

**Highland Central School District****Meeting Minutes**

Printed : 3/14/2016 8:19 PM EST

**Board of Education Meeting****3/1/2016 6:00:00 PM**

Board Room (E-32 High School)

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**

Tom Miller	Vice President
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 6:15 pm by Heather Welch to go into Executive Session;  
 Seconded by Sue Gilmore; 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 by: Heather Welch

Motion seconded by: Sue Gilmore

Voting

Unanimously Approved

**III. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ATTENDANCE**

Tom Miller, Board Vice President, called meeting to order at 7:07 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

ATTENDANCE (Directors and/or Principals):

Barbara E. Chapman, Director of Student Services; 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; Pete Miller, Director of Facilities; Frank Alfonso, Director of Athletics

Student Representative: Kaitlyn Poluzzi

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

a. The Spelling & Geography Bee Winners

Elementary Spelling Bee

First place: Nicholas Fiorese, grade 4

Second place: Sophia Hajiani, grade 4

Third place: Srihari Rajesh, grade 4

Middle School Spelling Bee

First place: Marcelo Cuya, grade 6

Second place: Samantha Beasley, grade 6

Third place: Tyreese Ling, grade 6

Geography Bee (combined ES and MS)

First place: Carson Miller, grade 8

Second place: Fin Goldleaf, grade 8

Third place: Brayden Surprise, grade 5

Deb Kelley presented certificates to Spelling Bee and Geography Bee winners.

Students not available for presentation were:

Marcelo Cuya

Samantha Beasley

Sophia Hajiani

Fin Goldleaf

Brayden Surprise

Deborah Haab thanked Deb Kelley for all her efforts with this successful group of students.

*A short recess took place at 7:15 pm.*

*Meeting reconvened at 7:27 pm.*

## **VII. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

- a. Board of Education Meeting Minutes - February 9, 2016 & Feb.16, 2016

Motion made by: Sue Gilmore

Motion seconded by: Debbie Pagano

Voting

Unanimously Approved

## **VIII. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

- a. **Principals' Report**

**Joel Freer, Elementary School Principal**, updated the Board on the following events since February 16th:

- Ulster BOCES on Diversity
- Reading Day to honor Dr. Seuss's birthday;
- Spirit Week;
- PTA hosting Book Fair

The Board had the following questions/concerns:

- Joel will update on the number of Kindergarden registration;
- Letters regarding excused and unexcused absences

The Board had no questions.

**Dan S. Wetzel, Middle School Principal**, updated the Board on the following events:

- Semi-finalist on the Arabic Grant;
- DCC field trip for 7th graders, thanks to Mr. Conklin for arranging trip.

The Board had no questions.

**Pete Harris, High School Principal**, updated the Board on the following events:

- Recognized the students, advisors for their accomplishments on extra-curricular activities.
- Recognized Ms. Keech and students for putting together a well performed musical, "It is A Good Life, Charlie Brown".
- Common Core English results impressive;
- Parent/Teacher conference;

- Schedule of the next two chorus/band concerts at high school

The Board asked about exit number of students from the prior Board meeting.

**b. Director of Student Services Report**

Barbara E. Chapman updated the Board on the following events/topics:

- Surpassed state target regarding SPP Indicator #8;
- Annual Review Process (all of the students have been attending their meetings);
- Barbara recognized and thanked her co-workers in the Special Education Department.

Deborah Haab, along with the Board and Administrators, acknowledged and thanked Barbara for her many dedicated years with the District. It was noted how Barbara has shown extraordinary work and efforts in her position.

**c. Directors' Reports**

The Board had the following questions:

- Number of free and reduced lunch (increase in numbers are due to no snow days);
- Swim team merger (Frank to follow-up);
- Concern on the demographics in town with free and reduced breakfast/lunch;
- Alternate methods for surplus on Apple devices;
- Process of tickets for IT;
- Alternate methods for livestreaming Board of Education meetings and graduation;
- Tom Miller recognized the Highland Baseball Club for their successful pancake breakfast fundraiser.
- Pete Miller – A complete list of equipment purchased under the budget proposition will be forthcoming.

**IX. PERSONNEL**

Motion made as a block, items "a-b".

a. Resignation(s)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the following coaching resignation(s):

Salvatore Mazzella / Volunteer Girls Lacrosse

Angelina Peter / Modified Softball Coach

Motion made by: Debbie Pagano

Motion seconded by: Ed Meisel

Voting

Unanimously Approved

## b. Appointment(s)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following appointment(s) as follows:

Salvatore Mazzella

Position: Varsity Track Assistant Coach  
Salary: \$2,504.00  
Effective: March 1, 2016

Samantha Wacker

Position: Modified Softball Head Coach  
Salary: \$1,907.00  
Effective: March 1, 2016

Angelina Peter

Position: Varsity Girls Track Head Coach  
Salary: \$3,399.00  
Effective: March 1, 2016

Zachary Whalen

Position: Modified Baseball Head Coach  
Salary: \$1,907.00  
Effective: March 1, 2016

Mitchell Yanik

Position: Adaptive Phys Ed (0.1 FTE) – ES  
Salary: BA Step 1 / \$45,388 pro-rated  
Effective: February 19, 2016 – June 30, 2016  
Purpose: Replacing Alan Benson, Iv at MS

Motion made by: Debbie Pagano

Motion seconded by: Ed Meisel

Voting

Unanimously Approved

**X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Kaitlyn Poluzzi updated the Board on the following events in school:

- High School Harlequins proudly presented, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown";
- A comedy show recently took place in neighboring town to benefit TeamStrong. It was a great night of community support and the turnout was amazing.
- Interact Club will be having their dance March 3rd;
- Highland Cheerleaders competed recently in Maryland and placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**XI. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**

## a. Health &amp; Welfare Contracts

**1. Wappingers 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 one (1) student at a cost of \$680.29 per student for a total of \$680.29 with the Wappingers Central School district and authorize the Board President and District Clerk to execute the contract.

Motion made by: Sue Gilmore

Motion seconded by: Ed Meisel

Voting

Unanimously Approved

**2. Poughkeepsie City 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 four (4) students at a cost of \$870.93 per student for a total of \$3,483.72 with the Poughkeepsie City School District and authorize the Board President and District Clerk to execute the contract.

Motion made by: Sue Gilmore

Motion seconded by: Debbie Pagano

Voting

Unanimously Approved

**b. Budget Increase**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the donation from the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley in the amount of \$1,495.00 FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education approve the budget increase of \$1,495.00.

<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Total \$1,495</u>
HS Instructional Contractual	
A2110-449-01-0000	\$1,495.00
<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Total \$1,495</u>
Donations A2701	\$1,495.00

Deborah Haab recognized Krista Petrossoff, High School English teacher, for applying and receiving this grant. Krista is taking advantage of these funds with students.

Motion made by: Heather Welch  
Motion seconded by: Sue Gilmore

Voting

Unanimously Approved

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

As of today's date, no new news from Albany regarding our GEA. Community members and district employees are encouraged to continue sending letters to the Senator and Assemblyman (master letters are available on website). Approximately over 200 letters have been sent to the legislators. Students are also encouraged to send letters (look on website for revised letters).

Further discussions at the next board meeting will need to take place regarding proposed budget, possible budget cuts, etc.

Highland School District is still recognized as having the lowest budget in county.

**XII. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

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

- Deborah shared a letter on behalf of Ruth Ann Torsone from Anita Torsone-Freer expressing her gratitude with birthday card.
- Congratulated Dante Fauci and Karina Rendon, students in the culinary program at BOCES, for placing 1st place at the New York Prostart Competition.
- Highland Educational Foundation Snowball was a big success with raising over \$10,000.00.
- Recognized the performers and Ms. Keech for an enjoyable musical, "It's a Good Life Charlie Brown";
- Recognized the Varsity Girls Basketball team for their successful season;
- Robo calls will take place to the community regarding emergency drill that will take place on March 12th.

The Board has no questions.

**XIII. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

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

- Superintendent's Day scheduled for March 18th (1/2 pm day)
- Harlequins did a great job performing Charlie Brown musical;
- Updated Ulster County training class took place with all DASA coordinators.

The Board has no questions.

**XIV. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

a. New Business

## 1. Correspondence

b. Old Business1. Attendance Policy - Discussion

Discussion took place. Topics of conversation included but not limited to the following:

- Editing error on page 5;
- The generated letters for unexcused absences at elementary school;
- Appeal process;
- Intervention strategy (page 5, letter E)

2nd Reading to take place for the March 15th meeting.

2. Snow Day Give Back - DiscussionSnow Day Give Back

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves using the unused snow days from the 2015-2016 school year as follows:

Friday, March 18, 2016  
Monday, March 28, 2016  
Monday, April 25, 2016  
Thursday, May 26, 2016  
Friday, May 27, 2016

Motion made by: Sue Gilmore

Motion seconded by: Ed Meisel

Voting

Unanimously Approved

3. Assessment Committee Response

Discussion took place. Follow-up to take place at the March 15th meeting.

**XV. MISCELLANEOUS****XVI. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – No comments at this time.**XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made at 9:15 pm by Heather Welch to go into Executive Session;  
Seconded by Ed Meisel; Motion carried.

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 corporations, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

Motion made at 10:12 pm by Ed Meisel to exit Executive Session and return to Open Meeting; Seconded by Heather Welch; Motion carried.

Motion made by: Heather Welch

Motion seconded by: Ed Meisel

Voting

Unanimously Approved

### **XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made at 10:12 pm by Ed Meisel to exit Executive Session and exit Open Meeting; Seconded by Heather Welch; Motion carried.

Motion made by: Ed Meisel

Motion seconded by: Heather Welch

Voting

Unanimously Approved

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District Clerk