

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

January 22, 2014 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

Carrie Fox opened the meeting with the following remarks: Please keep the Palmer family in your thoughts. They suffered a house fire in December.

ROLL CALL –Ron Lang was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Board approved the minutes of the November 18, 2013 and the December 3, 2014 Reorganization, Planning and Regular Meeting, with the correction in the December 3 meeting minutes to reflect a 5 – 4 vote in favor of Mr. Ryan Hanford for Board Vice President.

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.

SECRETARY'S REPORT –Jon Rupert was absent (bereavement).

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – Jacob Diller reported the following:

- **Highlands High School** hosted a "**Mentor Morning**" on Friday, December 20. The second annual event invited members of the local community, school administration and faculty, professionals and artists into the school to present a variety of subjects to students. Students were able to select the topics they have interests in and then rotate to another session during the day.
- Members of the National Honor Society invited students from the Life Skills class to a Buddy Breakfast, which encourages social skills and creates friendships.
- During a commute to Forbes Road CTC, a bus accident occurred resulting in a fatality. The driver, **Edward Nee**, died after colliding into the school bus. The High School recognizes the passing of Mr. Nee. The school also thanks **Collette Hicks**, who put concerns for the students and their safety a priority over her own comfort or needs. In addition, the High School thanks the school nurses, **Kim Woodrow, Mary Beth Jones and Shelly Long-Vickers**; school guidance department **Dr. Karen King, Michelle Majcher, Julianne Allman, Beth Carrarini and Susie Giovengo** and staff **Patty Sirota, Shawn Bennis, Jay Morgan and Charles Mort** for their care at the site and after the incident.
- Art students are creating a life-sized dragon for the musical production "Shrek" during Saturday sessions with Artist in Residence **Cheryl Capezzuti** and teachers **Teresa Emeloff, Renae Yoder and Michael Zeiler**.
- The Highlands HS Competition Cheer Squad will be competing in the PIAA Competition in Hershey. Good luck!
- FAFSA Completion Night will be Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 6:00 pm - High School. A representative from PHEAA will be present to help parents submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Please call Beth Carrarini at (724) 226-1000 x 4107 to make a reservation.

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

- January is School Director Recognition Month. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Everyday Heroes!" Highlands School Board of Directors is a group of nine local residents who are elected to four-year terms to oversee school operations, work with administration to establish a vision and set goals, and to represent members of their regions. Board directors volunteer their time to the residents, faculty and students of the district. Members of this school board have faced tumultuous times in the past few years. The board has been forced to make tough decisions, think creatively and still preserve the goals of the district during budget cuts from the state level and other crisis in public education. The school board supports student achievement and success by approving new programs and ideas pitched by administration, supporting student groups and preserving music and the arts. The board regularly publicly recognizes student projects and achievements. The board also encourages students to learn about government planning and administration by inviting them to the annual PSBA Conference held in Hershey, PA, and by having a Student Representative sit on the board at voting meetings. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to Highlands!
- There will be a new look for the Superintendent's report in the upcoming months. Administrators will be updating the Board and the public about various programs and current events for student success.
- The local EMS will be using the Heights building for a training session involving response to active shooter situations.
- The Technology Project at Highlands is a slow process, but it is in action. Currently the elementary schools are having wireless installed, the servers will be updated and the new tablets will be processed for imaging.

ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Mr. Patrick Graczyk reported the following: Update on Teacher Effectiveness, Differentiated Supervision, Compass Learning and Title I. Please see the link below the Highlights to view the Power Point presentation.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Ms. Misty Chybrzynski reported the following:

- Support the ARTS and Give Back to the community! **Highlands Music Department** is sponsoring the 5th Annual **Highlands Gives Back Charity Concert** on Friday, Jan. 24 in the Highlands Middle School Auditorium beginning at 7 pm. This much-anticipated annual event collects donations to support the Alle-Kiski Hope Center, AVAC Food Bank, and Highlands Area Meals on Wheels. Featured acts are the Highlands Gives Back Big Band, with a vocalist; Highlands Class of 2000 graduate, Mary Ann Mangini-Carmella, and the Highlands Alumni Choir. Donations of cash, canned/dry goods, or new children's clothing, will be collected at the door for admission. Event will also feature a Gift Basket Raffle, 50/50 Raffle, and a Reception following the concert.

- Highlands will once again roll out the red carpet for its musical theater stars - past and present - at the Highlands Alumni Cabaret Concert on **Saturday, February 8, 2014** at Highlands High School. The concert, **"An Enchanted Evening with the Shining Stars"**, will feature performances by musical alumni and the current High School musical cast of "Shrek the Musical", which is the 27th musical in Highlands' history of consecutive musical productions since 1988. In addition to the concert, guests are encouraged to come early for a buffet dinner catered by A Grand Affair Catering in the High School Commons. To RSVP for the buffet dinner, please contact Deb Lehew at dlehew@goldenrams.com or Michael Zeiler at mzeiler@goldenrams.com or 724-226-1000, ext. 5106 **BY FEBRUARY 1, 2014**. Doors will open for the buffet at 6 pm. The concert will begin at 7 pm. Ticket prices are as follows: Buffet with Concert: Adults - \$16.00; Students - \$12.00. Concert Only: \$5.00.

- Tonight we recognize several students recently involved in various projects or achievements:

- **Quinten, Hannah and Zoe Jones, and Austin Winter** organized the Warm Heart Project and collected 73 blankets for Operation Safety Net. The students collected, cleaned and solicited donations in this independent project, with the help of **Mrs. Pat Tigano**.

- Forbes students competed at Seven Springs in the annual Skills USA Competition. The Highlands students who placed in this highly competitive competition are **Julie Dawson, Nick Carrigan and David Zaborowski**.

- NHS students braved the heavy snowfall and bitter cold on Dec. 21 to host a Stuff A Bus event at HMS and at Grandview. The Stuff A Bus event alone collected about 300 toys with the other schools donating a few hundred more. NHS students and sponsors Mindy Eckenrod and Sherri Armstrong also traveled to the Springdale location with NHS students to sort and bag items for families with Gunnery Sgt Kevin Geppert and volunteers from Marine Corps and Marine Reserves. Representing NHS are officers **Jacob Diller, Michael Calfe, Claire Pacek, Danielle Voytko, Cassie Eckenrod and Janey Walters**.

- The annual District 3 DECA Competition is a regional event that pins students involved in DECA at local schools against each other to advance to a statewide competition held in Hershey in February. We are proud to not only announce our many winning students but also recognize **Josh Nulph** as the new DECA District 3 Representative! Winners are: **Zach Shutak, Michelle Kisiel, Cory McClain, Sammy Linnville, Derrek Koblinsky, Julian Flenory, Alex Monaghan, Seth Ryan, Carly Boda, Lillie McHenry, Josh Nulph, Jake Korber, Bobby Blazina, Brady Lee and Zachary Palyszeski**.

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

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles

- Approving the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for December 2013 and January 2014, as submitted.
- Approving the payment of Cafeteria Fund Bills for December 2013 and January 2014, as submitted.

December to be ratified	\$ 82,102.58
January to be paid	<u>\$ 45,402.91</u>
TOTAL	\$127,505.49

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mr. Love, Mr. Masarik

- Approving the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for October, November and December 2013, as submitted.
- Approving the Cheerleading Squad to attend the PIAA Championship on January 24 and 25, 2014 in Hershey PA. The cost to the district is as follows:

\$100.00 – PIAA Registration Fee
<u>\$168.00 – School Bus Fee</u>
\$268.00 – Total

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Beale, Mrs. Thimons

- Approving the 2014-2015 High School Program of Studies, as submitted.
- Approving the C-Mites Program to be held at the High School from June 16 through June 20, 2014 at no cost to the district.

- Approving the R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) program at Grandview Upper Elementary at no cost to the district.

- Approving a 2.5 year EES software licensing agreement through IU13, which will provide Microsoft Windows and Office upgradeable licensing to all district owned computers. It will also include licensing for any future server upgrades. Cost for the balance of the current year will be \$11,303.99 for 281 staff members and 2,526 students. Assuming the same levels of enrollment, costs for the remaining 2 years will be \$22,416.96 annually.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Beale

No Report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Myers

- Approving the Use of Facilities, as submitted. [SEE APPENDIX 6.1]
- Authorizing Administration to advertise for bids for Track and Turf surface replacement.

PERSONNEL – Mr. Hanford, Mrs. Thimons

- Ratifying the 2013-2014 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 7.1]
- Approving 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:

Nicole Bise – Ratify

Custodian II – Fawn

Effective December 2013

Salary in accordance with SEIU Contract

Beau Elliott – Ratify

Behavior Aide – Replacement

Middle School

Step 5 of Aide/Secretary Salary Schedule (\$10.43)

Effective January 2, 2014

- Ratifying the resignation of **Christina Rago**, Social Worker Grandview Upper Elementary effective January 3, 2014.
- Approving the Memorandum of Understanding with Highlands Education Association to resolve Grievance No. 13-06 regarding the recall of furloughed teachers, as presented. [SEE APPENDIX 7.4]
- Approving the unpaid Child Rearing leave of **Jaclyn Hock** effective January 30, 2014 through August 2014.

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mr. Love

- Ratifying/approving Tax Refunds in the amount of \$40,795.16 for December 2013 and January 2014, as submitted.
- Approving payment of General Fund bills, as submitted.

December to be ratified	\$1,092,460.42
January to be ratified	\$ 191,707.75
January to be paid	\$ 400,190.91
TOTAL	\$ 1,684,359.08

- Approving the 2007 and 2012 Bond Issue Reports, as submitted.
- Approving district Tax Collection/Publication Procedures, as submitted.
- Approving the Budget Resolution, in accordance with Act 1, as submitted.
- Approving District Copier Agreement with Ford Business Machines at a cost of \$3,370 in accordance with state bid contract pricing, and all service and supply specifications of the District. (No increase in cost and savings of \$303 per month).

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Carrie Fox reported the following:

- Three Highlands High School students attended the Skills USA Conference and won awards: **Mason Dixon, Nick Jones and Matthew Morrow**. They will compete in Hershey in April.
- Forbes Road CTC and other CTCs will share \$1.7 million in state funding for new training equipment. Forbes will receive \$35,086.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Love

- PSBA is soliciting help for editorial teams. Call Steve Robinson if you are interested.
- Dues increase for 2014-15 will be a 2.1 percent increase. This is the first increase in six years.

- The Department of Education will present a budget review webinar on February 5 at 2 PM.

POLICY – Mr. Masarik, Mr. Love

- Approving the 2014 Policy Committee Meeting dates, as submitted. **[SEE APPEDIX 12.1]**. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays prior to the agenda meetings at 6 PM in the Administrative Center Conference Room.

ATHLETICS – Mr. Myers, Mr. Hanford

- Approving the Athletic Fund Financial Report for December 2013, as submitted.

- Ratifying the hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2013-2014 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
Pringle, Cody	Varsity Assistant Wrestling Coach
Bachman, Marcus	Volunteer Wrestling Coach
Sable, Jordan	Volunteer Wrestling Coach
Orris, Joshua	Volunteer Wrestling Coach
Newell, Scott	Timekeeper/Scorekeeper Winter Sports
Masarik, Michael	Recreational Swim Supervisor
Lewis, Keely	Student Lifeguard
Baker, Arelia	Student Lifeguard
Daugherty, Abby	Student Lifeguard
Masarik, Nathan	Student Lifeguard
McDaniel, Jordan	Student Lifeguard
Frantz, Sean	Student Lifeguard
Walters, Shelby	Student Lifeguard
McClure, Kelli	Student Lifeguard
Murray, Bill	JV Baseball Coach
Haggerty, Robert	Volunteer Baseball Coach
Torgent, Nathan	Volunteer Baseball Coach
Gallagher, Dennis	Volunteer Baseball Coach
Campbell, Jeffrey	Volunteer Baseball Coach
Barch, Benjamin	Volunteer Baseball Coach

MISCELLANEOUS

- Approving the renewal of the contract of the **Law Offices of Weiss Burkardt Kramer, LLC** as the District Solicitor for the 2014 calendar year at an hourly rate of \$115.00 per hour, all other services to remain the same.

- Approving a settlement in lieu of due process in the matter involving E.M. and the Highlands School District, as submitted by the Solicitor.

- Approving **Debbie Beale** as a candidate for the AIU Board of Directors.

FYI – There is an AIU Health Consortium Board position available March 2014 if anyone is interested in being elected by the Eastern Region.

- **Jon Love** made a motion to approve the First Reading of the policy involving Board Members serving as coaches. *The motion failed at 4-4, with Mr. Hanford, Mr. Myers, Mrs. Thimons and Mrs. Fox voting "NO."*

- Jon Love reported that the **PPG Foundation** awarded teacher **John Malobicky's** Engineering students a \$1,000 grant for their Bots IQ project.

2014 Highlands School Board Members

Carrie Fox – President

Ryan Hanford – Vice President

Laura Thimons

Jonathon Love

Ron Lang

Kerry Myers

Eric Miles

Michael Masarik

Debbie Beale