

# Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

## January 19, 2015 Voting 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

Mrs. Carrie Fox noted that the Board held a brief Executive Session to discuss the Solicitor's contract for 2015. She also congratulated the various groups that performed or held holiday events throughout December for doing such a wonderful job representing Highlands with their talents and dedication.

**ROLL CALL – Mr. Lang and Mr. Miles** were absent.

**REMARKS BY VISITORS** - Note: Remarks to be restricted to those items listed on the Agenda. Persons offering remarks, when recognized, are to stand and state their name and place of residence.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Board approved the minutes of the November 17, 2014 Regular Meeting, the December 2, 2014 Reorganization, Planning and Regular Meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – No report.**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – Alexis Carrion** reported the following:

On Tuesday, December 23, HHS students participated in an presentation sponsored by the **Demi Brae Cuccia Foundation**. Dr. Cuccia spoke about the tragic death of his daughter in 2007 and the warning signs to look for whenever students are in a hostile and violent relationship. Each student was given a bracelet and t-shirt to help spread the word about dating violence.

This Wednesday, Student Council sponsor, **Mrs. Jen Galcik** is organizing a safe driving presentation for all 11th and 12th grade HHS students. Highlands High School students will be presented with the Taking the Lead: Ford Driving Skills for Life program. The program is designed to educate and encourage students to be safe drivers from a panel of experts, including a state police officer. The program is presented by KDKA-TV and partners. Sarah Arbogast of KDKA-TV will kick off the program.

Last week, those 10th and 11th graders who are not yet proficient were given the opportunity to retake the **Algebra I Keystone exam**. Students were scheduled throughout the day to take the test on the computers in the Library and conference room. The on-line version of the test went very smoothly. As a reminder, students have until the end of their junior year to demonstrate proficiency in Algebra I, Biology and Literature.

The members of the **National Honor Society** have chosen the Make-A-Wish foundation as their charitable benefactor this year. On Saturday, January 31st, they are sponsoring the first annual **Prom Fashion Show** in the Auditorium. Cost is \$2 per ticket. All proceeds benefit the Prom and the National Honor Society's Make-A-Wish Collection. Bake sale, Chinese auction basket raffle, and HHS students can win a chance to win a free ticket to the Highlands Prom!

As you may already know, HHS is partnering with **Oberg Manufacturing** to offer selected seniors the opportunity to become Junior Apprentices. These 6 seniors have been shadowing Oberg employees once each month by rotating through the various departments - manufacturing, medical and aero space. They also are piloting the new courses – Natural Resources Technology, Geometric Dimension and Tolerance and Advanced Geometry and Trigonometry that will enable them to pre-qualify for full time employment at Oberg's after graduation.

Congratulations to seniors **Megan McGuinness, Noah Young and Brandon Johnson** for being selected to participate in the PMEA District Band.

Congratulations to **Mrs. Jamee Bonnett and the Varsity Competition Squad** on their win in the WPIAL Class AA championships held at Hempfield High School last weekend. The Rams have secured the championship spot both years since it has become a WPIAL category.

97 seniors received their RAMS pass for the second marking period. These passes entitle the students to several privileges such as study hall time in the Commons area, free admission to sporting events and the ability to leave class early to for lunch. Eligibility criteria are based upon course grades, completion of Keystone requirements and positive behavior in the school and community. We are hopeful these seniors will serve as role models to the younger students.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Michael Bjalobok** reported the following:

- Thank you to the School Board for all of the time and dedication to the District and its students and programs. January is **School Director Recognition Month**. Highlands school board has endured a tough few years making decisions that align with student need and budgetary restrictions. Dr. Bjalobok read a Proclamation in honor of the School Board. (It is available for review on the Highlights page as a link). Each board member was presented with a Highlands padfolio, chocolates and appreciation cards from Fairmount, Fawn and Grandview students and teachers. A small reception followed the board meeting with desserts for the meeting guests and the board.
- Some of Highlands most successful programs impacting students branch out from the Special Education Department and director **Mrs. Deb Lehew**. Mrs. Lehew has helped to secure more than \$100,000 in grants for programs and training that support all students and families in the school, regardless if they fall in the Special Education category or not. Most recently, Mrs. Lehew had presentations from various School Wide Positive Behavior Support programs in all Highlands schools to RtII and MTSS selected for presentations at national and state educational conferences.

**ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Mr. Patrick Graczyk** reported the following:

- **Mr. Graczyk** thanked the Board for their time and dedication. Thanks for all the support this year!
- We held a meeting with an Intermediate Unit representative to discuss the math curriculum. We are in the process of looking at gaps and preparing for Common Core, which we started two years ago by working on rigor and relevance in the math curriculum. From that may stem a request for a new text series. We will wait to make that request until next year after an independent audit and showcase of some texts and working with the AIU. We will continue to work on the curriculum.
- The HVA Committee continues to meet and work on improving virtual learning. We have met with some vendors, the current Highlands Virtual Academy and representatives from Seneca Valley. We are looking at our current contract also.
- Title I is currently looking at non-public schools for their free and reduced lunch numbers to work on budget and services.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Ms. Misty Chybrzynski** reported the following:

**Dr. Karen King** was named the "2014 McKinney-Veto Regional Advocate of the Year" at the 2014 ECYEH Conference! Recipients received the award based on continual efforts and support of students experiencing homelessness in their home districts. Dr. King is the Pupil Personnel Services Director at Highlands. We are proud of you, Dr. King!

The Title I / Parent Advisory Council will meet at Fairmount Primary Center beginning at 10 AM. This is an opportunity for parents to meet with Title I staff and teachers as well as the schools PTO group representatives to discuss upcoming events, educational information and school fundraising events. All parents are welcomed to attend.

COMING UP! The annual Musical Alumni Cabaret Fundraiser "A Wild & Wonderful Evening with the GOLDEN Stars!" will be held Saturday, Feb. 7 beginning at 7 PM. Enjoy musical selections from current and former students from the Highlands Music Department. The evening will include light refreshments and raffles for gift basket giveaways. Proceeds benefit the Highlands High School "Tarzan the Musical" Production taking place at Highlands March 6-8.

- Highlands High School will host the 1st Annual Prom Show on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 3 PM at the High School Auditorium. Cost is \$2 per ticket. All proceeds benefit the Prom and the National Honor Society's Make-A-Wish Collection. Bake sale, Chinese auction basket raffle, and HHS students can win a chance to win a free ticket to the Highlands Prom! Check out more details here: <http://bit.ly/1ARI2nJ>.

GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE! Kicks off next MONDAY through FRIDAY! The Board, residents, parents, teachers and students are encouraged to show KINDNESS MATTERS by completing a list of tasks or items in their schools and community. Let's shine a light on the Highlands community! This is a national anti-bullying campaign encouraged to engage all members of the district. Highlands has been designated as a Kindness Certified District. I am collecting donations of gift cards and other items for a secret raffle. Please contact me at the Administrative Center if you would like to donate. Various activities will be taking place at all district buildings to make Highlands a kinder, friendlier place. Check out goldenrams.com for more information, how to connect on social media and download the app or pick up your own list on the table near the entrance. Make sure to tell us what you did at the end of the week!

***The Board voted unanimously for the following agenda items (unless otherwise noted):***

**CAFETERIA – Mr. Hanford**

- The payment of Cafeteria Fund Bills, as submitted.  
December to be ratified \$ 72,716.51  
January to be paid     \$ 86,423.22  
                                  \$159,139.73

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Beale**

- The Student Activities Fund Financial Report, as submitted.
- **Mrs. Beale** recognized Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and noted what an amazing visionary he was. She quoted Dr. King: *"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*

**INSTRUCTION – Mr. Love**

- The Special Education Settlement Agreement and Release for student D.S., as submitted.

**TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Masarik**

No Report.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang**

- The Use of Facilities, as submitted. (See appendix link on Board Highlights page).

**PERSONNEL – Mr. Miles**

- Ratifying the 2014-2015 Substitute Teacher Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test, #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check). (See appendix link on Board Highlights page).
- Ratifying the 2014-2015 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). (See appendix link on Board Highlights page).
- 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:

- A.     Dickey, Harry  
        Custodian II – Fawn Primary Center  
        Effective January 20, 2015
- B.     Duell, Scott – RATIFY  
        Personal Aide – High School (Replacement)  
        Effective December 2, 2014
- C.     Kresiak, Gina - RATIFY  
        Personal Aide High School  
        Effective January 13, 2015
- E.     Squires, Melissa - RATIFY  
        Personal Aide – High School (Replacement)  
        Rate: \$10.15/hour  
        Effective January 13, 2015
- F.     Wike, Heather - RATIFY  
        Personal Aide – Fairmount (Replacement)  
        Rate: \$9.90/hour  
        Effective January 13, 2015

- The resignation of the following staff:

- A.     Del Duca, Jennifer  
        Speech/Language Teacher - Grandview  
        Effective June 5, 2015

- B. Bloch, Kelly - RATIFY  
Nurse Aide – Fairmount  
Effective December 23, 2014
- C. Hock, Jaclyn  
Gr. 6 Math Teacher – Middle School  
Effective January 21, 2015

- The following requests for FMLA:

- A. Employee # 5628  
April 1, 2015 – end of the school year  
Utilizing available sick and personal days.
- B. Employee #4787  
Extending FMLA through May 16, 2015

- The following request for Leave of Absence:

- A. Employee # 3925  
January 11, 2015 – February 11, 2015  
Utilizing available sick days
- B. Employee # 5236  
March 18, 2015 through the end of the school year  
Utilizing available sick days

- Extension of W.L. Roenigk Transportation Agreement effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019, as submitted.

- Memorandum of Understanding to resolve Grievance No. 1-2014-2015 between the Highlands Educational Support Personnel Association and the School District, as submitted.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Highlands School District and the Highlands Education Association, PSEA/NEA to resolve Grievance No. 14-02, as submitted.

- Weiss Burkardt Kramer, LLC as Solicitor of the 2015 Calendar year.

**FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles**

- Tax Refunds, as submitted.

December to be ratified	\$22,238.10
January to be paid	<u>\$36,514.33</u>
	\$58,752.43

- Payment of General Fund Bills, as submitted.

December to be ratified	\$1,200,113.72
January to be paid	<u>\$ 515,146.99</u>
	\$1,715,260.71

- The budget resolution in accordance with Act 1, as submitted.

- Highlands PPACA Compliance Plan, as submitted.

**FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons**

**Mrs. Fox** reported the following:

- The 2014 **Future Business Leaders of America Regional Conference** was held on Dec. 16, 2014. Three Highlands students placed. Those students are **Matt Morrow**, First Place – Spreadsheet; **Nick Carrigan**, Second Place – Network Design Team and **Shane Kazmierczyk**, Third Place – Introductions to Technology Concepts. Congratulations!

- Mrs. Beale requested the attendance of Mrs. Fox at the Forbes Board meetings last year. Mrs. Fox reported that she had attended every meeting except for one in October when she attended the annual PSBA Conference in Hershey, PA on behalf of Highlands.

**PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Hanford**

Mr. Hanford reported the following:

- Governor Tom Wolf will take office this week after being sworn-in tomorrow. He will appoint Pedro Rivera as Secretary of Education.
- The state reported that more than 5,000 people took the Eligible Content survey and visited a site welcoming their feedback on materials in the state assessments for students. Most comments were about math Grade 8 and English and Language Arts tests.
- All educational institutions will now have their financial information viewable on the state website School Performance Profiles sites.
- The state Board held their first meeting last week.

**AIU 3 REPORT – Mrs. Beale**

- **Mrs. Beale** did not have a report – there was not an AIU meeting held in December.

**POLICY – Mrs. Thimons**

- The first reading of the following Board Policies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. No. 000 Board Policy / Procedure/ Administrative Regulations</li> <li>B. No. 001 Name and Classification</li> <li>C. No. 002 Authority and Powers</li> <li>D. No. 003 Functions</li> <li>E. No. 004 Membership</li> <li>F. No. 004.1 Student Board Representative</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>G. No. 005 Organization</li> <li>H. No. 006 Meetings</li> <li>I. No. 006.1 Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications</li> <li>J. No. 007 Policy Manual Access</li> <li>K. No. 011 Board Governance Standards/Code of Conduct</li> </ul> |
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\* Mr. Love voted for "First reading with his noted changes."

\* Mrs. Thimons voted for "First reading with approval for Solicitor to review the policies for HSD manual."

\* Mr. Masarik voted for "First Reading with Solicitor review prior to Second Reading and an estimated cost for Solcitiors review of entire manual."

**ATHLETICS – Mr. Myers**

- The Athletic Fund Financial Report, as submitted.

- Ratifying the hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2014-2015 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
<b>Flenory, Julian</b>	MS Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
<b>Stack, Catherine</b>	HS Assistant Swim Coach

- The hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2015-2016 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
<b>Davis, Martina</b>	Volleyball Head Coach

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- **Mr. Love** announced a \$1,000 check donation from PPG Industries Foundation on behalf of his service on the Board and as an employee of PPG Industries. \$500 will be designated for the Music Program and \$500 will be designated for the GATE Program.

*2015 Highlands School Board Members*

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Carrie Fox – President</i> | <i>Eric Miles – Vice President</i> |                     |
| <i>Laura Thimons</i>          | <i>Jonathon Love</i>               |                     |
| <i>Ron Lang</i>               | <i>Kerry Myers</i>                 |                     |
| <i>Ryan Hanford</i>           | <i>Michael Masarik</i>             | <i>Debbie Beale</i> |