

**Highland Central School District**

**MINUTES**

Board of Education Meeting

**Tuesday, May 6, 2014**

6:00 pm Budget Hearing

**Open Meeting to follow after Budget Hearing**

**To be held in the High School Cafeteria**

MEETING AVAILABLE LIVESTREAM

**ATTENDEES:**

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

Administrators/Principals/Directors: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Sarah Dudley-Lemek, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Louise Lynch, Business Administrator; Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services; Carol Potash, Director of Technology; Pete Miller, Director of Building and Grounds; Pete Watkins, Director of Athletics; Maria McCarthy, Director of Food Services; Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation; Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Roseann LaManna, Elementary School Assistant Principal; Dan Seyler-Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Meghan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal; Pete Harris, High School Principal.

Student Representative: Priyanka Dongare (absent)

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President, Alan Barone, called meeting to Order at 6:08 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The floor was open for public comments. The following comments were made:

- Cindy Klein, community member and parent, thanked the Board for adding the 9-period day to the middle school schedule. Cindy expressed her gratitude to the staff at middle school, as well as Mr. Rizzo, for accommodating students at end of day to complete their lab requirements for Biology.
- Holly Brooker, community member, parent, and member of PTA, thanked the Board for putting together a budget that has been well put together and welcomed.
- Karen Bender, community member and parent, thanked the Board for adding a 9-period day to the middle school.

**BUDGET HEARING 2014-2015 School Year** (Available on website)

Superintendent of Schools, Deborah Haab, and Business Administrator, Louise Lynch, presented a power point presentation on the 2014-2015 proposed school budget. (Refer to website for power point presentation.)

- Deborah Haab requested that the voters be informed on the budget and propositions.

- Announced the new tax freeze program initiated by New York State. This is a result of Highland's budget proposal meeting the state tax cap requirement. As a result, this would mean that eligible taxpayers will receive a refund from the state in the amount that their tax bill increases.
- With much effort, an additional \$100,000 was received from Assemblyman Frank Skartados office. Administrators encouraged everyone to continue their lobbying efforts.

### **INTRODUCTION OF BOARD CANDIDATES**

- Former Board candidate, Heather Welch, introduced herself and said a few words on her qualifications of becoming a Board member with Highland Central School District.
- Current Board President and candidate, Alan Baraone, said a few words on his qualifications as well as his aspiration to continue being a Board member for Highland Central School District.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The floor was open for public comments. No comments were made at this time.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Alan Barone thanked the Administrators and Board members for working so diligently on putting together a well thought budget for the community to vote on.

### **OPEN MEETING (6:45 pm)**

Board President, Alan Barone, announced Board is going into regular session.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The floor was open for public comments. No comments were made at this time.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:**

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2014

**Motion made by Tom Miller; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: none; Motion carried 7-0.**

### **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:**

- a) **Directors' Reports:**

Each month the Directors of Technology, Food Service, Transportation, Buildings & Grounds, and Athletics provide the Board with a written update.

Pete Watkins, Athletic Director

- Forty-five (45) students recognized as MHAL scholar athletes;
- Three (3) NYSPHSAA scholar athlete teams;
- Boys Lacrosse hosting benefit for the Headstrong Foundation in Red Hook Saturday;
- Thanked Pete Miller and Debbie Tompkins for assisting him with game schedules and field issues.
- Boys Baseball, Girls Softball, Boys Lacrosse qualify for sectional play;

- Track – members will be participating in the qualifiers at Dietz stadium. If they win at that event, then they will go to states in Syracuse.
- Cheerleading has been recognized as a sport.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- For Carol Potash – PARCC assessments will be ready to deliver the new tests in the 2014-14 school year.

**PERSONNEL:**

**Motion made by Kim Sweeney to move items “a-b” as a block; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0.**

a) **Resignation**

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

Employee: Alicia Hegeman  
Position: Food Service Worker  
Effective: April 3, 2014

b) **Appointment**

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

Employee: Tammy Dwyer  
Position: School Monitor  
Salary: Grade 3, Step 1, \$10.06/hr  
Effective Date: May 7, 2014  
Probationary Period: May 7, 2014 – November 7, 2014  
Reason: Replace Kari Beck

Employee: Sarah E. Dudley-Lemek  
Position: Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Salary: \$110,000.00 (effective May 6, 2014)  
Probationary Period: October 2, 2013 – October 1, 2016  
Tenure Area: School District Administrator

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Student representative, Priyanka Dongare, was not present.

**BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:**

Presentation for the proposed budget vote for the 2014-2015 school year was presented during Budget Hearing.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT** (Report on file in District Office)

Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Sarah Dudley-Lemek, updated the Board on the following:

- Site Visit to Fraser Public Schools;
- Math Initiative;

- May 6<sup>th</sup> attended a conference sponsored by the U.C. Police Dept. on Safety. This conference reinforced the drills that HCSD is currently executing.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- What is the number of students in Elementary & Middle School that opted out of Math State Assessments? Response, 49 students in Elementary School and 150 students in Middle School.
- State testing articles – indicators for AIS services.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Superintendent, Deborah Haab, updated the Board on the following:

- Junior/Senior Prom was well attended and went very well;
- Spring activities are in full swing;
- Refer to enclosed Two-Week-Look-Ahead memo for upcoming events (also located on website);
- Discussed recent trip with House of Delegates in Albany regarding the information on state assessments. For example, number of students opting-out of state exams and the impact this may have.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- What kind of feedback has there been from the parents of children that did take the state tests. Response, the teachers from the elementary school math department felt overall the test was fair. Feeling was that the math was more reasonable than the ELA test.
- Do the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that are taking the Regents Algebra still take the state test? Response, the students taking Regents exams do not have to take state test.
- Kim Sweeney would like a follow-up on the data of children that would require AIS services from results of exams.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

#### **New Business:**

a) **Rescind Policy #6560**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves rescinding Policy #6560 Non-Represented Employees: Salary and Benefits and Conditions of Employment.

**Motion made by Mike Reid; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: This policy is no longer in effect; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

b) **Annual Budget Vote & Election** – To be held on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 pm at the Highland High School, Band room.

c) **Correspondence** – Kim Sweeney will like to speak about this in Executive Session.

d) **Future BOE Agenda Items** – To be submitted the Tuesday prior to following Board meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

a) **Capital Project**

- The Facilities Committee just finished their 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. They have completed tours of building and grounds. Next meeting to take place May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Participation of members on this committee has been overall good.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The floor was open for public comments. The following comments were made:

- Jack Margulio, community member, provided Sue Gilmore with article on report card, as was requested from the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Jack also expressed concern about the proposed budget; AIS services; and ranking of schools.

**Motion made at 7:35 pm by Kim Sweeney to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (7:35 pm)

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.

**Motion made at 9:34 pm by Debbie Pagano to exit Executive Session; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried; Motion made by Debbie Pagano to exit Open Session; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT** (9:34 pm)

Minutes submitted and recorded by,

Lisa M Cerniglia  
District Clerk