

6:00 pm Executive Session (Pending on Board Approval)

7:00 pm Open Meeting

Board President, Alan Barone
Board Vice President, Tom Miller
Superintendent, Deborah Haab

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 Lynch	Business Administrator

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Motion made at 6:09 pm by Tom Miller to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Heather Welch; Motion carried.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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.

Motion made at 7:06 pm by Sue Gilmore to adjourn Executive Session and go into Open Meeting; Seconded by Ed Meisel; Motion carried.

III. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President Alan Barone called meeting to Order at 7:13 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

ATTENDANCE (Directors and/or Principals)

Pete Harris, High School Principal; Dan S. Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Kathleen Sickles, Elementary School Assistant Principal; Carol Potash, Director of Technology; Maria McCarthy, Director of Food Services; Frank Alfonso, Director of Athletics

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Margaret Malcolm, community member, asked for a brief explanation on how Highland Central School compares with neighboring schools regarding state aid. Deborah Haab gave a brief explanation on the formula the state uses for receiving state aid.
- Fiona Malcolm, community member, expressed her concerns about funds invested in the infrastructure. Thanked everyone for reaching out to honor Ms. Anita Torsone as she celebrated her 100th birthday.
- Holly Brooker, community member and parent, expressed her concern of the recent news on the state budget and state aid; acknowledges the work the Board has done; concern of eliminating programs at school. Parp program kicks off on April 18th and welcomes volunteers.
- Karen Bender, community member and parent, reiterated what Holly Brooker stated and reinforces that the community must reach out to our Senator and Assemblyman.

Conclusion:

Alan Barone articulated that the state needs to reevaluate how state aid is being calculated. Recognized the efforts and time the Board has spent over the past several weeks on placing a well-received school budget proposal.

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- a. Highland/Ulster BOCES Culinary Students
Students Dante Fauci and Karina Rendon (1st place winners) spoke on their experience and challenges while competing in the New York Prostart Competition.

VI. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves and acknowledges reviewing the following reports:

- a. Board of Education Meeting Minutes -March 1, 2016 and March 15, 2016
b. General Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports - February 2016

Motion made by: Mike Bakatsias

Motion seconded by: Ed Meisel

Voting

Unanimously Approved

VII. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

a. Directors' Reports

Each month the Directors of Technology, Food Service, Facilities and Athletics will provide the Board with a written update.

The Board had the following questions/concerns:

- Transportation Report - not to be included with Directors report at this time;
- Athletics - Discussion took place regarding denial of swim team merger for the 2016-2017 school year;
- Facilities Report - job posting description
- Food Service - recognized the increase dollar amount with school lunch fund program. Future agenda to discuss food service consultant.

VIII. PERSONNEL

Motion made to move items "a-d" as a block.

Discussion: Deborah Haab recognized Patrick Boyd for taking on the responsibility as Interim of Student Services.

Motion made by: Tom Miller

Motion seconded by: Ed Meisel

Voting

Unanimously Approved

a. Leave of Absence

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

Employee:	Sara Moore
Position:	School Psychologist / CSE Chairperson
Effective:	On or about September 6, 2016 – November 23, 2016
Purpose:	Child Bearing Leave

b. Leave Request

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the request for a Leave of Absence as follows:

Employee:	Patrick Boyd
Position:	Special Education Teacher
Effective:	On or about April 5, 2016 - on or about June 30, 2016
Purpose:	To accept position as Interim Director of Student Services

c. Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts, with regrets, the resignations as follows:

Employee: Tammy Dwyer
Position: Lunch Aide - Elementary School
Effective: April 8, 2016
Purpose: Resignation

Employee: Angela Cooper
Position: Speech Pathologist
Effective: March 31, 2016
Purpose: Resignation

d. Appointment

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

Employee: Patrick Boyd
Position: Interim Director of Student Services
Effective: On or about April 5, 2016
Purpose: Replace Barbara E. Chapman

IX. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Kaitlyn Poluzzi was absent at this meeting.

X. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

a. Health & Welfare Contract

Valley Central School District

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the 2015-2016 Health & Welfare contract for two (2) students at a cost of \$1,038.79 per student for a total of \$2,077.58 with the Valley Central School District and authorizes the Board President and District clerk to execute the contract.

Motion made by: Mike Bakatsias

Motion seconded by: Tom Miller

Voting

Unanimously Approved

b. Hyde Park Central School District

Hyde Park Central School District

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the 2015-2016 Health & Welfare contract for seven (7) students at a cost of \$827.39 per student for a total of \$5,791.73 with the Hyde Park Central School District and authorizes the Board President and District Clerk to execute the contract.

c. **Budget Transfer** - Tabled

d. **Awards Site Work Construction Contract**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the contract between Highland Central School District and Meyer Contracting Corporation, 12 Charles Street, Pleasant Valley, NY for the base bid amount of \$2,225,000.

Motion made by: Sue Gilmore

Motion seconded by: Tom Miller

Voting

Unanimously Approved

e. **Preliminary School Budget for the 2016-2017 School Year**

Louise Lynch, Business Administrator, presented to the Board the preliminary 2015-2017 school year budget proposal. Part of presentation included the historical financial information. Discussion followed on the revenue and expenditure gap as well as the budget proposal options available.

After discussion it was decided that with an April 20th deadline to have a budget in place, a special meeting for budget topic only will take place on Tuesday, April 12 at 5:00 pm.

Board requested additional information on grants available for auto (propane) transportation.

XI. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

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

- Correspondence with legislature regarding state aid
- School will be in session April 25 due to recent snow day

The Board had no questions.

XII. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

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

- Superintendent's Day (1/2 pm day) took place March 17th. Focus was on curriculum mapping;
- NYS testing grade 3-8 started April 5th.

The Board had no questions.

XIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION

a. New Business

1. Correspondence

2. Petitions

Petitions nominating candidates for the office of the Board of Education of the Highland Central School District are available at the District Office, 320 Pancake Hollow Road. Completed petitions, with the signatures of twenty-five (25) qualified District voters, must be filed with the Clerk of the District no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2016. The term of office is for three (3) years.

The following vacancies, which expires on June 30, 2016, are to be filled: term of Tom Miller and term of Sue Gilmore. The election will be held on May 17, 2016.

In order to be considered for a candidate, the individual must be at least 18 years old, qualified voter in the Highland Central School District and able to read and write. They must also have been resident of the District continuously for one year prior to the election.

For any questions, please contact Lisa Cerniglia, District Clerk at 235-0739.

3. District Calendar for the 2016-2017 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the proposed school calendar for the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion made by: Mike Bakatsias

Motion seconded by: Ed Meisel

Voting

Unanimously Approved

b. Old Business

1. Attendance Policy 3rd Reading

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, adopts Board Policy #7110 titled, "Student Attendance Policy".

Motion made by: Heather Welch

Motion seconded by: Ed Meisel

Voting

Unanimously Approved

2. Assessment Committee Response

Tom Miller read correspondence to Assessment Committee from HCSD.

3. NYSSMA Fees - Discussion

Discussion took place about fees. As a result of discussion, the Board will support the NYSSMA fees.

XIV. MISCELLANEOUS

XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Maryann Ingraham, community member, expressed her thoughts on how the Board has focused their attention for years on making budget cuts in order to lessen the financial burden particularly with senior citizens as well as the free and reduced lunch program. Perhaps this is the time the Board can approach the public and request their help in reducing budget cuts by passing the budget since NYS continues to reduce funding to district.

Motion made at 9:35 pm by Mike Bakatsias to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Heather Welch, Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made at 10:11 pm by Heather Welch to adjourn Executive Session and Open Meeting; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT (10:11 pm)

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 pm.

Lisa M Cerniglia, District Clerk