

**Highland Central School District  
MINUTES**

Board of Education Meeting

**Tuesday, May 21, 2013**

6:00 Executive Session

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Anticipated upon Board Approval**

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 to go into executive session-Tom Miller Second-Kim Sweeney**

**Discussion: None Vote: 6-0**

Executive session began at 6:07 p.m.

**Motion to go into adjourn session-Mike Reid Second-Debbie Pagano**

**Discussion: None Vote: 6-0**

Executive session adjourned 7:03 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting began at 7:09 p.m.

Board Members present: Alan Barone; Sue Gilmore; Tom Miller; Kim Sweeney; Mike Reid and Debbie Pagano. Absent: Mike Bakatsias

**Old Business:**

**BOCES Board Update** – Regina Tantillo-Swanson updated the board on BOCES-related events. Reported that BOCES ending budget for 2012-13 would be in the \$60 million range, with a 2013-14 starting budget of \$47 million. Budget increase throughout the year based upon component district requests. Regina reported about innovative programs like Robotics and STEAM Camp and competitions that BOCES students were participating in. Regina announced appreciation for retiring Assistant Superintendent Jane Bullowa's 38 years of service and named her replacement. She also invited all board members to attend the Ulster County School Boards Dinner on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who wants to attend should contact Lisa Cerniglia.

**APPOINTMENT OF CLERK PRO TEMPORE**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education appoint Roseann Bayne as Clerk Pro Tempore to preside in the absence of Lisa Cerniglia who is placed at the polling place.

**Motion: Kim Sweeney    Second: Mike Reid    Discussion: None Vote: 6-0**

**ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:**

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2013
- b) Treasurers Reports and Budget Status & Revenue Status Reports – March 2013
- c) Enrollment and Attendance Report – Period 8 – 4/01/2013 – 4/30/2013

**Motion: Sue Gilmore    Second: Tom Miller**  
**Discussion: Superintendent Haab noted that the attendance report should reflect period 8 in the minutes, not period 7.**  
**Vote: 6-0**

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:**

- a) **Principal's Report:** (Reports on file in District Office)  
Each month the Principals will report on important information and events occurring in their schools.  
**Elementary-Joel Freer**—update on the carnival from May 18<sup>th</sup> which raised over \$5000. for playground equipment for students with special needs. Mike Reid inquired about Kindergarten packets. Sue Gilmore asked for further explanation of the Student/Teacher Data Linkage System. Tom Miller commended Joel for being dunked over 150 times in the Dunking Booth at the carnival.  
**Middle School-Daniel Wetzel**—Dan commented on the positive reports received about Highland students and their behavior during both the Boston and Bronx Zoo trips. He also commented on the school-wide improvement in writing which he believes is a result of writing being taught in each classroom as promoted by the school-wide writing prompt. Alan Barone asked for an update on locating time capsules that are buried in possibly more than one location in the district.  
**High School-Peter Harris**—Peter reviewed a series of special events that will be taking place at the high school over the next few weeks including the Holocaust Remembrance; Memorial Day Ceremony; Friday Field Days etc. He also informed the board that the Interact club won a trophy for participating in the wounded warrior run. Peter also reviewed that students took over 250 AP exams with result coming available on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the English 12 students participated in an inaugural partnership with SUNY Ulster and each student took the college placement test in reading, writing and math. The board was also reminded that graduation would be on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 on the High School Football Field.
- b) **Director of Student Services Report:** (Report on file in District Office)

Director of Student Services, Barbara E. Chapman, will report on operations of the Student Services Department.

**Barbara Chapman-** invited board members to join the PBIS meetings to experience first-hand the excitement and hard-work that go into making our PBIS program a success. Barbara also shared that the CSE chairs met to review the Annual Review Process and that many good recommendations were made.

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 April 4<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, and the amendment – no meeting of April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

**Motion: Debbie Pagano   Second: Tom Miller   Discussion: None   Vote: 6-0**

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 April 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

**Motion: Mike Reid   Second: Tom Miller   Discussion: None   Vote: 6-0**

**PERSONNEL:**

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.

**Motion: Kim Sweeney   Second: Sue Gilmore   Discussion: None   Vote: 6-0**

**BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:**

a) **Budget Transfer**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the budget transfer for the 2012-2013 school year as follows:

- Budget Transfer Number 6747                      \$ 30,000.00

- Budget Transfer Number 6693 & 6724 \$ 56,398.70
- Budget Transfer Number 6829 \$228,996.00
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**Motion: Mike Reid      Second: Tom Miller      Discussion: Sue Gilmore asked about back-up for the transfers, Louise Lynch noted that it was in the packet but provided additional explanation about the employee retirement system and instructional staff returning from leaves of absences as the reasons for the transfers. Vote: 6-0**

b) **Accept Donation & Budget Increase**

BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education accepts the donations in the amount of \$135.00 for Safety To Go Bags.

BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education approves the budget increase of \$135.00.

<u>Appropriations 2020-501-02</u>		<u>Total \$135.00</u>
<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Total \$135.00</u>
Donations	A2705	\$135.00

**Motion: Kim Sweeney      Second: Debbie Pagano      Discussion: None Vote: 6-0**

c) **Recommend BOCES for Cooperative Purchasing**

WHEREAS it is the desire of the participating school district of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Ulster County, adopting this resolution to jointly request bids for certain commodities to be determined by the Superintendent of this school district from time to time for the 2013-2014 school year.

NOW, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Highland Central School District hereby agrees to participate with other school districts of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Ulster County, New York in the joint bidding of commodities to be requested by the school district Purchasing Agent and approved by the Superintendent; and be it further

RESOLVED that the specification as prepared by the Steering Committee of participating school districts and presented to this Board of Education will be used and that this Board, if it desires to purchase these commodities agrees to purchase said commodities at the lowest bid price recommended by the Steering Committee of the joint school districts; provided, however, that each participating Board of Education in exercising its legal responsibilities, has the right to reject and/or modify the recommendation of the Steering Committee in the awarding of the bid; and be it further

RESOLVED that the invitation to bid will be advertised by BOCES in the Kingston Daily Freeman, the Middletown Record and the Poughkeepsie Journal in accordance with the provision of Section 103 of the General Municipal Law.

**Motion: Mike Reid      Second: Kim Sweeney      Discussion: None Vote: 6-0**

**d) Verizon New York, Inc. vs. Town of Marlborough and the Highland CSD**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorizes its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a Consent Judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Verizon New York, Inc. v. Town of Marlborough and the Highland CSD:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the Consent Judgment.

Motion: Debbie Pagano Second: Sue Gilmore Discussion: Sue Gilmore asked about what effect the judgment would have on taxes. Louise Lynch explained that it would result in a shift of \$175,000 over the entire tax base, thus not being noticeable overall to individual tax payers. Vote: 6-0

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS** – Nikhil Tikoo

Nikhil provided comments via an email to the superintendent and noted that the boy's lacrosse team was advancing to the play-offs for the first time ever. He also stated that students were aware of the budget process, increased state aid and anxiously awaiting the results of the budget vote. He noted that many eligible students voted for the first time, although he was unable to resister in a timely fashion since he just turned 18.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

1. The superintendent attended the carnival and reiterated what a wonderful event it was and commended staff for volunteering their time on a Saturday to sponsor such an event.
2. Reminded the board about the underclassmen academic awards on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>
3. Invited board to come to the Memorial Day Ceremony, noting that Highland students are very respectful and it is a moving ceremony.
4. Noted that Marlboro School District is going to join the Centralized Business Office for 2013-14 for payroll services.
5. Discussed an email regarding the exchange program that the board approved with a Chinese High School. Mrs. Haab noted that school district officials would likely be travelling to China in the fall at the expense of the Chinese School and that our district would be receiving some tuition monies next year for the Chinese students involved in the program
6. The superintendent explained that she had received a correspondence from the Music Boosters to meet with the board and discuss the Board's vision for music education in Highland. It was noted that the meeting would be difficult to schedule before the end of the school year, but that board members would check their calendars.
7. Mrs. Haab noted that she would be in Albany on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> for another Lobby Day with state representatives.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

### **New Business:**

- a) **Ulster County School Boards Association Annual Dinner Meeting** –  
Monday, June 10, 2013 at 6 pm
- b) **Use of Electronic Device Policy #5651**

**Discussion:** Alan Barone commented that the electronic device policy had not been reviewed in three years and that technology had changed rapidly during that time period, thus necessitating a review of the policy. Alan said that he is concerned with personal use of devices during instructional time. Sue Gilmore noted that she felt the policy was very clear and was unsure how it could be improved. Enforcement of the policy was discussed. It was decided that a committee would be developed including administrators, teachers, students and board members to review the electronic device policy.

- c) **Correspondence** – none
- d) **Future BOE Agenda Items--** Kim Sweeney asked that a future BOE agenda item should be a discussion on the options for policy review.

### **Old Business:**

- a) **Selective Classification** – Discussion
  - Debbie Pagano asked how the athletic director felt about the policy and Deborah Haab indicated that he was in favor of using the state language for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders while also keeping Highland's additional requirements (academics, behavioral etc.) in place.
  - Alan Barone provided a synopsis of the history of the Selective Classification policy in Highland
  - Kim Sweeney said that she has concerns about 7<sup>th</sup> graders participating at the varsity level especially contact sports, but wasn't as concerned about them participating at the j.v. level. She also voiced concerns about the integrity of the test administration process.
  - Debbie Pagano said that she supports the state policy and that 7<sup>th</sup> graders should be allowed.
  - Tom Miller said that he supports the 7<sup>th</sup> grade participation in selective classification
  - Mike Reid said that he supports the 7<sup>th</sup> grade participation in selective classification.
  - Sue Gilmore said that she supports the state policy with 7<sup>th</sup> graders but that it must be properly implemented.
  - Alan Barone made a statement about "impact players" and emphasized that selective classification only allows the student athlete to try-out for a team—it doesn't guarantee a spot on the team.

- It was decided that the administration should draft a new selective classification policy and have it reviewed by legal counsel and subsequently by the Board which includes language for 7<sup>th</sup> grade participation in the selection classification process.
- Alan Barone asked that the new policy have a provision addressing any shared teams (i.e. if we combine a sport with another team, students from the other school may only be selectively classified using Highland's Policy).

b) **Aged Exemption**

- Louise Lynch explained that she would be providing a report in the next board packet about the how many seniors took advantage of the program

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Any topic related to the agenda may be addressed except for personnel or specific student issues.

Laurie Ward spoke in support of using the state selection classification criteria.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Mike Reid      Second: Debbie Pagano      Discussion: None      Vote: 6-0  
Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roseann Bayne  
Clerk Pro Tempore