

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

February 16, 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 recognized President's Day as a time to reflect on the achievements of the many great leaders of our nation, and thanked the public for attending despite the cold weather.

ROLL CALL – All present.

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 minutes of the Jan. 19, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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 -**Mr. Jon Rupert** reported the following:

- Single audit act was accepted and filed on time by the state
- We have been working with Jamie Montgomery looking for refunding, but not enough to bring to the board.
- A section of the Middle School roof blew off, and the insurance will cover about \$140,000. Will discuss next month.
- Notice from PNC Trust: There is a scholarship given to Harrison Township students since 1963, and do not want to continue, so they would like to turn it over to the District for four students to be ran out of the Guidance Department. The Board may vote on it next month.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – No representative present (no school).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – **Dr. Michael Bjalobok**

- Administrative Center closing occurred on Thursday.
- New Child Protective Act requires all employees and all volunteers to renew clearances. We would like to get the AIU Van on-site to assist for a small fee obtaining the FBI clearances.
- There is some discussion on the costs for mediation regarding Keystone Exams.
- About a year ago, we spoke about the need for a new Student Information System. We opted not to pursue Harris last year due to issues with the system. It is time to revisit the SIS and we would like to look at Harris and Skyward. Harris has increased support and answered some issues with the implementations. We will meet on Thursday and have something for the Board next month.

ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -**Mr. Patrick Graczyk** combined the **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** report by **Ms. Misty Chybrzynski** with his report (Ms. Chybrzynski not present due to house and cold weather issues):

Great Kindness Challenge – All schools participated in the GKC the last week of January. Totals and highlights are:

- 10,505 Acts of Kindness from students and staff district-wide
- Grandview raised \$1,191.21 for Change for Cancer, a charitable foundation by Georgia Brothers, 11, from Burrell School District, to help offset costs for local cancer patients in the A-K Valley
- Sending 838 Handprint Cut-Outs to a Guinness Book of World Records global challenge
- Tarentum Mayor Carl Magnetta officially proclaiming Grandview Upper Elementary School a "School of Great Kindness"
- Joining 2,104,556 students in 3,969 schools in 47 countries in addressing bullying and embracing kindness

- Inviting parents into Fairmount Primary Center to help students leave a mark of kindness on the lobby entry with painted handprints
- Decorating schools with huge "Kindness Trees" and Kindness Chains
- Kick-off assemblies at Grandview Upper Elementary School with Keynote Speaker Georgia Brothers, at Fawn Primary Center with poetry and songs hosted by teacher Samantha Perlik and at Fairmount Primary Center with excitement and checklist distribution by teacher Mark Duncan.
- A secret raffle for students completing 40 or more of their Kind Acts, thanks to the donations of local businesses, parents and teachers.

Cabaret Concert -

The 3rd annual Highlands Alumni Cabaret Concert on February 7 provided the audience with a "wild and wonderful evening with the Golden Stars"! The concert featured musical selections by Highlands Musical Alumni and the 2015 Tarzan musical cast. The event was coordinated by Highlands High School musical director Michael Zeiler, with help from the production staff and cast / parents of Tarzan. Alumni participants were Philip Doverspike, Elena Egusquiza-Miller, Katie (Ross) Erwin, Jeremy Fox, Megan Grupac, Tyler Kirin, Cassie Kosmal, Ian Meyers, Nathanael Nulph, Katelyn Smith, Tabitha Smith, Vincenzina (Smith) Olszewski, Libby Papariella, Meggi Stimmler, Allie Thimons, Jade Wylie-Palermo, Doryan Ward and Michael Zeiler.

SPORTS –

The Highlands HS Varsity Rams Basketball Team advanced to the WPIAL Playoffs with a 89-55 win against West Shamokin of Friday. Check out the recap here: <http://bit.ly/17GGJfx> . Let's PACK THE STANDS tomorrow, Tuesday Feb. 17 at 8 PM when the Rams face West Mifflin at Baldwin High School! Pre-sale tickets are available for purchase on Monday, Feb. 16 from 6-8 PM at Highlands High School in the gym area.

Girls basketball – the team finished their season with a fighting chance against Deer Lakes for the WPIAL playoffs. Unfortunately they did not advance, but with playing three section games in three nights, we are still proud of their efforts. The team is a young team and we are excited to see them on the court next season.

Swimming – Several swimmers advanced to the WPIAL qualifiers and will swim this weekend. Qualifiers are Ben Blackburn, Bailey Bonnett in 8 categories and Nathan Masarik in 7 categories. In addition to these individual swimmers, Laura Ciuchtu, Shelby Walters and Jocelyn Gillette will swim with Bailey for two team events and Cole Masarik and Jacob Watts will join Nathan and Ben for two boys team events.

DECA – DECA's District Career Development Conferences are the beginning of the year for more than 200,000 students nationwide. Highlands had many winners this year. The following students placed at district competition and will be attending the state career development conference in Hershey, PA. Students are: Haley Rotter, Kennedy Carson, Damien Wellington, Alex Monaghan Emily Strezesieski, Nathan Masarik, Cole Masarik, Emily Collins, Mason Emanuleson, Nick Korber, Lillie McHenry, Kayla Beale, Josh Nulph, Renee Cebula, Amber Reigard, Jake Korber, Derrek Henry, Alesha Nortum, Morgan Negrich, Abby Daughtery, Bri Geppert, Brayden Thimons, Elijah Jackson, Brock Smith. Highlands students Josh Nulph is also making a run for PA DECA State President for next year.

UPCOMING –

Spaghetti dinner and craft show fundraiser at Highlands HS on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 2 – 7 PM. Supports the Science Olympiad at Grandview.

Musicals! Tarzan at Highlands High School from March 6-8. The Music Man Jr. from March 27 & 28.

Read across America Week kicks off with the Title I Family Reading Night on Monday, March 2 at 6:30 PM at the Middle School, with magician Jeff Alan and a reception to follow.

Community Conversations, 9 AM, Wed. Feb. 25 at the Community Center – Meet with Dr. Bjalobok to discuss district programs, state education initiatives and more!

AGENDA ITEMS

Unless otherwise noted, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following items:

CAFETERIA - Mr. Hanford

- The payment of Cafeteria Fund Bills, as submitted.
February to be paid \$19,967.80

STUDENT ACTIVITIES - Mrs. Beale

- Louis Lynn as the Middle School Musical Tech Director/Stage Crew Manager.
- Patricia Beam as the Pearl Team Co-Team Leader, Middle School.

INSTRUCTION - Mr. Love

- The 2015-2016 High School Program of Studies, as submitted.
- Epic, Inc., the District's e-rate consultant, to submit a technology project of approximately \$300,000 out for bid to improve the District's technology infrastructure contingent upon receiving e-rate funding of approximately 85%.

TRANSPORTATION - Mr. Masarik

No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - Mr. Lang

- The Use of Facilities, as submitted [COPY ATTACHED]
- Services for grass cutting, fertilizing, and field lining, as submitted.
Grass Cutting Luke Pollick - \$19,400
Fertilizing - MMC Land Management \$8,906
Field Lining - Softball Field Luke Pollick \$3,200
Field Lining -High School Baseball Field Luke Pollick \$1,200

PERSONNEL - Mr. Miles

- 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). [COPY ATTACHED]
- The 2014-2015 Substitute Aide/Secretary Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #505 (Pre-Employment Drug Test, #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check). [COPY ATTACHED]
- 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). [COPY ATTACHED]
- The retirement of Bonita Crawford, Guidance Secretary, Middle School, effective Feb. 11, 2015.
- The following request for FMLA:
Employee #4082
Beginning January 28, 2015
Utilizing available sick, personal, and vacation days
- The following request for Leave of Absence:
Employee #5543
April 10 through the end of the school year utilizing available sick days
Employee #5432
April 1 through the end of the school year utilizing available sick and personal days

- Hiring the following Classified Employee in accordance with Board Policy #504 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #515, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check:
Malaspina, Lynn (Replacement)
 Nurse Aide – Fairmount
 Rate: \$13.48/hour
 Effective February 17, 2015
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Highlands School District and the Highlands Education Association, PSEA/NEA to resolve Grievance Nos. 14-03 and 14-04, as submitted.

FINANCE/TAX - Mr. Miles

- Tax Refunds, as submitted.
 February to be paid \$27,354.62
- Payment of General Fund Bills, as submitted.
 February to be ratified \$176,173.76
- February to be paid \$625,308.54
 \$801,482.30

FORBES ROAD CTC - Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons

- Meeting recognized the Board members and introduced all the students from each district.
- Nick Carrigan from HHS will be introduced into the National Technical Honor Society on March 3.
- Recruiting Day on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at the High School for 9th Graders.

PSBA/NSBA - Mr. Hanford

- Adopting the Fair Funding Resolution, as submitted.
- Report: Gov. Wolf presented a gas extraction tax for Education. This would be good to get more money for Education.
- Saturday, Aug. 8 first state PSBA meeting in Mechanicsburg, if interested in attending call Shauna De'Allessandro.

AIU 3 REPORT - Mrs. Beale

- Gov. Wolf happened to be in Monroeville talking about Marcellus Shale, and Dr. Linda Hippert met with him about the extraction tax.
- There will be a meeting for "Stand Up for Public Education" at the AIU on April 16. This is an annual event that invites several legislators, representatives, PSBA members, teachers and administrators and PTA volunteers to meet with legislators and hear information regarding education and current events.
- There was a letter in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Friday, Feb. 13 regarding the "Good Work of the AIU" by Bart Rocco, Supt. of Elizabeth Forward SD, and Gregg Behr, executive director of the Gabel Foundation. The letter details how the AIU has supported county schools and the amazing number of services provided to county students. Read the article here: <http://bit.ly/1KSL0Zq>.
- Dr. Hippert met with the Education Secretary Pedro Rivera and will be reporting to us next week about the meeting.
- January 29 – Allegheny County Leaders Education Dinner was attended by Mrs. Fox, Dr. Bjalobok and Mr. Miles.
- New state requirements under way with Act 126. Services offered through AIU to help with the paperwork.

POLICY - Mrs. Thimons

- The second reading of the following Board Policies:

No. 000 : Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations

B.	No. 001	Name and Classification
C.	No. 002	Authority and Powers
D.	No. 003	Functions
E.	No. 004	Membership
F.	No. 004.1	Student Board Representative
G.	No. 005	Organization <i>Mr. Love opposed to "G".</i>

- H. No. 006 Meetings
- I. No. 006.1 Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic
- J. No. 007 Policy Manual Access
- K. No. 011 Board Governance Standards/Codes of Conduct

**Mr. Masarik & Mrs. Beale opposed to vote.*

ATHLETICS - Mr. Myers

- The Athletic Fund Financial Report, as submitted.
- 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 #916.1:

Name	Position
Thimons, Sharon	Boys Varsity Tennis
Koprivnikar, Jennifer	Girls Varsity Softball
Blackburn, Janice	Girls JV Softball
Kordes, Courtney	Girls Middle School Softball
Weissert, Jeff	Varsity Baseball Head Coach
Helgert, Dan	Varsity Baseball Assistant Coach
Murray, Bill	JV Baseball Head Coach
Haggerty, Bob	JV Baseball Volunteer Coach
Godfrey, Patrick	JV Baseball Volunteer Coach
Foster, Mike	Varsity Track Head Coach
Grove, Phil	Varsity Track Assistant Coach
Foster, Chester	Varsity Track Volunteer Coach
Nowicki, Chris	Middle School Track Assistant Coach
Ballard, Jason	Middle School Track Assistant Coach
Snow, Amy	Middle School Track Volunteer Coach

- *Mrs. Thimons abstained to this vote.*

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Love congratulated the Highlands HS Robotics Team 2 who for the second year running applied and received a \$1,000 grant from PPG Foundation for the Robotics Competition. This is the second \$1,000 grant secured by Highlands in the past month.

2015 Highlands School Board Members

Carrie Fox – President Eric Miles – Vice President
Laura Thimons Jonathon Love
Ron Lang Kerry Myers
Ryan Hanford Michael Masarik Debbie Beale