

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

6:00 pm Executive Session (Pending Board Approval)

7:00 pm Open Meeting

To be held in the High School Cafeteria



TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES OCCURRED WITH LIVESTREAM

THANKS TO TOM HOLLWAY FOR HIS EFFORTS

Motion made at 6:05 pm by Tom Miller to go into Executive Session; Second by Heather Welch; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:05 pm)

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

- 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 at 7:00 pm by Mike Bakatsias to go into Open Meeting; Second by Mike Reid; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Alan Barone, Sue Gilmore (absent), Tom Miller, Debbie Pagano (8:05 pm), Mike Reid, Mike Bakatsias, Heather Welch

Administrators/Principals/Directors: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Sarah Dudley-Lemek, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Louise M. Lynch, Business Administrator (absent); Dan Wetzel, Middle School Principal, Frank Alfonso, Director of Athletics

Student Representative: Danielle Stoner

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (7:10 pm)

Board President Alan Barone called meeting to Order at 7:10 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The floor was open for public comments.

Lea Weaver, Elementary School Teacher, expressed the following:

April 7, 2015

- Concerns on what the schedule will be for the students whose parents have chosen to opt-out of the state assessments.

The Board thanked Lea for expressing her concerns on this debated, sensitive subject.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2015

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Heather Welch; Discussion: acknowledgment made on “revised” minutes; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

Directors’ Reports: (Reports are on file in District Office)

Each month the Directors of Technology, Food Service, Transportation, Buildings & Grounds, and Athletics provide the Board with a written update. Due to Spring Break, reports received were only from Food Services and Building & Grounds. Deborah Haab informed the Board that notification letters are being sent to parents regarding negative balances on student’s lunch accounts.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Requesting a monthly running status report from Food Services;
- Mike Reid asked if selective classification policy is being implemented. Frank Alfonso responded that the state is in process of making changes which will ultimately alter this policy. More on this will be in June or July. Brief discussion took place.

Alan Barone updated Board on the proposed new playground:

- Equipment has been received and the layout has been discussed;
- The current concern is, what is the most effective and productive measures of having the playground installed;
- Discussion took place on manpower (volunteers with the supervision of a certified agency vs. the company doing installation). Stated costs are \$3,000 (volunteers put in footing with mandatory supervision) or \$4300.00 (company installs beginning to end).
- Alan is requesting, due to complexity of project, a proposal to fund the balance of \$4300.00.

The Board asked about wheelchair accessibility. Response was “yes”.

Danielle Stoner asked if the time capsule that the class of 2015 buried in the playground can be located prior to playground renovations. Board asked for a request of this to be in a formal letter.

PERSONNEL:

- a) **Retirement**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts, with regrets, the following resignation for purpose of retirement as follows:

Employee:	Martin V. Szostak
Position:	Supervisor/Mechanic – Bus Garage
Effective Date:	July 3, 2015

Purpose: Retirement

Motion made by Tom Miller; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote. Recognized Martin Szostak for his time with the District.

b) **Coach – Volunteer**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following coaching appointment for the spring 2015 season:

Angelina Peter

Position: Volunteer Assistant Coach for Varsity Boys & Girls Track

Effective Date: March 16, 2015

Motion made by Heather Welch; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

a) **Budget Transfer**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following budget transfer dated March 31, 2015:

- Budget Transfer Number 8469 \$ 58,493.00
- Budget Transfer Number 8471 \$165,000.00

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

b) **Health & Welfare Contracts**

Wappingers Central School District

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the 2014-2015 Health & Welfare Contract for one (1) student at a cost of \$633.37 per student for a total of \$633.37 with the Wappingers Central School District and authorize the Board President and District Clerk to execute the contract.

Motion made by Tom Miller; Second by Heather Welch; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

New Paltz Central School District

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the 2014-2015 Health & Welfare Contract for Six (6) students at a cost of \$866.06 per student for a total of \$5,196.36 with the New Paltz Central School District and authorize the Board President and District Clerk to execute the contract.

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

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

- Students in the Vegan Club participated in a vegan cooking course at the Catskill Animal Sanctuary;
- Recognized the maintenance department that moved some electrical equipment around the art room so that various electrical devices can be plugged in in a safe and effective way;
- Induction to Honor Society took place;
- Spring sports have begun.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

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

- Disappointed with the state aid runs. Deborah reached Senator to inform office of this disappointment.
- Within the next month a possible visit from the Senator to visit school;
- Dan Wetzel and Bonnie Meadows are currently working on a grant which Dan will explain further. The RSVP to commit to this grant is April 10th.
- Talent show to take place April 10th;
- Upcoming BOCES Annual Meeting;
- Currently working with music booster club for grant on obtaining equipment.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

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

- May 7th is designated as the last Superintendent's Day for the 2014-2015 school year.
- During Spring Break several teachers took advantage of attending the Blended Learning Academy;
- STLE grant – approximately 25 teachers are involved in book study.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

a) **School Calendar for the 2015-2016 School Year**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the recommended 2015-2016 school calendar.

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: Follows Ulster BOCES schedule; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

b) **Amend School Calendar for the 2014-2015 School Year**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the one (1) unused snow day to be applied on Friday, May 22nd.

Motion made by Tom Miller; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

c) **Ulster BOCES Proposed Budget for 2015-2016 School Year** (for review)

Dates to remember –

- Ulster BOCES Annual Meeting – Monday, April 13, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

April 7, 2015

- Ulster BOCES Administrative Budget & Ulster BOCES Board of Education Candidates for the 2015-2016 School Year – Wednesday, April 22, 2015
- Highland's Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for WEDNESDAY, April 22, 2015

d) **Installation of Playground at Elementary School**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves to have the District allocate an additional \$4300.00 maximum to install playground equipment at elementary school that has already been received.

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

e) **State Assessments**

As of today's date, no provisions have been in place for students who have opted-out of upcoming state assessments. Discussion followed regarding placement of students that are taking exam and those students whose parents/guardians have opted-out. The Board recognized Lea Weaver on expressing a teacher's view on the subject. Further discussion and/or email to be followed by Deborah Haab regarding schedule for this day.

Debbie Pagano arrived at 8:05 pm.

- c) **Correspondence** – Any correspondence received by the Board may be discussed.
- d) **Future BOE Agenda Items**

Old Business:

a) **Education of Homeless Children – 3rd Reading**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, adopts the Education of Homeless Children Policy.

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

b) **Budget Discussion for the 2015-2016 School Year**

Discussion took place. Topics of conversation included, but not limited to, the following:

- Estimate Total Lost Revenues \$75,875 / Estimated Increase in Levy \$402,305 / Estimated Total Increase in Revenues \$478,180: Result - \$532,540 is the shortfall amount for proposed budget;
- Administrative staff strongly recommends keeping Mental Health Specialist in the budget;
- Discussion on the updates included in the March 3, 2015 draft;
- Considered reductions in proposed budget; Increased Revenues

Alan Barone stated with the absence of Sue Gilmore and Louise Lynch that further discussion on budget should take place at upcoming Board meeting. Alan requested to

April 7, 2015

have an updated budget spreadsheet. Mike Bakatsias requested to see in that updated spreadsheet two scenarios (one reduce by another \$50,000 and reduce by another \$100,000).

- Special Board meeting to discuss budget is scheduled for April 14th at 6:00 pm.

Daniel Wetzel, Middle School Principal

Daniel Wetzel updated the Board on a grant that Highland has been awarded to receive in the amount of \$32,000. The grant is not funded 100%. The grant is titled U.S. State Department Teachers of Critical Language. Basically this grant brings in a teacher from Egypt for a year at the Middle School and will be focused on an Arabic program. Unfortunately due to timing (RSVP 4/11) Alan Barone and Board felt that no commitment could be made at this time. Dan was recognized for his efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Lea Weaver, Elementary School Teacher, thanked Board for allowing her to express the needs of students in regards to state assessments.

Motion made by Heather Welch at 9:15 pm to go into Executive Session; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (10:35 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 10:35 pm by Heather Welch to adjourn meeting; Second by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT (10:35 pm)