

Highland Central School District

**MINUTES**

Board of Education Meeting

**Tuesday, May 7, 2013**

6:00 pm Budget Hearing

7:00 pm Regular Meeting in the High School Cafeteria



**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; Roseann Bayne, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Louise M. Lynch, Business Administrator; Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services; Carol Potash, Director of Technology; Pete Ferguson; Director of Athletics; Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation; Pete Miller, Director of Building and Grounds; Maria McCarthy, Director of Food Services; Pete Harris, High School Principal; Sarah Dudley-Lemek; Daniel Seyler-Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Rosann LaManna, Elementary School Assistant Principal

Student Representative Present: Nikhil Tikoo (absent)

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** (6:08 pm)

Board President, Alan Barone, called meeting to order at 6:08 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**BUDGET HEARING for the 2013-2014 School Year**

**Presentation available on website**

Superintendent of Schools, Deborah Haab, presented the 2013-2014 school year budget.

Highlights of presentation included the following:

- Events at Elementary School
- Events at Middle School
- Events at High School
- Newsweek has awarded Highland CSD as one of the “2013 America’s Best Schools”
- Budget proposal is as follows: \$38,524,337.00; Budget-to-Budget increase of 4.3%;
- 50% +1 voter support required
- Budget analysis
- Rallying for education that has taken place

- Tax rate (estimated increase in school taxes)
- Scenarios of a contingency budget
- Review of Proposition #1 and Proposition #2
- Candidates running for school board
- Voter qualifications

In closing, Deborah Haab thanked the Board, Administrative Team and community members for taking the time these past several months to review the 2013-14 school year budget. Deborah also reminded, and encouraged, everyone to come out to vote on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 6 am – 9 pm at the Highland High School (follow signs for Polling Place).

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Tom Miller congratulated everyone for being recognized from Newsweek of “2013 America’s Best High Schools”.
- Sue Gilmore said a few words about running for school board for the upcoming school year.
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#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The floor was open for public comments to discuss any budget issues.

- Holly Brooker, community member, thanked the Board for putting together a budget that was put together with a lot of thought and time behind it. Holly also thanked Darlene Plavchak and Lisa Milby for offering childcare during the Board/Budget meetings.

#### **BUDGET HEARING CLOSING REMARKS**

Alan Barone encourages the community to review the budget that has been presented to them (also available on the website). Any questions or concerns regarding this can be addressed to Deborah Haab or Board member. Alan reminded registered voters to vote on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 6 am – 9 pm. Entrance to polling place (High School) is on side on building. Scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> is personal registration day and is the last day to register with the Board of Elections. Alan also thanked everyone involved, including members of the community, on putting together a well thought out budget proposal.

*At 6:45 pm a short break took place. Meeting reconvened at 7:05 pm.*

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Annemarie Meisel along with Project Ignition Team did a short presentation about their conference that they participated in at Denver, Co. in March. This conference was possible due to the grant money from National Youth Leadership Council, and the generous support from Highland Rotary club, Michael Oremus Foundation and Highland Parent Teacher Student Association.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:**

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2013, April 16, 2013,

April 23, 2013 and April 24, 2013

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

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:**

- a) Director's Report - Each month the Director's will provide the board with an update.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Question from Kim Sweeney regarding Technology report – Carol Potash indicated that the attached graph was to illustrate how a visual impaired student is using her IPAD with math graph problems.
- Alan Barone congratulated the students and teams that have been recognized as MHAL Winter 2013 All Star Athletes; Varsity MHAL Spring Season Scholar Athlete Teams with Distinction and Varsity NHAL Spring Season Scholar Athlete Teams.

**PERSONNEL:**

a) **Maternity Leave**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the maternity leave as follows:

Melissa Variano

Position: LPN at Elementary School

Effective Date: On or about October 14, 2013 – April 14, 2014.

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

b) **Retirement**

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

Edward Poll

Position: Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Effective Date: June 30, 2013

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

c) **Tenure Recommendation**

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

Peter Harris

Tenure Area: School Building Leader

Effective Date: May 10, 2013

Superintendent of Schools, Deborah Haab, spoke to the Board to recommend, with great pleasure, Pete Harris to receive a tenure status. Deborah Haab then said a few words as well

as congratulating Pete Harris for his many accomplishments and strong leadership skills at Highland over the past several years.

**Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: Alan Barone, as well as the Board, all recognized Pete Harris for his strong leadership skills and congratulated Pete Harris on his tenure appointment; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

**d) Amendment to Superintendent's Contract**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute an Amendment No. 2, dated May 7, 2013, to the Superintendent's Employment Agreement dated February 26, 2009, extending the Superintendent's employment through June 30, 2016 (and establishing her salary for the 2013-14 school year at \$155,500). A copy of said Amendment No. 2 shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

**BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:**

**a) IT Surplus Items**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, declare the attached list of computers, monitors and various projectors as surplus and dispose of them in accordance with district policy and NYS Municipal and School Law.

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

**b) Budget Transfers**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the budget transfer totaling \$48,345.

Budget Transfer Number 6596                      \$ 48,345

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

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

(Due to AP Testing - Nikhil Tikoo absent)

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:**

- Annual Community Expo – thanked Administrator Intern Lynda Keech and all involved to make this a successful event
- Prom held April 26<sup>th</sup> was a night enjoyed by students
- April 30<sup>th</sup> Interact Club inductions
- Attended Scholastic Dinner to recognize Valedictorian and Salutatorian
- Thanked all involved with the recent Middle School Play
- Support Services currently interviewing architect firms
- May 15<sup>th</sup> High School Spring Concert
- May 16<sup>th</sup> Senior Citizen Prom
- May 18<sup>th</sup> fundraiser to support adaptive equipment at elementary school

- Budget notice in process of being mailed
- Results of School Report card to take place in near future
- Recognized Project Ignition Team
- State Assessment
- Safe Bus scheduled at high school week of May 7<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm
- Recognized faculty for Teacher Appreciation (5/7) and Teacher Appreciation week
- May 16<sup>th</sup> personal registration day
- May 21<sup>st</sup> budget vote and board elections from 6 am to 9 pm

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Alan Barone recognized the teachers and staff especially during teacher appreciation week.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

#### **New Business:**

- a) Correspondence  
Discussion took place regarding emails being answered in a timely and efficient manner. After discussion, it was decided that the first step is for emails be channeled through the Superintendent first.
- b) Future BOE Agenda Items  
Board material should be referred to Deborah Haab, Alan Barone or District Clerk the Tuesday prior to Board meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

- a) Selective Classification  
Review of current policy took place. Comparison of the state policy and Highland's policy was also discussed. Athletic Director, Pete Ferguson, was available to answer questions and concerns the Board had.
- b) Board Priorities
  - 1) Improving Building Facilities;
  - 2) Education Improvement;
  - 3) Improving Community Relations;
  - 4) Improving Fiscal Fitness

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The floor was open for public comments.

- Laurie Ward, community member, supports Mike Reid with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders participating in Selective Classification. Stated that potential players would still need to pass try outs to be on team.

- Vincent Rizzi, community member, expressed his concern about revising the existing Selective Classification Policy.

**Motion made at 8:22 pm by Kim Sweeney; Second by Mike Reid to adjourn Regular Session and go into Executive Session. Motion carried**

**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;

**ADJOURNMENT (10:14 pm)**

Motion made at 10:14 pm by Mike Reid to adjourn Executive Session; Second by Tom Miller; Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by,

Lisa M Cerniglia,  
District Clerk