

**Highland Central School District**

**MINUTES**

Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

5:00 pm Board Retreat

Executive Session to follow (Pending on Board Approval)

7:00 pm Open Meeting

To be held in the Board Room (E-32 @ High School)



**BOARD RETREAT (5:00 pm)**

Board met with the District Leadership Team at the High School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board Members: Alan Barone, Tom Miller, Sue Gilmore, Debbie Pagano, Mike Bakatsias, Heather Welch (absent), Ed Meisel

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 Harris, High School Principal; Bill Zimmer, High School Assistant Principal; Dan S. Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Meghan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal; Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Kathleen Sickles, Elementary School Assistant Principal; Maria McCarthy, Director of Food Services

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A moment of silence took place to honor those individuals and families whose lives were affected by the recent explosions in Paris.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Mohammed Kandeel (guest teacher of Arabic at Middle School) shared a few highlights of his experiences here in this country and also presented to Board a sample lesson plan.

The Board had the following comments:

- Satisfied to see the success of this 10 week program.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENT**

Deborah Haab read a statement that is available on website and Facebook regarding some incident report errors in local newspapers.

Any questions or concerns can be addressed by calling Mr. Harris or Ms. Haab.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

- Margaret Malcolm, community member, felt that the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting did not reflect her opinion about new stipend positions. Minutes should state how adamant she feels that no additional stipends should even be considered by the Board.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:**

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2015
- b) Attendance Enrollment Report – Period 2 – October 1 – October 30, 2015
- c) Middle School and High School Extracurricular Reports from July 1, 2015-Nov. 13, 2015

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

### **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:**

a) **Principal's Reports:**

Each month the Principal's report on important information and events occurring in their schools.

**Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal**

- LAP plan;
- Attendance/Tardiness Policy – no negative feedback from parents. Discussion also took place regarding percentage of students not taking the bus and being “car riders”.

The Board had no questions.

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

- Emergency evacuation drill went well;
- Plans on recognition for students that are referral free being discussed.

The Board had no questions.

**Pete Harris, High School Principal**

- New Attendance/Tardiness Policy have had positive feedbacks;
- Moment of silence took place on November 16<sup>th</sup> to honor those individuals whose lives were affected in the terrorist attacks in Paris.
- Danielle Garcia recognized as new employee to district;
- Emergency evacuation drill went well.

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Ten (10) week attendance report anticipated after completion of marking period;
- Aggregate report will be processed to recognize students with less than four (4) absences per marking period.

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

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

- District-wide PBIS to be rescheduled January 14<sup>th</sup>

The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:

- Parent representative for CSE/CPSE committee – parent representatives are no longer mandated.

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 October 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, and the amendment agreement no meetings of October 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Seconded by Ed Meisel; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 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 October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and the amendment agreement no meeting of November 3, 2015, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Seconded by Ed Meisel; Discussion: none; Motion carried with 6-0 vote.**

**PERSONNEL:**

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias to move items "a-d" as a block; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.**

**Board thanked Ms. Garcia for accepting this challenging position.**

a) **Service Agreement**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached updated Personal Service Agreement for Danielle Garcia, Behavior Intervention Specialist, effective November 9, 2015.

b) **Leave Replacement**

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

Employee:	Kathleen Kurry
Position:	Teacher – Elementary School
Effective:	On or about January 31, 2016 for approximately 12 weeks
Purpose:	To replace Rebecca Dudar who will be on child-bearing leave

c) **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.

d) **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**

Kaitlyn Poluzzi updated the Board on the following events/topics:

- Student council holding food drive into late November;
- Senior vs. Junior flag football game was held on November 13<sup>th</sup>;
- On November 14<sup>th</sup> Model UN competed at Bard College.

### **BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**

#### **a) Uncollected Taxes**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorizes transferring the Uncollected Taxes for the 2015-2016 school year in the amount of \$1,534,034.47 to Ulster County.

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Sue Gilmore; Discussion: approximate percentage of collected taxes was 93.94%; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.**

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

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

- Math information night at Middle School held in November;
- Early evacuation drill went well;
- UCSBA met on November 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed GAP Elimination;
- Pete Harris, Carol Potash and Deborah Haab attended a conference that presented film of a non-traditional high school in California;
- Attended Bard College to see students compete in the Model UN;
- A request from parent for programming classes;
- Parent-Teacher conferences to be held over the next two weeks;
- November 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> building will be closed for students; November 26<sup>th</sup> and November 27<sup>th</sup> building will be closed.
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Trusello, Middle School Math Teacher, will present Flipped Classroom for Rotary Club.

The Board had the following comments/questions:

- Tax cap – Louise Lynch will update once Tax Relief Report is publicized.

### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

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

- Thanked staff and faculty for their efforts on the early evacuation drill;
- Over 60 parents attended parent night at middle school;
- Discussion on Flipped Classroom at Elementary School for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

The Board had the following questions/concerns:

- Curriculum mapping.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

**New Business:**

a) **Middle School Trip**

Middle School teachers, Mary Leahy and Tom Turcello presented itinerary to Board.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School Trip to Boston, MA on April 27-April 28, 2016.

**Motion made by Ed Meisel; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: In the event that area becomes under a High Alert status, the Superintendent if the trip needs to be postponed. Question asked if trip insurance would cover this. Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.**

b) **Standard Work Day and Reporting**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby establishes the following standard work days for District Clerk and will report to the New York State and Local Retirement System based on time keeping system records or their record of activities.

**Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.**

c) **Audit Committee / Food Service Report** – Discussion with Maria

McCarthy, Director of Food Services, took place regarding establishing new direction with the food service program. Further discussion will continue at next Board meeting.

d) **Correspondence** – None at this time.

e) **Future BOE Agenda Items**

**Old Business:**

a) **LAP Plan**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached Middle School Local Assistance Plan for the 2015-2016 school year

**Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: Follow-up on Sue Gilmore's email took place regarding the challenges. Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.**

**COMMENTS:**

Alan Barone recognized Assistant Principals for their co-curricular reports.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

- Margaret Malcolm, community member, commented on the following topics:
  - Percentage of students in special education;
  - Behavior Intervention Specialist – description of job title;
  - Uncollected school taxes
- Fiona Malcolm, community member, commented on the following topics:
  - Number of lock down drills

**Motion made at 8:50 pm by Tom Miller to adjourn Open Meeting and go into Executive Session; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: (9:58 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;

**Motion made at 9:58 pm by Tom Miller to adjourn Executive Session; Seconded by Ed Meisel; Motion made by Tom Miller to adjourn Open Meeting; Seconded by Ed Meisel; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.**

**ADJOURNMENT (9:58pm)**

Minutes recorded and submitted by Lisa M Cerniglia, District Clerk