

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

Board of Education Meeting

**Tuesday, June 16, 2015**

6:00 pm Executive Session (Pending Board Approval)

7:00 Open Meeting

To be held in the High School Cafeteria

**Motion made by 6:15 pm by Heather Welch to go into Executive Session; Second by Debbie Pagano; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: (6:15 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 by 6:57 pm by Mike Reid to exit Executive Session and go into Open Meeting; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board Members: Alan Barone, Sue Gilmore, Tom Miller, Debbie Pagano, Mike Reid, Mike Bakatsias, Heather Welch and newly elected member, Edward Meisel.

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; Pete Miller, Director of Facilities; Frank Alfonso, Director of Athletics; Pete Harris, High School Principal; Daniel S. Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Meghan Connors, Middle School Assistant 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

**PERSONNEL:**

**Motion made by Sue Gilmore to move items “a-h” as a block, with the exception of Item “e”, Second by Mike Bakatasias; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

a) **Leave Replacement**

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

Employee: Shane Murphy  
Position: Spanish Teacher  
Purpose: Leave replacement for Maria Forero  
Step: BA Step 1 / \$44,494.00  
Effective Date: April 27, 2015 – June 10, 2015

Employee: Katie Kurry  
Position: Literacy Teacher  
Purpose: Leave replacement for Kaitlyn Boyd  
Step: MA Step 1 / \$47,765.00  
Effective Date: May 7, 2015 – June 30, 2015

Employee: Carole Redmond  
Position: Teaching Assistant  
Purpose: Leave replacement for Katie Kurry  
Step: Grade 7A / \$17,218.00  
Effective Date: May 7, 2015 – June 30, 2015

Rebecca VanHouten  
Position: Speech – Elementary School  
Purpose: Leave replacement for Angela Cooper  
Step: MA Step 1 / \$48,123.00  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Stacy Booth  
Position: School Bus Driver  
Purpose: Replacing Denise Palmateer, retirement  
Step: Grade 10, Step 4 / \$15,791.00  
Probationary Period: July 1, 2015 – January 1, 2016  
Effective Date: July 1, 2015

b) **Vacation Day Carry-Over**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the request for two (2) vacation days to be transferred from the 2014-2015 school year to the 2015-2016 school year for Barbara Klotz.

c) **Child-Bearing Leave Extension**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the child-bearing leave as follows:

Employee: Kaitlyn Reilly Boyd

Effective: May 6, 2015 – June 25, 2015  
Purpose: Extension of Child-Bearing Leave

d) **Performance Payment**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the maximum performance payment per the personal service agreement with the District for employee Debbie Tompkins.

e) **Tenure Recommendations (see below)**

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

Employee: Kaitlyn Boyd  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015  
Tenure Area: Remedial Reading

Employee: Alissa Morano  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015  
Tenure Area: Elementary

Employee: Vincent Rizzi  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015  
Tenure Area: Music

Employee: Sara Moore  
Effective Date: September 11, 2015  
Tenure Area: School Psychologist

Employee: Louise Lynch  
Effective Date: July 16, 2015  
Tenure Area: School Business Administrator

f) **Revised Agreement**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the revised agreement as noted with the School Business Administrator.

g) **Appointments**

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

Michael Paff

Position: School Psychologist  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015  
Salary: MA 60, Step 5 / \$64,976  
Probationary Period: September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2018  
Tenure Area: School Psychologist

Purpose: Replacing Robert Beyer, retirement

Frank Alfonso

Position: Athletic Director

Salary: \$30,000.00

Effective Date: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

h) **Teaching Substitute List**

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.

e) **Tenure Recommendations**

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

Employee: Kaitlyn Boyd  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015  
Tenure Area: Remedial Reading

Employee: Alissa Morano  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015  
Tenure Area: Elementary

Employee: Vincent Rizzi  
Effective Date: September 1, 2015  
Tenure Area: Music

Employee: Sara Moore  
Effective Date: September 11, 2015  
Tenure Area: School Psychologist

Employee: Louise Lynch  
Effective Date: July 16, 2015  
Tenure Area: School Business Administrator

- Deborah Haab introduced Michael Paff who has been appointed as School Psychologist.
- Alan Barone said a few words to explain basis behind a tenure appointment.
- Joel Freer recognized tenure candidates:
  - Kaityln Boyd for her contributions in the Remedial Reading Department;
  - Sara Moore for her vital importance as a School Psychologist at the Elementary School.
- Daniel S. Wetzel recognized tenure candidates:
  - Alissa Morano for her contributions in the Middle School as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher;
  - Vincent Rizzi for his contributions in the music department at Middle School.
  - Meghan Connors for her tenure appointment as Assistant Principal in Middle school which was awarded earlier in the school year.

- Pete Harris congratulated the following tenure appointments which was awarded earlier in the school year:
  - Corey Miller – Social Studies teacher;
  - Heather Bragg – School Counselor
- Deborah Haab recognized tenure candidate:
  - Louise Lynch for her dedicated service and contribution as School Business Administrator.

**Motion made by Heather Welch for item “e” under Personnel; Second by Sue Gilmore;  
Discussion: Great team work; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- Administrators and the Board recognized and thanked student representative, Danielle Stoner, for being well-articulated and her participation on the school board.
- Administrators and the Board recognized and thanked videographers, Dan Russo and Tom Hollway for their service as videographer. (Jared Sprague was recognized at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting).
- Pete Harris presented Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Robert Beyer for his eleven (11) years of service to the district. The Administrators and Board then shared a few words on the positive dedication and attentiveness Dr. Beyer has offered to all students and staff in district.
- Debbie Tompkins presented Certificate of Appreciation to Debbie Owen, twenty-nine (29) years of dedicated service and Ray Owen, twenty-six and a half (26.5) years of dedicated service. Debbie then shared several positive words on their commitment to the district.
- Pete Miller presented Certificate of Appreciation to Morty Szostak for his twelve (12) years of service. Pete then expressed gratitude to Morty for his dedicated years to district.
- Alan Barone expressed recognized and thanked Mike Reid for his dedication to the board over the past three years as a board member. Mike Reid will remain on the Support Service Committee.

*At 7:50 pm a brief reception took place in order to recognize the above mentioned students, tenure appointments and retired employees.*

*At 8:10 pm meeting reconvened.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

- Tabitha Jones (Varsity Cheerleading Head Coach) and Taylor Jones (Cheerleading Coach) recommended to the Board the benefits of having a JV cheerleading program due to the high number of participants. Board requested Frank Alfonso, Athletic Director, to further research this.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education acknowledges reviewing the following reports:

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2015
- b) Claims Auditor Log Report – July 2014-June 2015
- c) Warrants Approved Report – February 2015-May 2015
- d) Treasurer's Reports – May 2015
- e) General Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – May 2015
- f) Food Service Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – May 2015
- g) Special Aid Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – May 2015
- h) Capital Project - Energy Performance Contract Budget Status Rept. – May 2015
- i) Attendance and Enrollment Report - Period 8 4/1/2015- 4/30/2015 &  
Period 9 5/1/2015-5/29/2015

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Second by Mike Bakatsias: Discussion:**

- (1) **Heather Welch questioned Claims Audit report (purchase order date –what is the process?)**
- (2) **Sue Gilmore asked if district receives aid for home school children. Deborah Haab will research further.**

**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:**

- Playground update – new equipment installed;
- Girl Scout Troop 60240 and Troop 60072 hosted a fundraiser in support for playground at the local Hannaford's store;
- Approximately 39% of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students opted not to take state science test exams; The Board had no questions, concerns or comments.

**Dan S. Wetzel, Middle School Principal:**

- Approximately 147 runners/walkers participated in the 5K fundraiser at the Highland Rail Trail, which raised over \$3,000.00;

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Recognized the opportunity on federal grant titled "Introduction to Mid-Eastern Culture & Language" course for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for the 2015-2016 school year;
- Student representative Danielle Stoner thanked Mr. Wetzel for a great turnout on recent 5k fundraiser.

**Pete Harris, High School Principal:**

- Regents currently in place;
- Congratulated all high school students for their positive behavior during Memorial Day celebration;
- Field Day events;
- Senior Awards recognition

The Board had no questions, concerns or comments.

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

Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services  
(not in attendance)

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 May 15th, 27th, 28th, and June 1st, and 9th, 2015 and the amendment agreement no meeting of June 9th, 2015, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Debbie Pagano; 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 May 19th, 2015, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Danielle Stoner updated the Board on the following events/topics:

- Events that occurred for the Memorial Day celebration;
- Field Day events and events raised over \$5,000.00;
- Well attended Jr/Sr Prom at the Villa Borghese held on May 29<sup>th</sup>;
- Senior class trip was held in June to Disney World;
- Regents are currently taking place;
- June 25<sup>th</sup> graduation day.

The Board had the following comments:

- Alan Barone and Board expressed how impressive Danielle Stoner has been with articulating the updates in school throughout the year. Alan Barone asked if she would speak at a Board meeting in the upcoming year.

**BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:**

a) **Surplus**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following item to be disposed of in the least costly way for the district:

- Vulcan Steamer / ID #000144

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

b) **Bid Award for the Walk-In Freezer**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education award the walk in freezer including installation and removal of the old unit to GSI Kitchen Sales in the amount of \$24,575.63.

**Motion made by Heather Welch; Second by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

c) **Contract for MAGBO for Medicaid Filing Consultant**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the MAGBO contract dated April 3, 2015 and furthermore authorize the Superintendent to execute such agreement.

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: consultation/filing – anticipate over 50 students. Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

d) **Fund Balance Reserves Resolution**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby authorizes the funding of the District approved reserves with the excess of 4% from unassigned fund balance at June 30, 2015. The allocation of such fund balance will be determined subsequent to June 30, 2015 and prior to setting the tax levy.

**Motion made by Mike Reid; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: Auditor's recommendation; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

e) **Health & Welfare Contract – Spackenkill Union Free School**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the 2014-2015 Health and Welfare Contract for three (3) students at a cost of \$1,015.13 per student for a total of \$3,045.39 with the Spackenkill Union Free School District and authorize the Board President and District Clerk to execute the contract.

**Motion made by Tom Miller; Second by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

e) **Budget Transfers**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the budget transfer totaling as follows:

- Budget Transfer Number 9616     \$351,520.00

**Motion made by Tom Miller; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: Auditor's recommend transfer to reduce accumulated debt; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

- Music performance thoroughly enjoyed by all;
- Ulster County Scholastic Achievement breakfast.
- June 8<sup>th</sup> sports awards;
- June 15<sup>th</sup> Sue Gilmore and Deborah Haab attended Alternative Education BOCES graduation;
- Received 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of APPR plan from the State Education Department.

The Board had no questions.

### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

- Grading Assessments;
- Technology Initiative will continue for the 2015-2016 school year in all buildings;
- TED talk at SUNY New Paltz.

The Board had no questions.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

#### **New Business:**

- a) **Re-Organizational Meeting** – To be held on July 7<sup>th</sup>.
- a) **Correspondence** – Letter of interest regarding Marlboro High School to merge with Highland High School for 2015-2016 school year was discussed. Items of discussion included, but not limited to:
- Frank Alfonso will meet with Marlboro High School June 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Number of coaches/assistant coaches/volunteer coaches discussed;
- Frank Alfonso also updated the Board on the following:
- Cheerleading for winter season has a high number of participants;
  - Recommends JV & Varsity cheerleading to practice together and divide squad for JV and Varsity home games;
  - Selective Classification exam to be held in June, a second opportunity for exam will be held in August.
  - Katie Reid and Tom Schlappich are the suggested administrators of classification test;
  - Any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is given the opportunity to sign up for selective classification exam;
  - Mike Bakatsias expressed his support for Girls Lacrosse.
- Further discussion took place.

- b) **Future BOE Agenda Items**

#### **Old Business:**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The floor was open for public comments.

- Danielle Stoner, Student Representative, acknowledge Storm Malone for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State for hurdles.

**Motion made at 9:10 pm by Mike Reid to go into Executive Session; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:10 pm**

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. x 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 10:02 pm by Mike Bakatsias to exit Executive Session and to go into Open Meeting; Second by Mike Reid; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**CLERK PRO TEMPORE**

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano to appoint Deborah A. Haab as Clerk Pro Tempore; Second by Mike Reid; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

**PERSONNEL**

Performance Payment

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the maximum performance payment per the personal Service agreement with the district for employee Louise Lynch for the 2013-2014 school year.

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

**Motion made at 10:15 by Mike Reid to adjourn meeting; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote. Meeting adjourned.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Minutes recorded and submitted (except where noted) by Lisa M Cerniglia, District Clerk.