

**Highland Central School District**

**Meeting Minutes**

Printed : 6/28/2016 2:39 PM EST

**Board of Education Special Meeting**

**5/31/2016 4:30:00 PM**

Board Room (E-32 @ High School)

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SPECIAL MEETING  
**Tuesday, May 31, 2016 @ 4:30 pm**

**Attendees - voting members**

Alan Barone	President
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
Louise M Lynch	Business Administrator

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

Board President Alan Barone called meeting to Order at 4:40 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Attendance:

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; Pete Miller, Director of Facilities; Doug Carter, Interim of Transportation; Maria McCarthy, Director of Food Services; Patrick Boyd, Interim of Student Services; Frank Alfonso, Director of Athletics

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The floor was open for public comments. The following comments were made: Jack Marguilio, community member, mentioned the following:

- Spoke about the rules of public comments
- Salaries of staff in district
- Student enrollment

David Finch, community member, mentioned the following:

- Applauded the Board for their efforts in working on the upcoming budget
- Recognized Deborah Haab with her efforts in addressing the State about releasing funds
- Requests the Board to be cautious when discussing new proposed budget and the effects it will have to class sizes at the elementary school.

**III. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

- i. Budget Discussion for the 2016-2017 School Year

Louise Lynch presented budget revote information.

Proposed budget would reflect:

- Staff movement to fill vacant positions from 2015-2016 retirees.
- Budget increase percentage of 2.50%
- Total Budget \$41,522,885
- Tax Levy at the Levy Limit \$0.5861%
- True Tax Rate Annual Increase \$100K (\$13.00) / \$200K (\$26) / \$300 (\$39)

The following topics were discussed (but not limited to) between the Superintendent, Business Administrator and Board:

- Use of facilities (charge of neighboring schools if contingency budget)
- Dollar figures reflect savings from budgeting for replacement costs as retirements were already known and budgeted accordingly.
- Seeking transfer from staff from within district to fill vacant positions due to retirement
- Costs of modified and junior varsity sports
- Student enrollment
- Highland's budget reflects the lowest budget in Ulster County
- Special Education expenses
- Time schedule for budget re-vote (June 14th at 6 pm is the Public Hearing)
- Deborah stated if any money is released from the state it can be used for existing programs

After discussion the following resolution took place:

**Adoption of the General Budget for the 2016-2017 School Year**

Shall the Board of Education of the Highland Central School District be authorized to expend for budgetary purposes in the school year 2016-2017 the sum of \$41,522,885 and to levy the necessary tax therefor upon the taxable property of the School District?"

Motion made by: Sue Gilmore

Motion seconded by: Ed Meisel

Voting

Unanimously Approved

Closing Comment

Alan Barone thanked the Administrators for a budget proposal that stays within the tax limit. Alan spoke on behalf of the entire Board by stating that the Board is committed to the community and children of the District.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The floor was open for public comments. The following comments were made: Jack Marguilio, community member, mentioned the following:

- Budget

David Finch, community member, mentioned the following:

- Acknowledged the Board for their dedicated work as a successful team

**V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

REVISED

Motion made by Heather Welch to go into Executive Session at 5:50 pm;  
Seconded by Sue Gilmore; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Heather Welch to exit Executive Session and Open Meeting  
at 6:40 pm; Seconded by Sue Gilmore; Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

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District Clerk