

Highland Central School District

MINUTES

Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

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

7:00 pm Open Meeting

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



Due to technical difficulties, meeting is not available via livestream.

Motion made at 6:10 pm by Heather Welch to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Tom Miller; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

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 7:00 pm by Debbie Pagano to exit Executive Session and go into Open Meeting; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias. Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Administrators/Principals/Directors: Deborah Haab, Superintendent of Schools; Sarah Dudley-Lemek, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Louise M. Lynch, Business Administrator; Pete Harris, High School Principal; Dan S. Wetzel, Middle School Principal; Megan Connors, Middle School Assistant Principal; Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal; Kathleen Sickles, Elementary School Assistant Principal; Maria McCarthy, Director of Food Services; Carol Potash, Director of Technology; Frank Alfonso, Director of Athletics

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (7:07 pm)

Board President Alan Barone called meeting to order at 7:07 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

- Mark Reynolds, Southern Ulster Times, inquired about the approval of special education minutes.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1) The Assessment Committee Report

The HSCD Assessment Committee presented its position statement on high-stakes testing and its many related topics, following the BOE's request for more information in the spring of 2015. Stephanie Santagada Wells, high school English teacher and committee chair, read the committee's statement to the BOE, and Eileen McElroy, middle school special education teacher and committee member, presented the suggested points of action for the Board to take if they choose to adopt an aligned position. Board members and administration were provided with a packet of supplemental reading materials on recent developments from local and state-wide constituency groups. The Board will continue discussions will take place.

2) The Administrative Team School Report Card (power point available on website)

Sarah Dudley-Lemek (Assistant Superintendent), along with Deb Kelley (Data Assessment Coordinator), presented a power point on the 2014-2015 school report card data. The building principals then spoke on how the data is utilized in all three buildings. Discussion then followed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

(a) Varsity Cheerleader Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following overnight high school varsity cheerleader trip:

Name of Trip:	HVC (Highland Varsity Cheer)
Destination:	Ocean City, MD
Dates:	February 26, 2016-February 28, 2016

Motion made by Sue Gilmore; Seconded by Ed Meisel; Discussion: (1) Tom Miller asked Tabitha Jones and Frank Alfonso to prepare a standardized student overnight form; (2) The school has the right to cancel trip if security alerts heighten. Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

(b) Student Overnight Trips

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following student overnight high school class trips:

Name of Trip:	Student Overnight Trip
Destination:	Disney World, Orlando, FL.
Dates:	June 10, 2016- June 13, 2016

Name of Trip: History Trip
Destination: Philadelphia Trip
Dates: April 15, 2016- April 17, 2016

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Heather Welch; Discussion: The school has right to cancel trip if security alerts heighten. Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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

- a) Board of Education Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2015
- b) Treasurer’s Reports – November 2015
- c) General Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – November 2015
- d) Food Service Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – November 2015
- e) Special Aid Fund Budget & Revenue Status Reports – November 2015
- f) Capital Project - Energy Performance Contract Budget Status Rept. – November 2015
- g) Attendance and Enrollment Report –Period 4 – December 1st – 23rd, 2015

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Ed Meisel; Discussion: (1) BOCES Administration Cost on Treasurer’s Report; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

- a) **Directors’ Reports:** (reports are available on website)
Each month the Directors of Technology, Food Service, Transportation, Facilities and Athletics provide the Board with a written update.
The Board had the following questions/concerns:
(1) What is the average turnaround time on tickets for the IT Department?

- b) **Principals’ Report:** (reports are available on website)
Each month the Principals provide the Board with a written update on important information and events occurring in their schools.

Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal

Updated the Board on the following:

- Math night – recognized Deb Kelley;
- NYSED School Counseling Comprehensive Program (Ulster BOCES);
- Teleconference on testing via digital.

The Board had no questions.

Dan S. Wetzel, Middle School Principal

Updated the Board on the following:

- Talent Show – recognized Christine Osburn;
- Wellness Team fundraiser for Team Hobie

The Board had no questions.

Pete Harris, High School Principal

Updated the Board on the following:

- Student assembly took place January 20th titled “Breaking The Cycle”. The assembly is based upon resolving conflicts through the act of kindness.

- January 29th will be Rating Day for Regents exams;
The Board had the following questions/concerns/comments:
- Recognized Gina Mossiman for putting together a moving field trip with her psychology class. Student representative Kaitlyn Poluzzi updated Board on this trip.

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 December 11th, 16th, and 22nd, 2015, and January 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 12th, 2016, and the amendment agreement no meetings of December 9th, 10th, 17th, 23rd, 2015, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

Motion made by Debbie Pagano; Seconded by Tom Miller; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 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 December 16th and 21st, 2015, and January 12th, 2016, and the amendment agreement no meeting of December 8th, 2015, and authorizes the arrangements for such students' special education programs and services.

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

PERSONNEL:

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias to move items "a, b,c,e,g,h,i,k,l" as a block; Seconded by Ed Meisel; 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 as follows:

Employee:	Elizabeth Reese
Position:	Food Service Worker
Effective:	January 12, 2016
Purpose:	Resignation

b) **Leave Request**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the request for an unpaid leave of absence as follows:

Employee:	Christina Osburn – Middle School
Position:	Art Teacher
Effective:	On or about March 14, 2016 – April 1, 2016
Purpose:	Unpaid leave

c) **Retirement**

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

Employee: Dane Barr
Position: Bus Driver
Effective: June 30, 2016
Purpose: Retirement

d) **Appointments**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following appointment with an Emergency Conditional Appointment consistent with SAVE legislation requirements:

Carole Redmond

Position: Teaching Assistant – ES
Salary: Grade 7A, Step 6 / \$20,852 pro-rated
Effective: January 28, 2016
Probationary Period: January 28, 2016 – January 28, 2020
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant
Purpose: Replacing LouAnn Judge, retirement

Chelsea Cozzolino

Position: Teaching Assistant – ES
Salary: Grade 7A, Step 1 / \$17,563
Effective: On or about February 1, 2016 – till on or about April 8, 2016
Purpose: To replace Katie Kurry, leave replacement for Rebecca Dudar

Mary Santini

Position: School Monitor – HS
Salary: Grade 3, Step 9 / \$13.87 hr
Effective: January 20, 2016
Probationary Period: January 20, 2016 – July 20, 2016
Tenure Area: N/A
Purpose: Replacing Nathaniel Heidt, resignation

**Motion made by Tom Miller; Seconded by Heather Welch; Discussion: none;
Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

Deborah Haab congratulated Carole Redmond in her new position and introduced Carole to viewers and Board.

e) **Resignation – Coaching**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the resignation from the following coach as follows:

Joshua Tatum / Assistant Varsity Track Coach / Spring 2016 season

f) **Tenure**

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

Employee: Eric Peterson

Effective Date: February 1, 2016
Tenure Area: General Special Education

Middle School Principal, Dan Wetzel, recommended Eric Peterson for his tenure appointment. Dan, along with Deborah Haab, said a few words recognizing Eric for his teaching abilities and accomplishments. Eric thanked everyone for his recognition.

Motion made by Mike Bakatsias; Seconded by Ed Meisel; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

g) **Permanent Appointment**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the status of the following employees as permanent:

Employee: Joseph Roebuck
Effective: January 1, 2016

Employee: David Berryann
Effective: January 1, 2016

Employee: Christopher Kosier
Effective: January 1, 2016

h) **Coaching Recommendations**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the appointments for the spring 2016 season as follows:

Salvatore Mazzella

Position: Varsity Girls Lacrosse Volunteer Assistant Coach
Salary: Volunteer
Effective: January 19, 2016

William Phillips

Position: Varsity Baseball Volunteer Assistant Coach
Salary: Volunteer
Effective: January 19, 2016

Joseph Frolish

Position: Varsity Girls Lacrosse Volunteer Assistant Coach
Position: Volunteer
Salary: January 19, 2016

i) **Appointment – Leave Replacement**

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

Position: Elementary Teacher (6th grade – MS)
Salary: MA Step 1 / \$48,123 pro-rated
Effective: January 13, 2016 – June 30, 2016
Purpose: Leave replacement for Jennifer Curless (Bertone)

j) **Agreement – Guidance Counselor**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the creation of a 1.0 FTE Guidance Counselor position effective February 1, 2016 and terminating on June 30, 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby appoints Vanessa Pratts to the position of Guidance Counselor, on a contract basis, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools and Board President to execute a contract in lieu of probation on behalf of the District with Ms. Pratts, whereby she shall perform services as Guidance counselor in the District for the period commencing February 1, 2016 and terminating on June 30, 2016. A copy of said contract, as presented to the Board at this meeting, shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

Motion made by Ed Meisel; Seconded by Debbie Pagano; Discussion: none; Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

k) **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.

l) **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:

- There were a lot of community service events that took place in the recent months. These events included: assisting town with Holiday in the Hamlet; assisting at elementary school; Methodist Church; variety talent show fundraiser at high school, and Harlem Wizard fundraiser basketball game. Upcoming event is the Queen of Hearts Charity Ball on March 3rd.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

a) **Food Service Contract – H.M.B. Consultants**

BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education approves the Contract to H.M.B. Consultants at a cost not to exceed \$12,500.00 for the 2015-16 school year.

FUTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute such agreement.

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

b) Transportation Contract – Quality Bus Service, LLC

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Transportation Contract to Quality Bus Service, LLC for the transportation of one student from January 20, 2016 through June 23, 2016 at a cost of \$75 per day and an annual maximum of \$7,725.00 for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Motion made by Ed Meisel; Seconded by Mike Bakatsias; Discussion: none;
Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.**

c) Construction Management Contract - The Palombo Group - TABLED

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the AIA A132 Contract with The Palombo Schools,

FUTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute such agreement.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

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

- Had the wonderful opportunity to meet in person RuthAnn Torsone, lifelong resident, who will soon be celebrating her 100th birthday. Discussion of a forthcoming resolution and Birthday Card Campaign took place.
- An impressive talent show took place at Middle School;
- Recognized Highland Rotary Club for their generous donation to the Highland Educational Snowball fundraiser dinner of \$1,000.00.
- Aide runs released by Governor. Proposal came as a big disappointment.
- Board State Assessments & APPR – cautiously await on the interpretation of the most recent news release.

The Board had no questions.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

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

- Guidance Document on APPR;
- Parent Night;
- Draft agenda for Superintendent's ½ day on February 12th;
- Guidance regulations for k-12 program.

The Board had no questions.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

New Business:

- a) **Affordable Care Act – Offer & Reporting Requirement** – Information update.
- b) **Board of Education Budget Workshop** – Scheduled for Tuesday, January 26th at 5:00 pm.
- c) **Correspondence**
 - UCSBA on May 26th;
 - Committee being formed for future Highland Athlete Award
- d) **Future BOE Agenda Items**

Old Business:

- a) **Life Threatening Medical Conditions Policy # 7515**– TABLED
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, adopts Board Policy # 7515 titled, “Life Threatening Medical Conditions Policy”.
- b) **Attendance Policy** – Deborah will be updating to board in near future.
- c) **Check Signing Procedure** – After discussion it was decided to leave policy as is.
- d) **eBoard** – Webinar scheduled with Board, clerk, and Administrator’s on February 16th @ 5 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

CLOSING COMMENTS:

- Girls basketball recognized their successful season so far;
- Asked if any updates were available regarding sports merger. No further information was available.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (9:35 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 by Mike Bakatsias at 10:20 pm to exit Executive Session and adjourn Open Meeting; Seconded by Ed Meisel; Motion carried; Meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

January 19, 2016

Minutes recorded and submitted by Lisa M Cerniglia, District Clerk