

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

6:00 pm Executive Session (Pending Board Approval)

7:00 pm Open Meeting

To be held in the High School Cafeteria



Motion made at 6:04 pm by Heather Welch to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:04 pm)

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

- Collective Negotiations pursuant to Article 14 (Taylor Law) of the Civil Service Law;
- 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 7:05 pm by Mike Reid to exit Executive Session and go into Open Meeting; Seconded by Tom Miller; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

ATTENDEES:

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

Administrators/Principals/Directors: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Louise Lynch, Business Administrator; Frank Alfonso, Athletic Director; Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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. No comments were made.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: (Power Point available on website)

Business Administrator, Louise Lynch, presented the preliminary budget development for the 2015-2016 school year. Topics covered included the following:

- Expenditures Driving the 2015-2016 Budget;
- Annual Expenditures;
- Actual Salary Expenditures;
- Management Costs (costs cutting measures to generate savings);
- Health Insurance Premium Costs;
- Mandated Pension Costs;
- Unemployment Expenditures;
- Revenue Sources (2007-2008 compared to 2014-2015);
- GAP Elimination Aid (GEA) – (Unknown at this time)
- State Aid, Taxes & Other Revenues

Superintendent Deborah Haab commented that for the first time in her 30 years in education, schools are not receiving their state aid runs. These runs are usually generated at the time the governor releases his executive budget. This year the Governor presented 3 options. Those options are:

- (1) 1.1 billion more for education aid if legislature approves his reform agenda and a state budget is adopted by April 1st;
- (2) 377 million in more aid to education without his reform agenda, but an on time budget, or,
- (3) on time budget no reform and no additional state aid to schools for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

The Board had the following comments:

- Requested budget propositions for Reserve Account; Bus Purchase; Maintenance Budget and Technology.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2015
- b) Treasurer's Reports – December 2014
- c) General Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – December 2014
- d) Food Service Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – December 2014
- e) Special Aid Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – December 2014
- f) Capital Project - Energy Performance Contract Budget Status Rept. – December 2014

Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 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 report.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Recognized report from Technology that reported on the goals for the current Tech Plan. Comment was made of goals being amazing.
- Recognized report from Maintenance and Operations for being very thorough;
- Requested more information from Athletic Director regarding girl's merger.
 - Frank Alfonso shared with the Board discussions that took place with other Athletic Directors. As a result of these meetings, Frank Alfonso stated that merger will change classification. Further discussion to take place during Old Business.
- Energy Performance Contract –As a result of beginning the close out phase and reviewing the energy performance contract's initial scope, additional work has been identified and will be completed by Johnson Controls. Johnson Controls will fund this work and there are no new expenditures to the District. Pete Miller will follow up.

PERSONNEL:

Motion made by Tom Miller to move items “a-d” as a block; Seconded by Mike Reid;

Discussion: Item “e” is to be Tabled for end of meeting; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

a) **Medical Leave**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following medical leave as follows:

Employee: Karen Adamec
Position: K-12 Music Teacher
Effective Date: February 17, 2015 – on or about March 15, 2015

b) **Child-Bearing Leave**

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

Employee: Kaitlyn Boyd
Position: Reading Specialist – Elementary School
Effective Date: On or about April 27, 2015 – June 9, 2015
Purpose: Maternity Leave

c) **Resignation**

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

Employee: Corrina Barry
Position: School Monitor – Elementary School
Effective Date: February 2, 2015

Employee: Heather Ludwigson
Position: Teaching Assistant – High School
Effective Date: February 2, 2015

d) **Appointment**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the

Superintendent of Schools, approves the appointment for the following individual as follows:

Marion Hecht

Position: School Bus Driver (Probationary)

Salary: Grade 10, Step 6 / \$17.68 hr

Effective Date: Immediately

Purpose: To replace resignation from Rachele Corcoran

e) **District Treasurer and HSCD Agreement – Tabled**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached agreement between the Highland Central School District and Tera VanAmburgh, District Treasurer.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

- a) **Audit Committee Meeting** – The Board acknowledged and approved Ray Preusser's firm to do some supplemental auditing specific to random payroll auditing.
- b) **Budget Discussion for the 2015-2016 School Year** – Further discussion took place. Topic of conversation focused on the uncertainty of state aid. Concern was expressed on the complexity of the budget process to community members.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Danielle Stoner updated the Board on the following topics:

- Due to the inclement weather, a new regent's schedule took place. There were 11 different types of tests - 240 administered during the school day;
- Fabian Ramirez will be a guest speaker at high school on February 12th. Fabian is a motivational anti-bullying speaker;
- Effective 2014-2015 school year, the Varsity Cheerleaders are considered a sport and has placed 1st place at John Jay High School and 3rd place at Arlington High School competitions;
- Student Council and SADD have been in the process of decorating hallways for Valentine's Day;
- Science Olympiad region competition will take place with participation from 20 students. Thanks to Mr. Sgro and Mr. Cozzolino for their leadership with this club;
- Mock trial next Thursday, February 12th;
- Model UN will be going to Boston weekend of February 6th;

The Board had no questions/concerns/comments.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Deborah Haab updated the Board on the following topics:

- Recognized Student Representative for her thorough student update;
- Historical event – regents to be rescheduled later during the week;
- As of today's date, one (1) snow day remaining;
- Requested to HELPA and HTA union to have students in attendance full day on Thursday, February 12th and half day Friday, February 13th with Superintendent's Day in the afternoon.

- Considering three (3) hour delays

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Sarah Dudley- Lemek not in attendance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

a) **Sports Merger – Tabled to Old Business**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the following mergers for the Spring 2015 season:

- Marlboro High School merging with Highland High School for Varsity Boy's Lacrosse;

Alan Barone expressed concern on the purpose of a sports merger. As Alan stated he feels the purpose of a sports merger is for allowing districts to have enough players in order to participate in team sport. Alan Barone asked Frank Alfonso if the participation level has increased with the Boy's Lacrosse since merger; Frank Alfonso stated the numbers are consistent. Further discussion took place and as a result of change in classification the Board decided not to pursue merger at this time and to revisit topic next year.

b) **Class Trip – High School**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following overnight high school class trips:

Name of Trip:	Senior Class Trip
Destination:	Disney World, Orlando, Fl.
Dates:	June 5, 2015- June 8, 2015

Name of Trip:	History Trip
Destination:	Washington DC
Dates:	April 17, 2015- April 19, 2015

Motion made by Mike Reid; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: who gets to participate on History Trip; Response, freshman to seniors are invited to participate. Fundraisers help offset costs; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

b) **UCSBA Meeting Notice** – To be held on Thursday, February 12, 2015 (snow date February 19th) at the Ulster BOCES Conference Center, New Paltz. Please RSVP with Superintendent or District Clerk.

Speaker will be Robert N. Lowry, Jr. - Deputy Director for Advocacy, Research & Communications, he is from NYSCOSS.

c) **Changes Relating to Registration, Residency and Student Age Determinations**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby delegates its authority, pursuant to Commissioner's

Regulations 100.2 (y), to the Superintendent of Schools of Highland Central School District who shall have the full and final authority to make determinations regarding student residency.

Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Seconded by Mike Reid; Discussion: Tom Miller asked how District handles questionable documentation. Discussion took place.

Motion carried with a 6-0 vote

d) **BOCES Future Meetings** -

Annual Meeting – Scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Port Ewen Educational Center.

BOCES Countrywide Vote – Scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2015

c) **Correspondence** – Any correspondence received by the Board may be discussed.

d) **Future BOE Agenda Items**

Old Business:

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Inter-Municipal Agreement dated February 3, 2015 and furthermore authorize the Board President to execute such agreement.

Motion made by Mike Reid; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: none;

Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

b) **Girls Lacrosse Merger** – Alan Barone and Frank Alfonso both stated the events that have occurred over the suggested merger. Further discussion took place that discussed:

- No paperwork from Marlboro Athletic Department;
- Participation numbers;
- Process that takes place for a merger to occur;
- Highland's policy on Selective Classification;
- Marlboro CSD has not contacted Highland CSD regarding merger;
- Timeline with schedules and how this would change classification.

As a result discussion Kim Caso and Neil Fino will approach Marlboro CSD school board to request for merger for the 2015-2016 school year.

c) **Sports Merger - Boys' Varsity Lacrosse**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the following mergers for the Spring 2015 season:

- Marlboro High School merging with Highland High School for Varsity Boy's Lacrosse

Motion made by Mike Reid; Seconded by Tom Miller: Discussion: none;

Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

Motion made at 9:05 pm by Tom Miller to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (9:05 pm)

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

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 9:39 pm by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Debbie Pagano to exit Executive Session and go into Open Meeting; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

PERSONNEL:

District Treasurer and HSCD Agreement - Tabled

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached agreement between the Highland Central School District and Tera VanAmburgh, District Treasurer.

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Heather Welch; Discussion: as amended from original document; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

Motion made at 9:40 pm to return into Executive Session; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried with 6-0 vote.

Motion made at 11:01 pm to exit Executive Session and adjourn meeting; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT (11:01 pm)

Minutes recorded and submitted by Lisa M Cerniglia