

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

6:00 pm Executive Session (Pending on Board Approval)

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



MEETING AVAILABLE LIVESTREAM

THANKS TO STUDENT

TOM HOLLWAY

Motion made at 6:06 pm by Tom Miller to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Heather Welch; Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:06 pm)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, 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 exit Executive Session and go into Open Meeting; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried.

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: 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, Director of Technology; Frank Alfonso, Athletic Director (8:15 pm); Pete Harris, High School Principal; Bill Zimmer, High School Assistant Principal; Dan Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Kathleen Sickles, Elementary School Assistant Principal

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. The following comments were made:

- Kim Caso and Neil Fino asked the Board for any updates from Marlboro CSD regarding a possible merger with the Girls' Varsity Lacrosse team. Further discussion took place regarding the number of players and what is involved for a merger to exist. Kim stated that Athletic Director, Frank Alfonso, is planning to speak during Public Comments once he has completed supervising basketball game.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- Carol Potash introduced high school physical education teachers Katie Reid and John Buonomono. Katie and John then presented a power point presentation on how the website Schoology is utilized in their department. Further discussion took place on the benefits of the website as well as addressing health & nutrition needs and announcement of events in the Physical Education Dept.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/concepts:

- Do the assignments on schoology meet the common core standards? Yes.
 - Danielle Stoner stated the positive aspects of website in various capacities in school;
 - Tom Miller requested large print for distance viewing on power points.
 - Homework assignments are done through schoology;
 - Concern if different websites, example, Castle Learning, Noodle, etc. are confusing to students. Suggested that one website be used for homework assignments. It was noted that schoology is user friendly.
 - Schoology is under a free version to district;
 - The students that do not have access to this technology (from home) have been addressed.
- Middle School Principal, Dan Wetzel, did a power point presentation on AIS Math and AIS Reading. Topics covered included the program overview and progress. (Power Point available in District Office). Dan recognized Beth Neenan, Patricia Lichy, Deb Kelley and Shamien Jansen for their assistance.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/concepts:

- The benefits of the extra instructional period for students receiving AIS services;
- What are the goals of what you expected to see from last year vs what you expect this year? Dan responded that for one thing he would like to see a higher percentage of students to take the Common Core Test. Dan will update Sue Gilmore and Board more this this question.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- a) Board of Education Minutes – January 6, 2015
- b) Attendance & Enrollment Report – Period 4 – December 1, 2014-December 23, 2014

- c) Treasurer's Reports – November 2014
- d) General Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – November 2014
- e) Food Service Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – November 2014
- f) Special Aid Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – November 2014
- g) Capital Project - Energy Performance Contract Budget Status Rept. – Nov. 2014

Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Seconded by Mike Reid; Discussion: Louise Lynch went over questions that were asked earlier by email regarding Treasurer's Reports (Capital Project, and Special Aid Fund). Sue Gilmore would like to review again at a later time. Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

- a) **Principal's Report:** (Reports are on file in District Office)
The Principals reported on important information and events occurring in their schools.

Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal updated the Board on the following:

- Schoology initiated in Elementary School;
- Need of Improvement – Discussion took place;
- Would like to see during budget discussion talk about adding a mental health coordinator;
- Thanked community for their assistance with the back-pack program.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- APPR evaluation process;
- Local Assessment – discussion took place and will continue to be reviewed.

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

- The book, "*Authentic Learning in the Digital Age*" being read for recent book study and is going well.
- Referral Data – An amazing decline has been reported.

The Board had no questions/concerns/comments.

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

- Collegian conference will take place for Advanced Placement teachers;
- Regents testing taking place week of January 26th. About 150 juniors will be taking the ELA exam; approximately 100 exams will be distributed for all subjects during Regents week. This will be for students requiring Regents credit and those students desiring to improve their transcript scores.
- Advanced students from 8th grade met aspirational goals for their cohorts;
- College enrollment through Ulster Community College forthcoming;
- On-line technology tools - Schoology

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Discussion took place about who and what determines what is on the student's transcript. Attention of discussion was if 8th grade scores should be reflected on transcripts.
- Danielle Stoner responded in favor of recording 8th grade tests on transcripts;

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

Barbara E. Chapman reported on the operations of the Student Services Department.

- As of today's date, Highland has five (5) students from Marlboro receiving Highland services;
- Recognized Maryann Ingraham for her role in the morning announcements regarding the Veggie Animal Rights Club.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- In favor of sharing services

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 December 5th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 17th, and 22nd, 2015, and the transfer in meeting – no meeting of November 21st, 2014, and the amendment agreement no meetings of December 11th, 2014 and January 8th, 2015, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: question on the dates. December 5th is to be added. 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 January 5th, 2015, 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 to move items "a-f" as a block by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Mike Reid;

Discussion: will personally congratulate tenure candidate at the February 3rd meeting.

Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

a) **Leave of Absence - Unpaid**

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

Employee:	Angela Brogan
Position:	Speech-Language Pathologist
Effective Date:	September 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

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:	Rachele Corcoran
Position:	Bus Driver
Effective Date:	January 15, 2015

c) **Tenure**

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

Employee: Heather Bragg
Position: School Counselor
Effective Date: February 1, 2015

d) **Appointment**

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

Erica Rozzi
Position: School Monitor – ES
Salary: Grade 3, Step 1 / \$10.06 hr
Effective Date: January 7, 2015
Probationary Period: January 7, 2015 – July 7, 2015
Purpose: Replacing resignation of Tara Simpson

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.

f) **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:

Louise Lynch explained that the Veteran's Exemption is not related to income or wealth. Further discussion to take place under **Old Business**.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Danielle Stoner updated the Board on the following:

- Thanked Sarah Dudley-Lemek for her contribution in monitoring the debates held in Steve Masson's AP English class;
- Wellness Club – Veggie Animal Rights Club;
- Student Council organizing a fundraiser – carnations for Valentine's Day.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Deborah Haab updated the Board on the following:

- As of today's date, district has used three (3) snow days – four (4) remaining;
- Leadership Team working on the school calendar for the 2015-2016 school year. Draft of calendar should be ready by February.

- Thoroughly enjoyed reading book from Wes Moore, “The Other Wes Moore” and encourages all to read it. Discussion took place of asking Wes Moore to do an assembly at the school(s).

The Board had no questions/concerns/comments.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Sarah Dudley-Lemek updated the Board on the following:

- Will follow-up with requesting Wes Moore to do an assembly at Highland;
- Enjoyed Steve Masson’s AP English class with debate;
- Appreciated being one of the judge’s at the Spelling Bee held at the Elementary School. Requested that the winners be present at an upcoming Board meeting.
- Geography Bee forthcoming;
- K-2 Special Education – data that was received.

The Board had no questions/concerns/comments.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

- a) **Correspondence** – No correspondence was discussed.
- b) **Future BOE Agenda Items**

Old Business:

- a) **Alternative Veterans Exemption §458-a** – As a result of discussion, the following resolution was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to adopt the provisions of Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law which would grant a partial exemption from taxation for school district purposes of certain real property situated in the School District and owned and used as the primary residence by eligible veterans (Alternative Veterans’

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, after having conducted a public hearing on December 16, 2014 and having given the public an opportunity to be heard on the issue of the Board’s proposed adoption of the Alternative Veterans’ Exemption pursuant to Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax law, hereby adopts the Alternative Veterans’ Exemption for assessment rolls prepared on the basis of the taxable status date occurring on or after January 1, 2014 at the following basic maximum levels:

1. Basic Exemption – Tax exemption of 15% of the assessed value of the property, not to exceed \$12,000 or the product of \$12,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, whichever is less.
2. Combat Zone – An additional tax exemption of 10% of the assessed value of qualifying residential property of veterans who are documented to have served

in a combat zone, not to exceed \$8,000 or the product of \$8,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate, whichever is less.

3. Disabled Veterans – In addition to the above exemptions, where the veteran received a compensation rating from the Veterans' Administration or Department of Defense based upon a service related disability, the qualifying residential property will be exempt to the extent of the product of the assessed value multiplied by 50% of the veteran's disability rating, not to exceed \$40,000 or the product of \$40,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate, whichever is less; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the District Clerk to provide a Certified copy of this resolution to Ulster County and the assessors for the other taxing jurisdictions located within this School District.

Motion made to accept resolution, Level A, by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Sue Gilmore; Discussion: Mike Reid expressed that this exemption will put extra burden back on the senior citizens that are not Veterans. Alan Barone stated our Veterans are very important to us, however, approving the Veteran's Exemption will now shift their share of taxes on the rest of the tax paying community. Unfortunately, Albany is NOT reimbursing any school districts who have approved this exemption. Motion carried with a 6-1 vote (Mike Reid opposed).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The floor was open for public comments.

- Frank Alfonso, Athletic Director, responded to Board's question on when will the deadline be for a possible Girls Lacrosse Merger. Frank will get back with them on definite date.
- Sign-Ups for spring sports will take place the first week of February.
- Alan Barone requested that the Girls Lacrosse Merger discussion be placed at next Board meeting.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (9:45 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 11:46 pm by Debbie Pagano to exit Executive Session; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried. Motion made by Debbie Pagano to exit Open Meeting; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT (11:46 pm)

January 20, 2015 Minutes

Minutes recorded and submitted by
Lisa M Cerniglia
District Clerk