

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

6:00 pm BUDGET HEARING

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

JARED SPRAGUE

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Alan Barone, President, Sue Gilmore, Vice President (absent), 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 M. Lynch, Business Administrator; Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services; Pete Miller, Building and Grounds Director; Maria McCarthy, Food Services Director; Debbie Tompkins, Assistant Director of Transportation; Pete Harris, High School Principal; Dan Wetzels, Middle School Principal

Student Representative: Danielle Stoner

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Superintendent of Schools, Deborah Haab, showed video clips of an unforgettable trip for several students to Washington D.C.

BUDGET HEARING (6:07 pm) (Available in District Office and available on Website)
Superintendent of Schools Deborah Haab and Business Administrator Louise Lynch presented a power point presentation for the 2015-2016 school year budget.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Reiterated that that Capital Reserve Fund Proposal of 3 million dollars is to act as a savings account – no increase in school taxes.
- Alan Barone thanked all administrators and directors for putting together this well thought out budget proposal.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Mike Bakatsias and Debbie Pagano introduced themselves to community. They each shared a few words of their positive experience as board members and hope the voters will continue to support them in the upcoming elections.

Ed Meisel sent his regrets that due to a prior work commitment, was not able to make tonight's meeting.

CONCLUSION OF BUDGET HEARING (6:35 pm)

Motion made at 6:35 pm by Mike Bakatsias to go into Executive Session; Second by Heather Welch; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:40 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

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (7:23)

Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Alan Barone called meeting to Order at 7:23 pm.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Students, Alexis Brown, Madeha Shahid, Matthew Munson, Ezra Borel (absent) in the Highland High School Advanced Drawing and Painting class were recognized for their participation in a group art project, partnering with Colombia University last year called, "Blanket Stories". Blanket Stories is based on a short story inspired by a fable about squabbling siblings who learn the importance of sharing. The fable inspired students to reflect upon childhood memories and highlights. Their paintings were entered and displayed at an international show at Teachers College, Colombia University.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The floor was open for public comments.

- Jack Marguilio, stated the following concerns:
 - (1) Expressed his disappointment that Board should have remained neutral with the students that have not opted-out of state tests. Alan Barone responded that the students **had the same support regardless if they decided to take state test or opt-out of state test.**
 - (2) Questioned the need for the proposed Mental Health Specialist;
 - (3) Salary of teachers/administrators in district;
 - (4) Economy in Highland and the cost per student.

The Board had the following comments:

- Deborah Haab corrected Mr. Marguilio that the numbers that he is coming up with are not accurate according the Fiscal Summary from the NYS Education Data Site that is attached with the "Official Proposed Budget", which is posted in all schools and library.

- Mike Reid stated that for the record, the statements that Jack mentioned be omitted from Board minutes and videotaping. This due to his comments being totally inaccurate and misleading.

At 8:10 pm Public Comments were closed.

Ms. Driller, High School Art Teacher, at this time recognized and honored the students that earlier were being recognized for their published book.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2015 and April 14, 2015
- b) Treasurer's Reports – March 2015
- c) General Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – March 2015
- d) Food Service Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – March 2015
- e) Special Aid Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – March 2015
- f) Capital Project - Energy Performance Contract Budget Status Rept. – March 2015
- g) Attendance & Enrollment Report Dates: Period 7 – 3/06/2015 – 3/27/2015 - **TABLED**

Motion made by Tom Miller; Second by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: (1) Question enrollment total in report from Sep.-Feb.; Tabled (2) Request for Food Service to do a trends report; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

Directors' Reports:

Each month the Directors of Technology, Food Service, Transportation, Buildings & Grounds, and Athletics provide the Board with a written update.
The Board had no questions.

PERSONNEL:

a) **Retirement**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts, with regrets, the resignation for the purpose of retirement from the following employee:

Employee: Denise Palmateer
Position: School Bus Driver
Effective Date: June 30, 2015

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Second by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

a) **Budget Transfer**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following budget transfer dated April 24, 2015:

- Budget Transfer Number 8904 \$30,207.00

Motion made by Mike Reid; Second by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

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

- Recognized the Board for their composure during Public Session and thanked them for their dedicated service to the Board.
- Advanced Placement (AP) exams being held the week of May 4th and May 11th;
- Highland High School named to Washington Post's Most Challenging High School List;

The Board had no questions.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

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

- Received positive feedback from the recent performance of Crazy Town;
- Acknowledged Anne Marie Meisel for her recognition from the Highland Rotary Club for Service Above Self award;
- Met with House of Delegates to further discuss the state assessments and the new APPR.
- Foreign Language Honor Society Inductions take place May 11th;
- Senior Citizens Prom take place May 14th;
- Upcoming budget information stations to be held at Sunnybrook and Vineyard Commons;
- May 16th is a scheduled information booth at Hannaford's parking lot.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Debbie Pagano asked about recent article regarding State Testing.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

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

- Thanks to Krista Petrossoff and theatre class for their entertaining play, Crazy Town;
- District Wellness Committee;
- River of Dreams project;
- Tour of Organic Garden very impressive;
- Schedule for upcoming Superintendent's Day forthcoming.

The Board had no questions/concerns/comments.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

- a) **Back-Up Student Learning Objectives for Educators Evaluated Pursuant to Education Law § 3012-c** – Discussion took place.
- b) **Annual Budget Vote & Election** – Eligible voters were encouraged to vote on Tuesday, May 19th. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 pm at the Highland High School, Band room.
- c) **Sports Mergers**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following sports merger for the 2015-2016 school year:

- Highland High School Varsity Boys Swim merge with Marlboro Varsity Boys Swim;
- Marlboro High School Varsity Boys Lacrosse merge with Highland Varsity Boys Lacrosse - **Tabled**;
- Highland High School Varsity Girls Swim merge with Marlboro Varsity Girls Swim.

Motion carried by Debbie Pagano; Second by Mike Reid; Discussion: (1) The Lacrosse merge recommendation is to be Tabled; (2) Debbie Pagano requested an update in regards to the previous requests for Girls Lacrosse team merging with Marlboro High School. Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

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

e) **Future BOE Agenda Items**

Old Business:

UCSBA Annual Dinner – Mike Bakatsias RVSP that he will be in attendance on May 11th.

Capital Project – Support Services

Alan Barone stated that the Support Services team is trying to get a Level 1 approval by Fall 2015 so that construction can begin by summer 2016. If not, approval for the whole project will take place April 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Any topic related to the agenda may be addressed except for personnel or specific student issues. The floor was open for public comments. No comments were made.

Motion made at 10:00 pm to adjourn meeting by Mike Reid; Second by Heather Welch; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

Happy Mother's Day

ADJOURNMENT (10:06 pm)

Minutes submitted and recorded by Lisa M Cerniglia, District Clerk