math/Science/Technology Symposium which will take place March 20th from 6-8 pm.
 - ELA classes put together a play on March 19;
 - Kindergarten registrations – ninety-one (91) packets have been signed-out and sixty-five (65) have been returned.
 - Math protractors are in full use for Grade 4 students;
 - ELA testing program will take place April 16, 17 and 18;(Joel stated he will not be in attendance for the March 26th board meeting but can be available via cell phone).

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Kim Sweeney concerned about upcoming budget and effects on kindergarten class sizes.

Megan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal, reported on the following:

- Basketball game between HCSD staff and Town of Lloyd Police scheduled for Friday, March 22nd to support the “to go bags”;
- Recognized and congratulated Science Olympiad students and staff for placing 2nd at the regional tournament for Science Olympiad.

The Board had no questions/comments/concerns.

Pete Harris, High School Principal, reported on the following:

- Marist bridge program – students have already requested placement in this new opportunity;
- New Vision Program – five new unique selection opportunities have developed;
- Career Tech – opportunities for English 11 and English 12 courses;
- Students and faculty were greeted on Friday with local trio of bagpipers for St. Patrick's Day. Recognized Mr. Moriarty and Mr. Heath for their participation.
- Mr. Cozzolino and Ms. Hefferman held a fun activity with IBM that involved egg throwing in their class room.
- Project Ignition – Eight (8) students and two (2) chaperones travelled to Denver to attend the National Youth Leadership Conference during March 13th-16th. The Highland Rotary, HHS PTSA and the Michael Oremus foundation made substantial contributions in order to support student participation.
- Overall referrals are down.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Mike Bakatsias recognized new Virtual Advanced Placement Grant (VAP) and the three faculty members (John Manganiello, Aliza Driller and Stephanie Whiston) for being writers for this grant opportunity.
- Question asked from Tom Miller about where Pete Harris and Sarah Dudley-Lemak stand with the APPR progress.

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

Director of Student Services, Barbara E. Chapman, was not present. Deborah acknowledged Barbara's granddaughter for being recognized (same evening as board meeting) by Ulster County Legislator for her essay on Women in History for Daughters in American Revolution.

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 February 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 25th, and 26th, 2013, and the amendment – no meetings of February 20th, 25th, 28th, and March 4th, 2013, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

Motion made by Tom Miller; Second by Kim Sweeney; 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 March 12th, 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.

PERSONNEL:

Motion made by Kim Sweeney to move mentioned personnel items, a-d, as a block; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: Special recognition and thanks was given to Maria DeQuarto for her 25 years with the district; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 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:
Maria DeQuarto / Food Service Worker / Effective June 30, 2013

b) **Team Leader Appointment**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the appointment for the following:
Nancy Jensen / 7th Grade Team Leader / March 2013- June 2013

c) **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.

d) **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) **Budget Transfers**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following budget transfers totaling \$41,339.00 for the 2012-2013 school year:

Budget Transfer Number 5810 \$41,339.00

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

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent, Deborah Haab, brought up the following:

- Requested Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation and Carol Potash, Director of Technology, to speak about the 2nd proposition to taxpayers. Ms. Tompkins is proposing to the Board a resolution to purchase surveillance cameras in lieu of new school bus(es). Discussion followed about the proposed surveillance system and if it should be 2 cameras per bus vs. 4 cameras per bus. Ms. Tompkins felt confident in reporting that the maintenance department has been doing an exceptional job on repairs and would like to focus on security instead of purchasing new buses.
- Ms. Haab addressed a letter from a parent requesting amending the current Selective Classification Policy. Discussion followed regarding current policy. Topic will be discussed again at the March 26th board meeting.

- Thanked Randi Rattick for joining and adding her comments regarding funded mandates with Senator's meeting of last week (via phone).
- PARP activities at Elementary School
- State budget aid to be received by end of March
- Basketball game with HCSD staff vs. Town of Lloyd Police scheduled March 22nd to benefit "To Go Bags"
- Instrumental and Choral Scholarship Concert most enjoyable
- Roseanne Bayne and Debbie Pagano attended Ulster County School Board Association's speaker, Dr. King
- Attended conference regarding Obama Healthcare and how it will affect school districts – goes into effect January 1, 2014

The Board had the following questions/comments/concerns:

- Debbie Pagano gave a brief update on presentation from Dr. King. Topics covered were on new test scoring and funding on unfunded mandates.
- Sue Gilmore commented on Barbara Chapman's newsletter particularly on student achievement on tests.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

New Business:

- a) BOCES Annual Meeting – Alan Barone reminded Board members to let Deborah Haab or district clerk know if planning to attend.
- b) Correspondence – Correspondence received will be answered by Superintendent and/or Board in a timely fashion by email or letter. Alan Barone wanted to state that at this time SRO program is placed on hold. The assigned security individual currently at school is not armed. Sue Gilmore requested follow-up information from the March investigation.
- c) Future BOE Agenda Items – Please let Deborah Haab, Alan Barone or district clerk know by the Tuesday prior to scheduled board meeting.

Old Business:

- a) Proposal to Provide a Comprehensive Policy Manual – Involves more budget discussion.
- b) Livestream – Board expressed the need for better options for livestream. Kim Sweeney concerned is this enough to switch over since number of viewers are low. Carol Potash felt it would be approximately \$500.00 for twelve months.
- c) Board Priorities
 - 1) Improving Building Facilities;
 - 2) Education Improvement;

- 3) Improving Community Relations;
 - 4) Improving Fiscal Fitness
- Items continue to be discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The floor was open for Public Comment.

- Joe Cippolini, Highland resident, discussed the following:
 - Thanked for the presentation on Revision 2 and Revision 3.
 - Questions the numbers regarding interscholastic sports.
 - Selective Classification – encourages policy however the question is girls lacrosse team affecting girls JV baseball team? Also Joe expressed concern about a practice squad starting-up? Deborah Haab will look into this and get back with Joe.
- Frank Alfonso, Highland resident, discussed the following:
 - Recognized the request for updated equipment however would like Board to consider improvements in gymnasium esp. sound system.
 - Supports selective classification however the focus should be on putting the efforts in a successful JV team, Varsity team, etc.
- Laura Ward, Highland resident, discussed the following:
 - Supporter of selective classification as the policy the state defines
 - PTSA generously donated \$200.00 for “to go bags”
 - Recognized the Marist program however personally feels students should enjoy their 4 years in a high school setting – supports AP classes in high school
 - Suggested volunteers as advisors for extra curricular activities. Deborah Haab explained there is a contractual agreement in place which might prevent this happening.
- Sally Bellacicco, Highland resident, stated the following:
 - Sports plays such an important role in children’s lives and to take that away could be disappointing to a lot of students. Encourages the Board to rethink about cutting JV sports.
- Vincent Rizzi, Highland resident, discussed the following:
 - Livestream – not the best quality
 - Selective classification – encourages the Board to understand the changes in policy prior to any decision being made.

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSION (10:47 PM)

Motion made by Tom Miller to adjourn Regular Session at 10:47 pm; Second by Mike Reid; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote to go into Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Superintendent Hearing

ADJOURNMENT (12:06 am)

Motion made by Kim Sweeney to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 12:06 am; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

Motion made by Kim Sweeney to exit Regular Session and adjourn; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried 7-0 vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Lisa M Cerniglia,
District Clerk