

**Highland Central School District**  
**MINUTES**

Board of Education Meeting

**Tuesday, December 16, 2014**

**7:00 pm Open Meeting to be held in the  
High School Cafeteria**



MEETING AVAILABLE LIVESTREAM  
THANKS TO STUDENT  
DAN RUSSO

**Motion made at 6:50 pm by Debbie Pagano to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Tom Miller; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:50 pm)**

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

- 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 Mike Bakatsias at 7:04 pm to exit Executive Session; Seconded by Heather Welch; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**ATTENDEES:**

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

Administrators/Principals/Directors: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Sarah Dudley-Lemek, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Louise Lynch, Business Administrator; Barbara Chapman, Director of Student Services; Robin Hecht, Shared Curriculum Coordinator; Carol Potash, Technology Director; Frank Alfonso, Athletic Director; Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Kathleen Sickles, Elementary School Assistant Principal; Daniel Wetzels, Middle School Principal; Meghan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (7:15 pm)**

Board President Alan Barone called meeting to order at 7:15 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

- Jack Marguillo, community member, displayed his version of the pay scale in the HTA contract. As a result of discussion that took place, Alan Board instructed Jack to meet with Business Administrator, Louise Lynch, to verify salaries and contract information prior to any future comments regarding this subject.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Carol Potash introduced high school teachers Charles Witte and Stephanie Whiston who did an overview on their recent experience on this new learning concept known as Flipped Classroom. The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Fee involved – currently this is on a trial basis and there is no fee;
- Longevity of IPAD's;
- Availability of computer service from student's home;
- Communication between teachers and students via this model. Students can view lesson plan "24/7".

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:**

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

- a) Attendance & Enrollment Report Dates: Period 3 – 11/01/2014-11/26/2014
- b) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2014

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

### **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:**

- a) **Principal's Report:** (Reports are on file in District Office)

Each month the Principals report on important information and events occurring in their schools.

#### **Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal**

- Correction made on the IBM Grant – amount received is actually \$2,000.00;
- Recognized Karen Bender and the music department for their outstanding winter concert.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Acknowledged that this will be the first invitation for a district representative to attend meeting in Albany related to the LAP process/requirements.

#### **Daniel Seyler-Wetzel, Middle School Principal**

- 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the school newspaper distributed;
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> Staff Holiday Play;
- Beginning in January there will be a faculty book study. Book title is "Authentic Learning in the Digital Age: Engaging Students Through Inquiry";

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Sue Gilmore asked if the AIS numbers reported last month will be consistent. Sue Gilmore asked for updates at upcoming Board meeting.
- Red Cross Emergency Shelter – Board requested updated information on what would be involved.

Pete Harris, High School Principal (*Principal or Assistant Principal was not in attendance. The Board is to follow-up in an email to Deborah Haab for any questions or concerns*).

**Director of Student Services Report:** (Report on file in District Office)

Barbara E. Chapman updated the Board on the following:

- Reviewed the Number of In District/Out-of District Special Education Enrollment Report.
- The collaboration between Marlboro Central School and Highland Central School District is doing quite well.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Attendance and Enrollment report – Discussion took place on the attendance numbers as a result of data corrections in School Tools. For example, the number of students-not the number of days- for OSS and ALC.
- Medicaid Consents – Sue Gilmore asked if there is a process of receiving all the Medicaid consents. Barbara Chapman stated, “Yes”.

b) **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 Amendment – No Meetings of November 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>, and December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and authorizes the arrangements for such students’ special education programs and services.

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: none;**

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

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 December 2<sup>nd</sup>; the Amendment – No Meeting of November 19<sup>th</sup>; and the Transfer –No Meeting of October 6<sup>th</sup>, and authorizes the arrangements for such students’ special education programs and services.

**Motion made by Tom Miller; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none;**

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

**PERSONNEL:**

**Motion made by Sue Gilmore to move items “a-e” as a block; Seconded by Mike Reid; Discussion: Deborah Haab clarified positions regarding Leave Replacement and Unpaid Leave of Absence. Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

a) **Appointment - Coaching**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following appointment for the 2014-2015 school year:

Samantha Wacker

Position: Modified Softball Coach

Salary: Pursuant to the 2013-2018 HTA Contract

Effective Date: March 16, 2014

b) **Resignation**

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

Employee: Tara Ann Simpson

Position: Lunch Room Monitor

Effective Date: December 23, 2014

Purpose: To be put on substitute list

c) **Extended Unpaid Leave of Absence**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following request to extend the unpaid leave of absence as follows:

Employee: Katie Kurry

Position: Teacher Assistant

Effective Date: Present to February 2, 2015

Purpose: To fill maternity leave of Kara Henry

d) **Leave Replacement**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the request to appoint the following employees as a leave replacements as follows:

Employee: Katie Kurry

Position: Special Education Teacher – Elementary School

Effective Date: On or about December 23, 2014 – February 3, 2015

Employee: Carol Redmond

Position: Teacher Assistant – Elementary School

Effective Date: Present to February 3, 2015

Purpose: Continue replacement for Katie Kurry

d) **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.

e) **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.

f) **Appointment**

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

Employee: Linda Steinberg  
Position: Interim Treasurer  
Rate: \$30.00 per hour  
Effective Date: December 16, 2014

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none;  
Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:**

a) **Inter-Municipal Agreement with Ellenville CSD - TABLED**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Inter-Municipal Agreement dated December 3, 2014 and furthermore authorize the Board President to execute such agreement.

b) **Budget Transfer**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following budget transfer dated November 30, 2014 for the 2014-2015 school year:

- Budget Transfer Number 5573 \$254,500.00

**Motion made by Tom Miller; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Discussion:  
Thanked Louise Lynch; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Due to scheduling conflict Danielle Stoner left early. Danielle will update the Board at the following meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Deborah Haab updated the Board on the following occurrences /topics:

- Wonderful performances recently took place with the band and choral groups at the Elementary, Middle and High School;
- Recognized staff that are incorporating Flipped Learning in their classrooms;
- Updated enrollment projection;
- Hand-Outs were distributed titled; "Parents Get Schooled on New Math Standards" and "Common Core Tests";
- Happy Holidays to everyone.

The Board had the following questions/comments/concerns:

- Race to the Top Funds – No future funds are available. This expired June 30, 2014.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Sarah Dudley-Lemek updated the Board on the following occurrences/topics:

- SINI (School In Need of Improvement) will be discussed in more detail at upcoming Board meeting in January.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

**New Business:**

- a) **UCSBA** – Meeting to be held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 6 pm. RSVP with District Clerk or Superintendent Secretary.
- b) **Correspondence** – No new correspondence was discussed at this time.
- c) **Future BOE Agenda Items**
  - John Buonamano, Carol Potash and Deb Kelley are currently reviewing the Procedure & Policy Manual regarding (1) Purchasing and (2) Budget Planning and Development.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Old Business:**

a) **RPT §467 Aged-Exemption:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, after having given the public an opportunity to be heard, hereby establishes the income eligibility limits for the partial real property tax exemption applicable to otherwise qualified taxpayers over the age of 65, regarding assessments rolls prepared on the basis of the taxable status date occurring on or after January 1, 2014, as follow:

\$	-	\$	29,000.00	50%
\$	29,000.01	\$	29,999.99	45%
\$	30,000.00	\$	30,999.99	40%
\$	31,000.00	\$	31,999.99	35%
\$	32,000.00	\$	32,899.99	30%
\$	32,900.00	\$	33,799.99	25%
\$	33,800.00	\$	34,699.99	20%
\$	34,700.00	\$	35,599.99	15%
\$	35,600.00	\$	36,499.99	10%
\$	36,500.00	\$	37,399.99	5%
\$	37,400.00		above	0%

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby provides that any individual otherwise qualified pursuant to the provision of §467 of the Real Property Tax Law, shall be entitled to such real property tax exemption if s/he becomes 65 years of age after the appropriate taxable status date occurring on or after January 1, 2014.

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Seconded by Mike Reid; Discussion followed on the impact to taxpayers with increasing the income level. Sue Gilmore expressed concern of neighboring school districts not adopting policy to the maximum limit. Motion carried with a 5-2 vote (Sue Gilmore and Heather Welch opposed).**

b) **Alternate Veterans Exemption §458-a** – Discussion took place if there were other Districts that adopted this policy. This topic will be discussed further at upcoming Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

**CLOSING COMMENTS**

Alan Barone wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

**Motion made by Tom Miller at 9:10 pm to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Heather Welch; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: (9:10 pm)**

BE IT 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. \_\_\_\_ 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 11:10 pm by Debbie Pagano to adjourn Executive Session; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote. Motion made by Debbie Pagano to exit Open Meeting; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT (11:10 pm)**

Minutes submitted and recorded by Lisa M. Cerniglia, District Clerk