

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

May 21, 2012 School Board Meeting

NOTE: This Board Highlights document includes the actions of the School Board Meeting. It is not meant to be an exact reflection of the meeting's minutes.

AGENDA

ROLL CALL - All members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The minutes of the March 19, 2012 and April 16, 2012 Regular Meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – **Mr. Jon Rupert** reported that the Department of Labor sent a letter notifying the Highlands School District that the renewal of the Workplace Safety Committee will again earn the district a 5 percent discount on workman's compensation costs, a value of about \$10,000.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Mr. Andrew McBurney (HHS- Senior) reported the following:

- The **High School marching, concert and stage bands** placed first and won overall champion in a recent Spring band trip to Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Congratulations to the new Drum Majors, **Dan Grove** and **Jordan Bordonaro**.
- Highlands High School created and hosted an amazing 2012 Prom, The Grecian Gala. The entire building was transformed for an amazing event and everyone had a great and safe time!
- Guidance Counselor **Susie Giovengo** and Librarian **Amy Eidenshink** and the Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter at HHS hosted a mock crash with the community firemen, policemen and emergency responders to emphasize the importance of making good decisions during the prom and graduation celebratory seasons. The SADD group was awarded for hosting such a proactive and informative event.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph Latess reported the following:

- **Highlands School District** remained at the top in the **Overachieving School Districts** category in the 2012 Guide to Western PA Schools, the Pittsburgh Business Times annual analysis of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) Exam results. Highlands School District secured the #5 position on the list for local school districts, which ranks districts according to how well students perform compared to the economic status of the community. The rank last year was #3. The analysis uses those rankings to determine the Overachiever ranking, which answers the question "What school districts do better than expectations based upon economics?". The economic situation of a student, or a school district, is one of the strongest predictors of how well a student will perform academically. The Pittsburgh Business Times notes in the publication that a district finishing high on this rank is smashing expectations.
- Congratulations to the Tribune Review Outstanding Young Citizens were honored last month at a banquet and dinner. The award recognizes students who meet academic expectations as well as contribute to the community. Eleven Highlands students were named, including: **Eric Bengel, Lauren Gezo, Chelsea Grinchuk, Melissa Gustafson, Jacob Tutak, Ashlee Snyder, Amber Reigard, Kelly Jenniches, Nicole Green, Shawn Frantz, and Steven Palowski.**

- Dr. Latess recognized the King of All Robots and the Honeybadger teams from Mr. John Malobicky's Engineering course at Highlands High School. The teams competed last month in the Southwestern PA Bots IQ Competition. The KING OF ALL ROBOTS team won the Grand Champion title with the Honeybadger team winning Second Place in the Documentation Category. Dr. Latess introduce **Mr. Malobicky** and the student presenters **Rebecca Pommer, Paul Gemperlein, Ben Grove, Aaron Anuszek and Austin Bradley.**

View the presentation Power Point about the Highlands engineering course and the Bots IQ Competition on the link listed below this School Board Meeting Highlights link.

ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Patrick Graczyk reported the following:

- Due to a reduction in the Title I funding, **Title I Summer School** spaces will be limited. Parents are receiving permission slips and are advised to complete and return these forms immediately.
- Staff will receive a **Professional Development Survey**. The feedback will help administration develop and improve professional development days for next year.
- Two Highlands families will participate in the **summer Title I Parent Involvement Seminar**. We anticipate a very informative report on ways to improve parent and school communications and many other ideas from this seminar upon their return.

AGENDA ITEMS

Board President Deb Beale noted that an executive session was held prior to the start of the public meeting. The Board unanimously approved the following items:

CAFETERIA – Mr. Hanford, Mr. Krzton

- Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for April 2012, as submitted.
- The payment of Cafeteria Fund bills, as submitted.
May to be paid \$54,245.27
- The bids for Ice Cream, Milk, and Bread to:
Pittsburgh Best – Ice Cream
Turner Dairy – Milk
Schwebels – Bread

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Love

- The Student Activities Fund Financial Report for March and April 2012, as submitted.
- Ratifying Trina Colberg as Prom Construction Sponsor in replacement of Teresa Emeloff.
- Summer Music Camp, as submitted. Approval is contingent to no cost to the School District.

INSTRUCTION – Mr. Love, Mrs. Thimons

- The November 2012 School Calendar, as submitted.
- The Cyber Services Agreement with Seneca Valley School District for the 2012-2016 school years, as submitted.
- Dr. Latess introduced **Mr. Aaron Rea**, Highlands Middle School 6th Grade Mathematics Teacher. Mr. Rea summarized a class project created to introduce students to the value of money and how to track investments through the stock market. This cross-curricular project involved math, writing, social studies, graphing and English. Student presenters were **Erik Frantz, Elliot Bushman, Gracie Love, Sarah Johnston, Shawn Erceg, and Derek Petrishen.**

View the presentation Power Point about the Stock Exchange Tracking & Reporting Project on the link listed below this School Board Meeting Highlights link.

5.0 TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Masarik, Mr. Hanford

Mr. Masarik reported that the work on the Hazardous Routes Applications is completed. Transportation logistics for next year will begin upon approval of the Second Reading of the Transportation policy.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Fox

- The use of facilities, as submitted.

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Fox, Mr. Miles

- The 2011-2012 Substitute Teacher Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test, #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check).

- The 2011-2012 Substitute School Nurse Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test, #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check).

- The 2011-2012 Substitute Custodian Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #505 (Pre-Employment Drug Test, #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check).

- The contract extension of **Caroline Jackson** as School Improvement Grant Family Involvement/Internal Grant Coordinator at a salary of \$35,000 for the 2012-2013 school year.

- The hiring of the following Classified Employees, in accordance with Board Policy #504 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #515, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check):

Hines, Chelsea – Ratify
Personal Aide – Replacement
Grandview Upper Elementary
Effective April 26, 2012

Anderson, Rhonda – Ratify
Personal Aide – Replacement
Grandview Upper Elementary
Effective April 26, 2012

Watt, Caitlyn – Ratify
Personal Aide
Fawn Primary Center
Effective March 28, 2012

- Accepted, with regret, the following retirements as part of the Early Retirement Incentive:

Phillip Klemens
Special Education Teacher

High School
Effective June 8, 2012

Karen Davidek
6th Grade Teacher
Middle School
Effective June 8, 2012

Janet McCurdy
Speech Teacher
Grandview Upper Elementary
Effective June 8, 2012

Virginia S. Heasley
Elementary Teacher
Fairmount Primary Center
Effective June 8, 2012

Sandra L. Ross
Family and Consumer Science Teacher
High School
Effective June 8, 2012

Barbara J. Summers
Family and Consumer Science Teacher
Middle School
Effective June 8, 2012

RoseLynn Stanzione
Elementary Teacher
Fairmount Primary Center
Effective June 8, 2012

Mary C. Miller
Art Teacher
Fairmount & Fawn Primary Centers
Effective June 8, 2012

- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Judy L. Carroll**, Teacher Aide, Fairmount Primary Center effective June 8, 2012.

- The resolution to alter or curtail programs due to substantial decline in course enrollments or to conform to standards of organization or educational activities required by law for the 2012-2013 school year, as submitted. The following programs will be altered or curtailed for the 2012-2013 school year:

Family Consumer Science Department – all Middle School and High School level courses.

French – Levels 1-4.

Computer Applications – all courses at the High School level.

Keyboarding – all courses at the Middle School level.

- The motion to approve a resolution furloughing School District staff for the 2012-2013 school year. The following staff will be furloughed:

Heather Loughlin

Custodian

Richard Waltenbaugh

Custodian

Dennis Wagner

Custodian

Brian Clark

Custodian

Marjorie Papariella

Custodian

- The motion to approve a resolution furloughing professional employees for the 2012-2013 school year. The following staff will be furloughed:

Diane Broniszewski

French, High School

Scott Newell

Elementary Teacher

Kristen Gettens

Elementary Teacher

Renee Kuhns

Elementary Teacher

- The Board did not have to vote on Grievance #12-11 because it was withdrawn by the Highlands Education Association.

- The following 2012 Summer School Programs:

Summer Special Education Programs

July 9, 2012 – August 9, 2012

Highlands High School

8 a.m. to Noon

Teachers, Speech Therapists, Behavior Specialists and Nurses are paid at the contractual curriculum rate from ESY Funds/ IDEA Funds. Paraprofessionals are paid at their regular contracted rate of hourly pay for the hours they work from ESY Funds/IDEA Funds.

TEACHERS

Foster, Faith

Mason, Kevin

Barnhart, Cynthia

Trettel, Mary Anne

Seery, Bridget

Cale, Scott

Jodon, Bridgette

Miller, Christina

Wesley, Mindy

Woods, Antoinette

Rice, Zachary

Woodrow, Kim

Nurse

O'Hara, Rebecca

Data Collection

Nania, Vickie

Speech Therapist

BEHAVIOR SPECIALISTS

Ballard, Jason

Ferrante, Kristan

Brown, Michelle

AIDES

Garrett, Andrea

Essay, Suzanne

Bonifati, Carol

Supansic, Caroline

Valenti, Lois

Dudjak, Michael

Dorn, Sandra

Leasure, Rebecca

Misejka, Jaye

Artman, Terri

Verri, Amy

Title I Summer School

July 9, 2012 – August 9, 2012

Highlands High School

8 a.m. to Noon

Staff payments are the contractual hourly rate and will be through Title I funds.

TEACHERS

Rybak, Randy
Perlik, Samantha
DiMascio, Emily
Mazzotta, Jan
Milberger, Lauralee

Chester, Rachel
Substitute Teacher

Secondary Summer School Grades 6-12

June 18, 2012 – July 19, 2012
Highlands High School
9 a.m. to Noon

Staff payments are the contractual hourly rate and will be through SIG funds.

TEACHERS

Debor, Chuck
Polcha, Patrick
Keenan, Kathleen
Motosicky, Jennifer
Lenart, Kala
Hassler, Patrick

Bengel, Todd
Secondary Summer School Coordinator

Rea, Aaron
Summer School Coordinator Intern

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mrs. Thimons

- The Treasurer’s Report for March 2012, as submitted and subject to audit.
- The General Fund bills for May 2012, as submitted.

May 2012 to be ratified	\$ 503,480.32
May 2012 to be paid	\$ <u>311,516.72</u>
TOTAL	\$ 814,997.04

- The 2007 and 2012 Bond Issue bills, as submitted.
- The approval of the 2012-2013 Preliminary Final Budget in the amount of \$37,135,865, including all reductions as submitted by administration.

- The request of Harrison Township to jointly Sheriff Sale two properties for delinquent taxes. Costs to be shared.

Patricia Higgins

Glenn Street
Natrona Heights, PA
#1678-L-149

William Dugan

Cambridge Street
Natrona Heights, PA
#1367-C-213

- The Bond Resolution, as submitted.

**Mr. Krzton and Mr. Love voted "NO".*

- PNC Bank as the District's Depository for the 2012-2013 school year, in accordance with Section 621 of the Pennsylvania School Code.

- The District's investment institutions in accordance with Section 440.1 of the Pennsylvania School Code:

PNC Bank	First Commonwealth
Citizens Bank	PLGIT
PSDAF	PA State Treasurer's
First National Bank	Investment Program

COMMUNITY OUTREACH –Mrs. Fox, Mr. Krzton

Congratulations to Highlands High School students receiving honors at the Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizens banquet on May 3. Eleven Highlands students were honored, including **Eric Bengel, Lauren Gezo, Chelsea Grinchuk, Melissa Gustafson, Jacob Tutak, Ashlee Snyder, Amber Reigard, Kelly Jenniches, Nicole Green, Sean Frantz, and Steven Palowski**. Students must exhibit strong academic background, community service and be active in school or civic organizations.

Congratulations to The **Highlands High School Concert, Stage and Marching Bands** traveled to Williamsburg, Virginia from May 4 through May 6 for an annual Spring Band Competition. About 100 students performed extremely well, bringing home First Place in all categories.

Concert Band:

Class AA - 1st Place - Excellent Rating

Stage Band:

Class Class AA - 1st Place - Excellent Rating

Marching Band:

Class II / Parade - 1st Place - Superior Rating

Overall (Cross Division) Champion

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons

- The adoption of the Forbes Road Career and Technology Center Budget, as submitted.
- **Mrs. Carrie Fox** noted that Forbes Road CTC students will receive their Awards at an Award Ceremony held at East Allegheny High School. Last day for students at Forbes Road CTC is June 4.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Love

Mr. Jon Love reported that it is a very active time for legislation and action within PSBA. Some of the most important news briefs include:

- The Senate offered a budget plan different than Governor Corbett's for Pre-School to Post-Secondary funding that will eliminate the block grants that Mr. Corbett is proposing and reestablish the Accountability Block Grant program.
- Board members should send legislative platforms for the PSBA to undertake in the year 2012 by June 29, 2012.
- The PA Keystone Exams have changed from 10 tests to 5 tests, including Algebra, Literature and Biology with two more to be announced. This will begin with the Class of 2017.
- Senate Bill 1296 will redefine the process of hiring School Superintendents.
- Senate Bill 2300 will redefine the Homestead Act and how voters will be involved.
- The PSBA will hold its annual Publications Contest.

POLICY – Mr. Krzton, Mr. Masarik, Mr. Miles

- The first reading of the following policies:

#815 – Acceptable Use of Internet and Computer Resources

#810 – Transportation

#252 - Safety in Youth Sports

ATHLETICS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Masarik, Mr. Hanford

- The Athletic Fund Financial Report for April 2012, as submitted.
- Ratifying, with regret, the resignation of **Melissa L. Bernath**, Varsity and Competition Squad Cheerleading Coach/Sponsor.
- The hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2011-2012 school year, in accordance with Board Policy #404 (Pre-Employment Drug Test, #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check (Salary as per Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement,) and/or Board Policy #916.1:

Name	Position
------	----------

Beam, Patricia – Ratify	Track Timekeeper
Keenan, Kathleen – Ratify	Track Timekeeper
Schmitt, Kevin – Ratify	Track Timekeeper
Leinart, Kala – Ratify	Track Timekeeper
Ferrante, Kristen – Ratify	Track Timekeeper

MISCELLANEOUS

- The change in the June 2012 Regular Meeting to Tuesday, June 26, 2012 for adoption of budget and the closing of Heights Early Childhood Center. The meeting will be held at 7 pm in the High School Library.
- The undersigning letter rejecting amendment in House Bill 209.

2012 Highlands School Board Members

Debbie Beale – President

Carrie Fox – Vice President

Laura Thimons

Jonathon Love

Ron Lang

William Krzton

Eric Miles

Michael Masarik

Ryan Hanford