

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Business Meeting

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

5:45 Middle School Building Tour

7:00 pm Regular Meeting held in the Middle School Gymnasium



TOUR BUILDING 5:45 p.m.

Middle School Building Tour took place among Board members, Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Business Administrator at 5:45 pm.

ATTENDEES

Board Members Present: Alan Barone, Sue Gilmore, Kim Sweeney, Mike Bakatsias, Tom Miller, Debbie Pagano, Mike Reid

Administrators Present: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Roseann Bayne, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Louise Lynch, Business Administrator; Daniel Seyler Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Megan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal; Pete Ferguson, Athletic Director

Student Representative Present: Nikhil Tikoo

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 7:05 p.m.

Board President, Alan Barone called meeting at 7:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:

External Audit 2012 – Alec Sorbin, Ray Presser CPA, presented to the Board the following review of Audit Report from school year 2011-2012:

- General Fund Balance appears quite low (less than >1%);
- Increase of Health Care Insurance;

- State Tax Cap of 2%
- Fiscal Stress of Employee Retirement Benefits
- Federal and State Aid Decrease
- School Lunch Programs
- Mandated Costs which constitutes 70% of budget

Discussion followed presentation.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the External Audit Report for the fiscal school year of 2011-2012.

Motion made by Kim Sweeney; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: none.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – Peg Trinkaus

As part of the Board's request, a recognition program for students, staff and community members has been established. Tonight Deborah Haab, Alan Barone and Board members recognized Peg Trinkaus for her dedicated services in the district for 17 years. Peg was then recognized and awarded the 2012 Ally Award from GLSEN Hudson Valley.

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2012-2013 CODE OF CONDUCT – 2nd Reading

Adoption of the 2012-2013 Code of Conduct

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools adopts the 2012-2013 Code of Conduct.

Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Seconded by Tom Miller; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: Kim Sweeney asked about students being transported by bus; suspension of students over the age of 18; and alternative instruction. For the future, it was requested that any changes/additions be highlighted in policy.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- a) DOT Bus Inspections
- b) Treasurer's Report – June 2012
- c) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2012

Motion made by Mike Reid; Seconded by Kim Sweeney; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: None.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

- a) 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 August 7th and September 7th, 2012, and the transfer in meeting – no meetings of August 28th, 29th, 30th, and September 5th and 11th, 2012, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

Motion made by Tom Miller; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: None.

b) 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 August 9th and 28th, 2012, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Seconded by Tom Miller; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: None.

PERSONNEL:

Motion made by Mike Reid to move below mentioned items as a block including amendment item "d"; Seconded by Sue Gilmore; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Discussion: Kim Sweeney asked about the schedule for the Administrative Internship.

a) Administrative Internship Appointment

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

Lynda Keech

Position:

Administrative Internship HES/HHS

Effective Date:

August 27, 2012 – June 28, 2013

b) Approval for Payment for Summer APPR work

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the payment for the summer APPR work for the following individual:

Roseann Bayne – \$4,700 (grant-funded)

c) Appointment for Dignity Act Co-Coordinators:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the appointment as Dignity Act Co-Coordinators for the following individuals and location:

Elementary School – Rosann LaManna and Dawn Palmer

High School – Andrea Tresaloni

Middle School – Peg Trinkus (change from Elementary School Coordinator)

d) Appointment for Dignity Act Co-Coordinators (Amendment to Agenda)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the appointment as Dignity Act Co-Coordination for the following individuals and location:

High School – Dr. Robert Beyer

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:

Business Administrator, Louise Lynch, stated the Treasurer's report for August will be forthcoming.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS – Nikhil Tikoo

Nikhil Tikoo is encouraging students to discuss with the Board their concerns about programs being cut as well as the value of programs. The reason to discuss this sooner than later is to alleviate "frantic behavior" during budget time. Board President, Alan Barone, reinforces students to share their input.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

- Attended workshop for school superintendents. Topic of discussion included shared services among schools;
- Attended meeting in Newburgh. Topic of discussion included the need of students to be more ready for a wider variety of career options;
- FUTURES audit will be starting October 25th;
- ECG contract continues to move along. Final stages of comprehensive energy audit will take place within a few weeks;
- Alan Barone and Deborah Haab attended Town meeting. Representatives from Walkway Over The Hudson and Project Winery were present. Projects are on the horizon for our district in terms of school tax base;
- HAA contract negotiations to be discussed on October 17th;
- Board retreat scheduled October 9th at High School Library;
- HELPA negotiations to be discussed on October 9th

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

Sue Gilmore asked if the ECG contract addresses the window needs. Deborah Haab and Alan Barone both responded windows have been a concern; however, will not be included with this contract.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

- a) Adoption of Highland Central School District Board of Education Policy #6560

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, adopts the Highland Central School District Board of Education Policy #6560.

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Debbie Pagano: Motion carried with a 5-0-2 vote. Kim Sweeney and Sue Gilmore opposed.
Discussion: Item #3B1**

b) Home-Schooled Students Policy

Discussion on policy of home-schooled students participating in after-school activities went as follows:

- Currently no policy is in place at HCSD;
- Referred to other schools that currently have a policy;

As a result of discussion, Deborah Haab, Roseann Bayne as well as legal council will compose a policy for a 1st Reading.

c) Correspondence

None at this time.

d) Future BOE Agenda Items

To ensure adequate time for review, Board packets will be delivered to members Thursday preceding Board meeting.

Old Business:

a) Sports Team Merger (Lacrosse)

Athletic Director, Pete Ferguson, addressed the board on the following topics concerning the merger of Marlboro School with Highland School for boys' varsity lacrosse:

- Total number of students participating:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total at End of Season</u>
2008	29
2009	23
2010	28
2011	23
2012	22

- Cost to school is approximately \$7,000 for boys varsity lacrosse. Girls approximately \$10,000;
- Manageable number of players on team is 29 players;
- As of date, fourteen (14) players returning;
- Transportation costs for practice's and scheduled games;
- Potential JV squad;
- Merger will offset costs;
- Coaching – head coach / assistant coach.

Discussion followed among Board members and administrators. Board President Alan Barone expressed deep concern that merger will not allow all interested students at HCSD the opportunity to participate in lacrosse. However, he would not like to see any student be deprived of being given the opportunity to participate. It was decided by the Board that after one year, a review will take place after reviewing the number of participating students.

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following varsity team merger:

Spring 2013 Season – Marlboro School merge with Highland School -
Boy's Varsity Lacrosse.

Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Seconded by Mike Reid. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

b) Aged-Exemption

Discussion took place with Business Administrator Louise Lynch and Board comparing the different exemptions, for example; STAR and Enhanced Star. Board member Sue Gilmore would like to see the total number of properties. Louise Lynch stated, with Board approval, this resolution would have to be adopted by December 31, 2012. Topic is Tabled for November 2012.

c) SRO

Legal council is currently reviewing purchase service agreement vs. employee service agreement.

d) Lloyd Safe Route to School Grant

Draft letter of endorsement from Deborah Haab will be reviewed by Board members.

e) UCSBA Roundtable

Thursday, October 4th at 6 pm in the Ulster BOCES Conference Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

CLOSING COMMENTS

The next two scheduled Board meetings are as follows:

October 16, 2012 Highland High School
November 6, 2012 Elementary School

ADJOURNMENT 9:00 p.m.

Motion made by Kim Sweeney to proceed into Executive Session; Seconded by Tom Miller; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

1. _____ Matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;

2. ____ Any matter which may disclose the identity of law enforcement agent or informer;
3. ____ Information relating to current or future investigations or prosecution of criminal offices, which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;
4. ____ Discussions regarding proposed, pending, or current litigation;
5. x Collective Negotiations pursuant to Article 14 (Taylor Law) of the Civil Service Law;
6. x 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;
7. ____ The preparation, grading or administration of examinations;
8. ____ A proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano to return to open session; Seconded by Tom Miller;
Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

Kaiser vs. Highland, Docket No. 10-354 Settlement

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the settlement in the matter of Kaiser v. Highland, Docket No. 10-354, based on a Memo from the School Attorney as presented at this meeting, and authorizes the payment of School District's portion of the settlement, in the amount of \$30,000 to Sussman and Watkins, as attorneys, in full and final settlement of any and all claims that Plaintiff made or could have made against the School District.

Motion made by Tom Miller; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT 9:55 p.m.

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Lisa M. Cerniglia, District Clerk