

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Business Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

6:00 pm Executive Session

7:00 pm Regular Meeting held in the High School Cafeteria

Motion made at 6:11 pm by Heather Welch to go into Executive Session; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

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 one or all of 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 7:05 pm by Mike Reid; Second by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Alan Barone, Sue Gilmore, Tom Miller, Debbie Pagano, Mike Reid, Mike Bakatsias (7:50 pm), Heather Welch

Administrators/Principals/Directors: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Sarah Dudley-Lemek, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Louise Lynch, Business Administrator; Barbara E. Chapman, Pete Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Maria McCarthy, Director of Food Services; Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation; Frank Alfonso, Director of Athletics; Dan Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Megan 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 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.

PRESENTATION:

Members of the American Legion Post # 193 expressed gratitude with the Board's recent decision to accept resolution that will permit local veterans to receive an aggregate reduction in their tax assessment. Alan Barone expressed gratitude for their dedication and the sacrifices they made for our county.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Deb Kelly and Deborah Haab recognized the following student finalists in the Spelling and Geography Bee competition:

Geography Bee:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 st : | Olivia Burdash |
| 2 nd | Simon Meisel |

Spelling Bee:

Middle School:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 st | Marie Ling |
| 2 nd | Krishnan Ram |
| 3 rd | Ishani Bansal |

Elementary School:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | Zaynah Suleiman |
| 2 nd | Sagar Nirala |
| 3 rd | Maria O'Dea |

At 7:23 pm a brief reception took place.

At 7:40 pm meeting reconvened.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- Treasurer's Reports – February 2015
- General Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – February 2015
- Food Service Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – February 2015
- Special Aid Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – February 2015
- Capital Project - Energy Performance Contract Budget Status Rept. – February 2015
- Attendance & Enrollment Report Dates: Period 6 – 2/01/2015-2/27/2015

Motion made Sue Gilmore; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: Sue Gilmore questioned low number of seniors on Attendance & Enrollment Report, Barbara E. Chapman explained it was a calculation error. Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

- 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
 - Recognized Lisa Milby for her efforts in the recent Math, Science & Technology Symposium;

- Current enrollment numbers for the upcoming year are running about the same as last year

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Mike Reid suggested in the future having high school student's volunteer at the elementary school for Math, Science & Technology Symposium.

Dan Wetzel, Middle School Principal

- The Science Olympiad did extremely well at the recent Regional Competition;
- Sergeant Roloson along with the help of Vanessa Pratts and Meghan Connors, presented a workshop for the 6-8 graders titled, "Internet Safety".
- Acknowledged well performed Starz Got Talent performance;
- Recognized those individuals partaking in Diversity Day, a special thanks also went to Danielle Stoner. Danielle explained briefly the purpose of Diversity Day (cultural awareness for students).

The Board had no questions.

Pete Harris, High School Principal

- Explained in further detail about the discrepancy in Attendance & Enrollment figures for the senior class;
- Recognized John Bounamano for arranging anti-bullying presentation (Fabian Ramirez);
- Recognized Steve Masson and the students for putting together a bracket of young adult literature titles for their version of March Madness.
- The book titled, "Poverty in Mind", is designated for faculty book study.

The Board had no questions.

Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services

- Annual Review Update – reviews are just about complete;
- A parent survey regarding Annual Reviews are being discussed;
- Costs for summer program and summer transportation will be forthcoming.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- SINY status at Elementary School;
- Medicaid Billing – is there a deadline for all this information? Barbara Chapman explained it is an ongoing change. Sue Gilmore asked how this line item in audit report could be eliminated. Brief discussion took place.

b) **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 February 12th, 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.

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 February 17th, 19th, 20th, 24th, 25th, 26th, and March 2nd, 5th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th, and 18th, and the amendment agreement no meetings of January 16th, February 11th, March 2nd, 10th, 12th, and 17th, 2015, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

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

PERSONNEL:

Motion made to move items "a-c" as a block; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: Question on the updates for substitution list; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

a) **Resignation:**

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

Employee: Nancy Nace

Position: School Monitor/Lunchroom Aide – HS

Effective: June 25, 2015

Purpose: Resignation

b) **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.

c) **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.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

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

- Congratulated boys & girls basketball team on their achievements this winter;
- Recent field trips took place: Dutchess Community College and SUNY New Paltz
- Recent presentation from Fabian Ramirez (runbiscuit.com) was enjoyed by students at high school;
- Diversity Day was a pleasing experience.

The Board had the following comments:

- Express gratitude to Danielle for her involvement as being Student Representative for the Board.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS:

a) **Budget Discussion for the 2015-2016 School Year** (Power Point Presentation)

Deborah Haab initiated budget discussion with a power point presentation. Deborah explained that a state budget cannot be adopted until budget information is received from

the state. The Directors and Principals updated the Board on their budget goals for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year.

Topics of discussion included, but not limited to, the following:

- Mental Health Specialist;
- Balancing the budget;
- Relevant Revenue factors;
- Highland's contribution towards closing the gap;
- Proposed staff changes;

Deborah Haab and Alan Barone thanked the Director's and Principal's for their "wish" list for next year's school budget and also thanked the Business Department for putting together a well thought budget proposal.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

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

- Recognized the performances at middle school and high school;
- On-time budget information to be received soon;
- STLE grant;
- Danielle Stoner has been offered an opportunity to go to Beijing to represent Model UN club;
- Building Project update;
- Timeframe for installation of elementary school playground equipment;
- Data information regarding School Report Card to be tentatively released during week of March 30th;
- Presentation held at middle school on social media and student safety (information will be available on website);
- For interested candidates that would like to run for school board, petitions are available at District Office with submission deadline being April 20th at 5:00 pm.
- Budget Hearing to be held on May 5th at 6:00 pm;
- Upcoming State Assessments – "What is the plan to address parents of elementary and middle school students who opt-out of exams?" Brief discussion took place.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

- a) **Ulster BOCES Annual Meeting** – Monday, April 13, 2015 @ 6:00 pm. Deborah Haab, Sue Gilmore and Mike Bakatsias plan to attend.
- b) **Correspondence** – Any correspondence received by the Board may be discussed.
- c) **Future BOE Agenda Items** – Items for following Board meeting is to be submitted to Central Office the Tuesday (week before) Board meeting.

Old Business:

- a) **Bus Proposition Proposal** - Discussion took place.

PROPOSITION - #1 - School Bus Purchase

SHALL THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE HIGHLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, be authorized to purchase two (2) suburban's and three (3) 64 passenger school buses at a maximum estimated sum of \$412,000.00, and that the sum of \$412,000.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments, as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District may be issued.

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Sue Gilmore; Discussion: None; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

- b) **Capital Reserve Proposal**- Emphasis on discussion was educating the community that would operate as if it is a savings account. There is no expense to taxpayers. Discussion on amount then took place

PROPOSITION #2 – Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund

SHALL THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE HIGHLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, be authorized establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to the provisions of Section 3651 of the Education Law, to be known as the “District-wide Renovations, Reconstruction, Construction and Improvement Reserve Fund”, which shall be for the purpose of paying the costs of the renovation, reconstruction, construction and improvements to District buildings and facilities, including planning costs, site work, purchase of technology and security equipment, and renovation, reconstruction and construction costs; the maximum amount of such fund shall be \$3,000,000 (plus earnings thereon), to be transferred from unexpended unassigned appropriations in the general fund to the “District-wide Renovations, Reconstruction, Construction and Improvement Reserve Fund” over a period 10 years?

Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Second by Heather Welch; Discussion: none; Motion Carried with a 7-0 vote.

- c) **Board Policy – Education of Homeless Children – 2nd Reading**
Discussion took place regarding policy and the financial transportation burden.
Legal will respond to concerns and 3rd Reading will take place on the April 7th agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The floor was open for public comments. No comments were made.

Motion made at 10:45 pm by Heather Welch to adjourn meeting; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT (10:45 pm)

Minutes recorded and submitted by Lisa M. Cerniglia, District Clerk