

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

6:00 pm Executive Session (Pending Board Approval)

7:00 pm Open Meeting

To be held in the High School Cafeteria



MEETING AVAILABLE LIVESTREAM

Motion made by Tom Miller at 6:11 pm to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Heather Welch; Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:11 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 discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

Motion made by Mike Reid at 7:00 pm to exit Executive Session and go into Open Meeting; Seconded by Mike Bakatasias; Motion carried.

ATTENDEES:

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

Administrators/Principals/Directors: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Sarah Dudley-Lemek, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Louise Lynch, Business Administrator; Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation; Robin Hecht, Shared Curriculum Coordinator.

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. No comments were made at this time.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Khoury, District Superintendent, along with Laurie Cassel and Patrick Rausch discussed “The Direction of Ulster BOCES and New Programs”. This presentation (hand-out available in District Office) covered the budget development for the 2015-2016 school year. Areas of focus included the following:

- Opened Hudson Valley Pathways P-Tech Program (6 year program leading to HS diploma and AA / AAS degree at no cost to parents) *Dr. Khoury invited the Board to observe P-Tech Program.*
- Shift Post-Retirement Expenses from COSER’s to BOCES Administrative Budget;
- Hold unit prices down to 1% increase or less;
- Introduce Technology / Innovation Careers initiative at CTE;
- Introduction of new Special Education programs designed to reduce out-of-county placements;
- Summary of Aid – Highland;
- Student Participation in Ulster BOCES Programs from HCSD (Career and Technical Education, New Visions, Alt Ed, Special Education;

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Question on the estimate 15-16 BOCES Administrative budget;
- Question on replacement of retired staff

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2014

Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Seconded by Heather Welch; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote (Sue Gilmore abstained).

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.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Recognized Debbie Tompkins for her updates with bus maintenance;
- Recognized Carol Potash with her efforts in instructional technology that will be taking place at the Spring NYSCATE conference.
- A question was brought up to Pete Miller regarding heat in buildings. Deborah Haab responded that this is a known concern in all buildings and Mr. Miller is addressing this with vendors in monitoring consistent heat temperatures. The Capital Project will be addressing this issue as well.

PERSONNEL:

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias to move items “a-c” as a block; Seconded by Mike Reid; Discussion: Effective date on addendum (item c) should show “effective date February 2, 2015”. Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

- a) **Appointment - Leave Replacement**

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

Employee: Marion Hecht
Position: School Bus Driver
Salary: Grade 10 / \$17.68 per hour
Effective: January 6, 2015
Purpose: Replaced Kevin Nash that replaced Rachael Corcoran

b) **Recommendation for Science Olympiad Advisors**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following appointment in the position of Middle School Science Olympiad Club Advisors for the 2014-2015 school year:

Employee: Michael Watts
Employee: Kevin Rizzo

c) **Appointment**

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 as follows:

Tera VanAmburgh
Position: Treasurer
Salary: \$60,000 (pro-rated)
Effective: February 2, 2015
Purpose: To fill resignation from Carol Robinson

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

a) **Surplus – Excess Technology Equipment**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the request to surplus technology equipment as noted in report.

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

b) **Energy Performance Contract Payment Authorization to Johnson Controls**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby acknowledges payment applications #6 in the amount of \$87,183 and #7 in the amount of \$19,040 to Johnson Controls.

Motion made by Tom Miller; Seconded by Mike Reid; Discussion: Retain 5% of payment; Asked for “punch list”.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Danielle Stoner updated the Board on the following events:

- French Club attended a field trip in December to NYC.
- Recent field trip to Metropolitan Museum of Art took place.

- Students and teachers were pleasantly surprised on their return from winter break with new window shades in windows. Deborah Haab responded this is a courtesy of Capital Project, with the help of Louise Lynch and Pete Miller. New shades were placed in all three buildings.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Deborah Haab updated the Board on the following updates/comments/concerns:

- New blinds in the classroom have been installed in all buildings.
- A Happy New Year to everyone;
- Holiday concert was enjoyed by all who attended;
- Sarah Dudley-Lemek and Deborah had the wonderful opportunity to be guest readers at the Elementary School;
- Budget discussion taking place with District Wide Team;
- Retreat with Leadership Team scheduled tentatively for 2nd meeting in February;
- Enrollment projections will continue to be monitored;
- Tax Freeze Rebate Check – For those community members did not receive their rebate as of yet, please know that checks are still being processed and you can obtain contact information from the HCSD website.
- Save The Date – March 7th Highland Educational Foundation Snow Ball Dinner Dance and Silent Auction.
- Two-Week Look Ahead schedule;
- Upcoming Legislative Session will be January 22nd to discuss proposed Budget.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Sue Gilmore asked what the enrollment projections are with neighboring schools. Deborah Haab will update once she meets with neighboring school districts.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Sarah Dudley-Lemek updated the Board on the following updates/comments/concerns:

- Enjoyable field trip with students to Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Future agenda will have a short presentation on AIS math at middle school
- Information will be provided to Board on the graduate rate.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

- a) **Correspondence** – Tax Freeze Rebate check (refer to Superintendent's Comments).
- b) **Future BOE Agenda Items**

Old Business:

- a) **NYSSBA Membership** – Further discussion took place. Louise Lynch will send email to Board of costs involved. Topics of conversation included:
 - (1) What are the benefits of being a member?

- (2) What would be the effective date if the Board decides to become members and is this currently reflected in budget? Louise Lynch responded, “yes”.
 - (3) Sue Gilmore stressed that the Board be active members in order to justify the expenses.
- b) **Budget & Purchasing Policy** – Alan Barone requested that a 2nd reading and adoption to take place once legal counsel reviews policy. Further discussion took place about policy and budget process. Alan would like Board to compare existing policy and new policy in the next Board packet.
 - c) **Affordable Care Act (“ACA”) Requirement** - Louise Lynch stated District is in compliance with this law. Louise further explained how this Act affects part-time employees.
 - d) **Inter-Municipal Agreement with Ellenville CSD** - Tabled
 - e) **SINI (School in Need of Improvement)** – Board is to review packet and further updates will be noted at upcoming Board meeting. The Board asked about the elementary school students with disabilities in Math and when was the date of the 1st designation. Deborah Haab will follow-up.
 - f) **Alternate Veterans Exemption §458-a** – Discussion took place. Alan Barone referred to the Arlington School District’s website for information on this exemption. Board discussed having the town of Highland meet to go over this topic.
 - Senior Exemption RPTL§467 – Sue Gilmore asked what the tax burden is placed on households that don’t apply to any of the exemptions. Louise Lynch to follow up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias at 8:30 pm to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Mike Reid; Motion carried.

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:

- 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 Heather Welch at 9:31 pm to exit Executive Session; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried. Motion made by Heather Welch to adjourn meeting; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT (9:31 pm)

Minutes recorded and submitted by Lisa M Cerniglia