

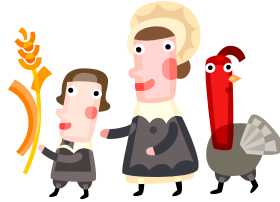
**Highland Central School District**  
**MINUTES**

Board of Education Meeting

**Tuesday, November 18, 2014**

5:00 – 6:45 pm Board Retreat

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



**MEETING AVAILABLE LIVESTREAM**  
**THANKS TO STUDENT TOM HOLLWAY**

**BOARD RETREAT**

Board meet with District Leadership Team in the BOCES Conference Room.

**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 E. Chapman, Director of Student Services; Carol Potash, Director of Technology; Frank Alfonso, Athletic Director; Robin Hecht, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation; Maria McCarthy, Director of Food Services; Pete Harris, High School Principal; Bill Zimmer, High School Assistant Principal; Daniel Wetzels, Middle School Principal; Meghan Connors, Assistant Principal at Middle School; Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Kathleen Sickles, Assistant Principal at Elementary School

Student Representative: Danielle Stoner

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** (7:04 pm)

Board President Alan Barone called meeting to Order at 7:04 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

Edwin Holder, HELPA President, proclaimed the following statements (several HELPA staff members were in attendance to support Edwin):

- HELPA employees have been without a contract for 871 days (as of today's date) that is 2 ½ years.
- 81% of HELPA staff are taxpayers in the District.
- Briefly explained the important roles of the support staff in the District.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- Special Education teachers from the Middle School, Alicia Reina and Jennifer Bertone, demonstrated technology strategies, ex., IPAD cart and Noodle that are being used in their instructional classes.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:**

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

- a) Board of Education Minutes – October 21, 2014 & November 4, 2014
- b) Attendance and Enrollment – Period 2 – October 1, 2014 – October 31, 2014
- c) Claim Audit Reports / Warrants – July, August, September 2014

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Sue Gilmore; Discussion: Sue Gilmore expressed concern on the following reports:**

- (1) **Attendance Report reflecting decline;**
- (2) **Drop & Enrollment;**
- (3) **Suspensions in Middle School**

Pete Harris responded that the numbers on report reflect the drop-out vs. attendance.

Dan Wetzel responded that report should reflect number of days and not the number of students. Board asked for a better clarification on the numbers (ex.; # of days / # of students).

**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, updated the Board on the following:

- Received a grant from IBM for \$1,000.<sup>00</sup> and a grant from Mobil for \$500.<sup>00</sup>. Both grants will be utilized to assist with technology.
- Recognized Kathleen Sickles, Deb Kelly and Robin Hecht for creating the action plan for LAP (Local Assistance Plan).
- The On-Going LAP plan will be posted to website.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- As a result of the LAP report, a discussion took place between Joel Freer and Kathleen Sickles. During a lengthy discussion, the Board asked where we are in terms of achieving goals that will remove HCSD from the list. Mr. Freer

explained some of the initiatives included in the LAP will help achieve these goals.

Daniel Wetzel, Middle School Principal updated the Board on the following:

- Student Council involved in Food Drive and Magazine Drive;
- “Referral Free Extravaganza”;
- Recognized PTA for providing drummer for Parent Information Night and recognized the Honor Society for their volunteer services as well.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- AIS numbers are anticipated to be lower by the end of school year;
- Kurzweil Training – Sue Gilmore asked for a follow-up to present this software program at an upcoming Board meeting.

Pete Harris, High School Principal updated the Board on the following:

- Received a \$2,000 grant from Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. This grant supported a field trip to the Ashokan Field Campus. The field trip supports the freshmen mentoring program.
- November 15<sup>th</sup> the High School Model United Nations Team traveled to Bard College to participate in a conference.
- November 18<sup>th</sup> student Kelley Panek signed Letter of Intent to attend New Haven College.

The Board did not have any questions.

b) **Director of Student Services Report:**

Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services, updated the Board on the operations of the Student Services Department:

- AIS/RTI plan – attended training on November 18<sup>th</sup>;
- State Reporting Data – Clarification Drop-Outs reported on the Attendance and Enrollment Report.

The Board did not have any questions.

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, Amendment-no meetings of October 24<sup>th</sup> along with Amendment-Program Change November 4<sup>th</sup> and Amendment-Agreement No Meeting November 4<sup>th</sup>: 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 October 30<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 Mike Reid to move items “a-d”, with the exception of “b”, as a block;  
Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-1 vote (Sue Gilmore  
opposed to Athletic Director appointment).**

a) **Appointment**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following appointment based on an Emergency Conditional Appointment consistent with SAVE legislation requirements.

Frank Alfonso

Position: Athletic Director  
Effective Date: November 10, 2014 through June 30, 2015  
Salary: \$30,000.00 pro-rated

James Eckert

Position: Computer Technician - Provisional  
Effective Date: July 1, 2014  
Salary: Step 2 / \$38,433.00  
Purpose: Replacing Vincent Gregory

b) **Tenure**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the tenure appointment for Meghan Connors as School Building Leader, effective December 2, 2014.

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Heather Welch; Discussion: Daniel Wetzell, Principal at Middle School, recognized Meghan Connors for all of her extraordinary efforts in connecting the school with the community. Deborah Haab, along with the Board, also complimented Meghan on her exceptional abilities. At the June Board meeting, a recognition will take place to recognize all the tenure, retired, etc. individuals. Motion carried with a 7- vote.**

c) **Elimination of Position**

WHEREAS, the Board for reasons of economy and efficiency, has determined that it is appropriate to abolish certain non-pedagogical positions in the District;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby abolishes the following position, effective close of business on December 19, 2014:

One (1.0) FTE Program Secretary

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Clerk is hereby directed to provide written notice to the employee whose position is hereby abolished, as set forth in a

Memorandum to the Board from the Superintendent of Schools, dated November 18, 2014, as presented at this meeting.

d) **Termination**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, terminates employee number 274, effective November 19, 2014.

e) **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.

d) **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.

**BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:**

a) **Surplus**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the request to surplus the requested microfilm and microfiche material from the Back Room in Library Media Center.

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

b) **Uncollected Taxes**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorizes transferring the Uncollected Taxes for the 2014-2015 school year in the amount of \$1,569,158.46 to Ulster County.

**Motion made by Mike Reid; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: Louise Lynch stated taxes a little higher than last year; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

Louise Lynch asked the Board to submit any outstanding receipts from NYSBA conference.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Danielle Stoner, Student Representative, updated the Board on the following events:

- Seniors have begun their process of submitting college applications;
- The high school Model United Nations Team visited Bard College;
- Student Council at high school is hosting a fundraiser to benefit JDF;
- High school is hosting a Food Drive.

The Board did not have any questions.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

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

- Recognized Robin Hecht, Sarah Dudley-Lemek and Deb Kelly for organizing successful “Parent Information Night” seminars. Attendance was well at both the Elementary School and Middle school.
- Two week look ahead to be sent via email;
- UCSB meeting held last Thursday.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Recognized the positive feedback from parents on the recent PIN.

### **Assistant Superintendent of Schools**

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

- RTI/AIS process and practices;
- Wellness Committee

The Board had no questions.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

#### **New Business:**

a) **Middle School Trip**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School Trip to Boston, MA for the 2014-2015 school year as follows:

Date: May 5 & 6, 2015

Cost Per Student: \$330.00

Cost Per Adult: \$385.00

- Barry Ranalli distributed itinerary to Board.
- Barry pointed out the dates are Tuesday and Wednesday, different from prior years.
- Candy sale fundraising sale to take place.
- Approximately 120 students will be in attendance.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Is there a schedule for the students that opt not to go on trip?
- Chaperones will be Phyllis Letterii, Mike Watts and Barry Ranalli

**Motion made by Tom Miller; Seconded by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

b) **Local Assistance Plan**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached Local Assistance Plan for the 2014-2015 school year.

**Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-1 vote (Mike Bakatsias opposed).**

c) **Correspondence** - None at this time.

d) **Future BOE Agenda Items**

- Mike Reid requested information from Business Office regarding the impact on taxpayers, as a result of senior exemption, over the past two years. Mike Reid also requested for a scenario if no change was made.
- Alan Barone requested discussion to take place during budget time on a possible mandate regarding CPR AED.

**Old Business:**

a) **NYSSBA – Membership**

b) **Ulster County School Boards Association – Legislative Committee**

Please let Deborah Haab know if you are interested in serving on the Committee School Board Association (Legislation Committee).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No comments were made at this time.

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Tom Miller; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: (8:30 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 or securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

**Motion made at 10:30 pm by Heather Welch to adjourn Executive Session; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried. Motion made by Heather Welch to adjourn meeting; Seconded by Mike Reid. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT (10:30 pm)**

Minutes recorded and submitted by Lisa M Cerniglia, District Clerk