

**Highland Central School District**

**Meeting Minutes**

Printed : 4/20/2016 11:11 AM EST

**Board of Education Meeting**

**4/12/2016 5:00:00 PM**

High School Cafeteria

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**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**5:00 pm Open Meeting**

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Attendees - voting members**

Alan Barone	President
Tom Miller	Vice President
Mike Bakatsias	Board Member
Sue Gilmore	Board Member
Ed Meisel	Board Member
Debbie Pagano	Board Member
Heather Welch	Board Member

**Attendees - other**

Deborah Haab	Superintendent
Lisa Cerniglia	District Clerk
Sarah Dudley-Lemek	Assistant Superintendent
Louise M Lynch	Business Administrator

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President Alan Barone called meeting to Order at 5:10 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Attendance:

Dan S. Wetzel, Middle School Principal  
Meghan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal  
Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal  
Kathleen Sickles, Elementary School Assistant Principal

Carol Potash, Director of Technology  
Patrick Boyd, Interim Director of Student Services

Kaitlyn Poluzzi, Student Representative

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The floor was open for public comments.

- HTA (Highland Teacher's Association) member Steve Masson, Tom Truscello, Kelly Nelson, Heather Bragg, Chris Sgro, Jim Moriarty and Dana McGrath spoke on various educational electives and curricular programs

which have demonstrated a positive educational environment in the school. There were an approximate 61 HTA members that supported their statements and requested the Board of Education to seriously consider proposing a budget that would allow these programs to remain intact.

- Holly Brooker, parent, supported the Board in proposing a school budget to keep the current educational and elective programs in place, even if it would require a 60% majority vote.

### **III. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**

i. Budget Discussion for the 2016-2017 School Year

Business Administrator Louise Lynch and Superintendent Deborah Haab presented three proposed budget scenarios for the 2016-2017 school year.

Scenario 1:

Total Budget: \$41,522,885

Budget Increase Percentage: 2.50%

Levy Increase Percentage: 0.59%

True Tax Rate Annual Increase: \$100K / \$13

\$200K / \$26

\$300K / \$39

### Scenario 2:

Total Budget: \$41,656,096

Budget Increase Percentage: 2.83%

Levy Increase Percentage: 1.77%

True Tax Rate Annual Increase: \$100K / \$39

\$200K / \$52

\$300K / \$65

### Scenario 3:

Total Budget: \$41,656,096

Budget Increase Percentage: 2.83%

Levy Increase Percentage: 2.00%

True Tax Rate Annual Increase: \$100K / \$45

\$200K / \$58

\$300K / \$71

Further discussion on budget and various budget proposals took place.

Based on the April 22nd deadline for a proposed budget to be in place, Alan Barone requested the Board to share their thoughts on scenario 3 (levy increase of 2% - piercing the tax cap and requiring a majority vote of 60%).

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves adopting the General Fund Budget for the 2016-2017 school year in the amount of \$41,719,868, as presented at the April 12, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

(Please note this budget amount was rescinded at the April 20th meeting. Budget amount should reflect \$41,656,096.).

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Aye/Nay</u>
Heather Welch	Aye
Ed Meisel	Aye
Mike Bakatsias	Aye
Tom Miller	Aye
Sue Gilmore	Nay
Debbie Pagano	Aye
Alan Barone	Aye

Motion carried with a 6-1 vote (Sue Gilmore opposed).

In conclusion, Alan Barone thanked the community, Board members and administrators for their continued support on the budget planning.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The floor was open for public comments.

No comments were made.

**V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Heather Welch at 6:25 pm to go into Executive Session;  
Seconded by Ed Meisel; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

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.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT (7:10 pm)**

Motion made at 7:10 pm by Tom Miller to exit Executive Session and adjourn meeting; Seconded by Ed Meisel. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10.

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District Clerk