

Highland Central School District

**MINUTES**

**Special Board of Education Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2013**

6:00 Executive Session (Based on Board Approval)

7:00 pm Open Session to be held in High School Cafeteria

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano to enter Executive Session; Second by Tom Miller; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:05 pm)**

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

- 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 Debbie Pagano to exit Executive Session; Second by Tom Miller; 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; Carol Potash, Director of Technology; Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation; Daniel Seyler-Wetzel

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (7:05 pm)**

Board president, Alan Barone, called meeting to order and pledge of allegiance was recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Floor was open for public comment.

- Community member, Randi Rattick, spoke about her personal viewpoint of all the benefits for students that have been involved in the music department as early as fourth grade. Ms. Rattick expressed how the music department is a strong choral/instrumental program and is the foundation of our existing curriculum. She asked the Board to seriously consider reinstating the music program for Grade 4 students.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- 1) Futures Education, Inc. – Michael Neiman and John McGuire presented an overview of the findings of the analysis of the Special Education Department. Topics of conversation included the following:
  - Strengths of program

- Areas of challenge
- Opportunities (Professional Learning Committees)
- Financial review
- Municipal Medicaid Program/Reimbursement
- Staffing
- Transportation – running efficiently and effectively
- Recommendations

Discussion took place among Board members and Futures Education, Inc. representatives about their analysis. It was noted that mandates are becoming more numerous and resources continue to be eliminated due to budgeting.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Old Business:**

- 1) BOCES Infrastructure Installment Purchase Agreement (IPA)  
BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorize the district to enter into an IPA in the amount of \$216,000 to afford infrastructure improvements.

**Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Seconded by Tom Miller;**

**Discussion: Technology Director, Carol Postash, gave a brief review of upgrade system that would improve current aged infrastructure. These improvements include thought-out plans for the future. Short discussion continued among Board members regarding time frame and cost savings.**

**Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

### **New Business:**

- 1) Change of Board Meeting Date  
Rescheduled from April 2, 2013 to April 9, 2013 – Purpose is to allow time to prioritize reinstated items.
- 2) Proposed Ulster County BOCES Budget for 2013-2014  
Annual budget vote scheduled for April 4, 2013
- 3) Correspondence – Alan Barone stated any correspondence received by Superintendent or Board members will be answered in a timely fashion via writing.
- 4) Future BOE Agenda Items - Please let Deborah Haab, Alan Barone or district clerk know by the Tuesday prior to scheduled board meeting.

### **Old Business:**

- 1) Security Cameras for all School Buses Proposition  
BE IT RESOLVED that the following proposition be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting of the qualified voters of the Highland Central School District, to be

conducted on May 21, 2013, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine on the following proposition:

PROPOSITION

“Shall the Board of Education of the Highland Central School District, Ulster County, New York, be authorized to purchase security cameras, including accessories and installation, for all school buses, at a maximum estimated cost of \$200,000, and that the sum of \$200,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments; and in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued?”

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish this proposition in the designated newspapers four (4) times in the seven (7) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting in accordance with Section 2004 of the Education Law.

**Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: Deborah Haab stated that the costs involved will be less than 100% to district due to funding. Debbie Tompkins stated she was confident in saying that replacing school buses for the upcoming school year was not a priority. Ms. Tompkins also stated that new equipment will be interchangeable in the future with new buses. Timeline was also discussed.**

**Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

- 2) Selective Classification – Discussion continued from last Board meeting about changing current policy. Discussion included the following:
- What the negatives would be to amend current policy and move to the state policy;
  - Concerns about the state guidelines – state policy does not include character and academic qualities of students as our current policy does;
- After discussion it was decided that the policy will stay for the current school year.

3) Budget

Louise Lynch, Business Administrator, and Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools, presented the Board with the following updates for the 2013-2014 school year:

- Assemblyman Skartados secured an additional \$50,000 for the 2013-2014 school year.
- After receiving word from state, it appears the gap elimination adjustment has been lowered. The district will be receiving an additional amount of \$400,000 (approximately).
- Foundation aid went up;
- BOCES aid went down slightly;
- High tax aid is restored to last year's level;

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Sue Gilmore suggested sharing the state aid funds with taxpayers and not propose a tax cap;
- Debbie Pagano would like to see programs restored with state aid funds;
- Mike Bakatsias supports the tax cap;
- Kim Sweeney would support a proposal below tax cap that is reasonable
- Tom Miller would like to see programs restored and not go above tax cap;
- Alan Barone suggested maintaining programs we have; restore programs;
- and keep tax levy cap as is.
- Discussion took place regarding the middle school schedule conflict with students that take band and Biology.
- Deborah Haab would like to focus on capturing Medicaid reimbursements.
- Discussion about the recommendation from Futures Education, Inc. about students returning back into district for services;
- Discussion on participating students in clubs and interscholastic sports took place;
- Board members suggested their recommendations of what programs they would like to restore.

4) Security Attendants/Greeters

Discussion took place regarding security personnel being added into budget for the 2013-2014 school year. Sue Gilmore asked what the budget amount should be. Dialogue continued about creating a position; job funding; possible civil service position; and outsourcing from an outside agency took place. Further discussion to take place at next Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The floor was open for public comment.

- Frank Alfonso, community member, spoke about the following:
  - Expressed his thoughts that the purpose of selective classification is to be used for the exceptional student.
  - Interscholastic Budget – concerned about the amount paid for benefits under stipend positions and why the difference in stipend amounts for same season sports. Deborah Haab explained this difference in amount could be due to longevity in coaches.
- Noreen Horodyski, community member, concerned about JV sports being eliminated. Requested the Board to look at the high number of participants and to please reconsider this proposed cut.
- Jim Delmar, community member, thanked Board and administrators for continuous communications to community and also requested the Board to look at state guidelines regarding selective classification.

**Motion made at 9:55 pm by Sue Gilmore to enter Executive Session; Second by Kim Sweeney; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (9:55 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

**Motion made by Kim Sweeney to adjourn Executive Session and return to Regular Session; Second by Mike Reid; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

**ADJOURNMENT (11:55 pm)**

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

Minutes submitted respectfully by,

Lisa M Cerniglia