Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights  
**February 17, 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** noted that the Board met for an Executive Session meeting prior to the start of the regular meeting regarding a personnel issue.

**ROLL CALL – All members** present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – The Board approved the minutes of the January 22, 2014 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 –Jon Rupert** reported that the Board received a resignation letter from Mike Masarik II for the Open Swim Supervisor position. He thanks the Board for the opportunity and noted that he was happy to be able to help rejuvenate the program.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT – Zach Mazur** reported the following:

- **Highlands HS Student Council hosted a Teens for Jeans drive, collecting 343 pairs of jeans for homeless teens to be distributed by Aeropostale. Thanks to Mrs. Eckenrod and Mrs. Armstrong for your support!**

**- Highlands HESA Firefighting students will meet with representatives from Progress Fire Company in February. The Cadets will also have a job shadow experience at the Allegheny County 911 Call Center.**

**- February 14 was the National Salute to Veteran Patients Day. Students in Ms. Kissell’s class and Mrs. Jodon’s class sent letters and valentines greetings to patients at the VA Hospital in Aspinwall.**

**- SHREK! The Musical will be presented on March 7, 8 and 9 at Highlands High School. Check out the website** [www.goldenrams.com](http://www.goldenrams.com) **for pre-sale ticket dates.**

**- Megan McGinnis (Flute), Noah Young (Bassoon) and Mike Conrad (Trombone)** represented Highlands at PMEA District 1 East Honors Band Festival.  Mike will advance to PMEA Region 1 Festival in March! Mike is only a sophomore, the youngest grade eligible for district band, making his advancement to Regionals a rare honor.

- Congratulations to the following students who will be inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at Forbes:

**Nick Carrigan -** Computer Networking and Security, **Johnathan Hladney -** Automotive Technology, **Kyle Matovcik -** Automotive Technology.

- Good luck to **Mrs. Dickerson**, who is a semi-finalist for PA Teacher of the Year!

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

- The School Improvement Grant awarded to Highlands High School allowed us to add on teachers, professional development, consultants for Professional Learning Communities and Model Schools Assessments, new technology and even a writing lab. But the money now is going away and we are left to trying to find ways to sustain the positions and programs that came out of the SIG award. It is a shame that the awards given to help schools improve are yanked away from the schools that actually are improving!

- The Highlands Cabaret Show held on February 8 in the High School Audion featured several alumni and current students involved in the musical program at Highlands. Coordinated by Michael Zeiler, this was a fantastic event with a great sample of student and alumni talent. If you didn’t make it this year I encourage you to attend next year.

- 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. This month, **Cathy Russo** and **Shawn Bennis**, principals at Highlands High School, will present. *View the PowerPoint presentation on the Board Highlights page by clicking on the link below February 17, 2014 Board Meeting Highlights.*

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

- The **PVAAS** process is underway. Data will be entered in to various database, ensuring students are assigned to the correct teachers, which will in turn be included in the Educator Effectiveness scores.

- I attended a **PSSA security** seminar, a state requirement. The administrators and proctors will be trained as well.

- February 24 a **Comprehensive Planning** meeting will be held from 4 to 6 PM with teacher leaders in the High School library with Mr. TenEyck.

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

- Saturday, Feb. 22: Spaghetti for SCIENCE from 3 pm - 7 pm at Grandview. Child $5 / Adult $7. Benefits the Grandview Elementary Science Olympiad.

- Replenishment Blood Drives for HHS student **Kelly Smith**: Thursday, Feb. 27, 7 AM - 3 PM in the Highlands HS gymnasium. Please support this Highlands student!

- Students will experience travel delays beginning Feb. 10 if they ride a bus to or from school that travels across the Bull Creek Bridge, located on T-721, Thompson Road in Fawn Township.

-Thank you for your jeans! 343 pairs were collected and will be distributed to homeless teens.

- Highlands Middle School and Highlands High School held Academic Achievement Awards in February. 359 Middle School students received a brown, gold or high gold award for having earned a semester average of 85% or higher. 528 High School students also received certificates for the same achievements. In total, 71% of our secondary students received awards for the first semester of 2013-2014.

*Mrs. Carrie Fox noted that during the month of “Celebrating Our Everyday Heroes” students, community members and / or staff will be receive a Superintendent Recognition Certificate and be presented at the regular board meetings. This month our EVERYDAY HEROES are:*

- Congratulations to **Mrs. Carol Fraser**, Highlands Middle School Grade 6 science teacher. Highlands Middle School teacher Carol Fraser received an Honorable Mention from the Carnegie Science Award Program at a nominee reception held at the Carnegie Science Center. The Carnegie Science Awards program, a prestigious and renowned program since 1997, recognizes and promotes outstanding science and technology achievements in western Pennsylvania. Fellow Highlands faculty member Chris Resek nominated Mrs. Fraser last year. Many individuals nominated are global leaders in the science and technology industries rooted right here in Pittsburgh and western PA. The Carnegie Science Awards have honored the accomplishments of more than 400 individuals and organizations whose contributions in the fields of science, technology, and education have impacted our region's industrial, academic, and environmental vitality. Mrs. Fraser assisted in rocketing the Highlands elementary science program to the next level by introducing students at an early age to biology through an outdoor science classroom at Fairmount Primary Center; creating curriculum for and traveling with a portable, inflatable planetarium throughout the district for students to explore the universe and hosting a summer science camp for Highlands students. Mrs. Fraser also was invited to participate in a NASA’s Mercury Messenger Educator Fellowship Program, an elite teacher training opportunity.  She was even able to give input about a probe bound for the Mercury planet. Mrs. Fraser began her career at Highlands in 1983 and is now a teacher at Highlands Middle School. Through the course of her career, she has taught English at Highlands High School, Kindergarten at Wood Street School, and elementary classes at Fairmount and Fawn Elementary Schools. Mrs. Fraser also served as a Grade Level Leader for many years.

*- Mrs. Debbie Beale announced that a one-time $500 scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing Science Education in honor of Mrs. Fraser’s work and accomplishments at Highlands.*

- Thank you to **Jeff Thimons, Dennis Cochran and Kerry Myers** for a show of bravery and heroism at a Natrona Heights house fire. These three gentlemen noticed smoke coming from the roof of a home along Freeport Road while they were riding past with their 6th Grade Traveling Basketball team. The men approached the home of Beth Palmer and noticed through the window that all of the children were in the living room watching TV, unaware that their house was on fire. The men were able to notify the children, help them out of the house and then go back in to rescue a dog remaining indoors. For this show of bravery, we recognize you.

- Highlands senior student recognized for hard work, academic and community dedication. Highlands High School student **Nolan Wise** on January 12, 2014 was awarded a congressional nomination to the military academies from **Rep. Keith Rothfus** (District 12). Highlands faculty Nicole White, Jamee Bonnet and Colleen Katz wrote letters of recommendation for his nomination based on his academic performance, community service and extracurricular activities involvement. Mrs. Katz can attest to the determination and hard work Nolan portrayed during the rigorous process of applying to a military academy. Nolan is completing his application to the Naval Academy, but a congressional nod helps his chances of acceptance. Nolan is a member of the National Honor Society and is active in football and wrestling. Last year, Nolan was an intricate element of reviving the sport of wrestling at Highlands High School.

- 33 students from Forbes Road CTC attended the Future Business Leaders of America Regional Leadership Conference to compete with 300 students from area school districts. Congratulations to **Nick Jones**, winner of 1st Place in Network Design Team category. **Nick Carrigan**, winner of 3rd Place in Computer Problem Solving. Nick also will be inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at Forbes. **Mathew Morrow**, winner of 3rd Place in Database Design. **Mason Dixon**, a States Only Competition Qualifier for Desktop Application Programming.

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

**CAFETERIA – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles**

- The Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for February 2014, as submitted.

- The payment of Cafeteria Fund Bills for February 2014, as submitted.

**February to be paid $ 87,519.95**

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mr. Love, Mr. Masarik**

- Approving **Nathaniel Satterfield** as Middle School Musical Technical Director.

**INSTRUCTION** **– Mrs. Beale, Mrs. Thimons**

No report.

**TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Beale**

No report.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Myers**

- The Use of Facilities, as submitted. (See link on Board Highlights page of [www.goldenrams.com](http://www.goldenrams.com) )

**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).

- The 2013-2014 Substitute Aide List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #505 (Pre-Employment Drug Test) #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check).

- The 2013-2014 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 7.3]

- The resignation of **Amy VanTine**, Nurse Aide Fawn Elementary effective January 31, 2014.

- Ratifying the Family and Medical Leave of **Leslie Smith**, Personal Aide Grandview Upper Elementary effective November 27, 2013 through February 18, 2014 and approve emergency unpaid leave effective February 19, 2014 through June 6, 2014.

- Ratifying the hiring of **Travis Reynolds** Custodian II (Replacement), High School effective January 29, 2014. Salary as per SEIU contract.

- The resignation of **Michael Dudjak**, Aide High School effective February 24, 2014.

- The hiring of the following Professional Staff, 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:

**Chanelle Keasley**

Elementary Social Worker – Replacement

Grandview Upper Elementary

Step 11 Masters ($36,645)

Effective February 18, 2014

- The SEIU Grievance Settlement, as submitted.

- Ratifying the resignation of **Richard Waltenbaugh**, Custodian II Middle School effective February 12, 2014.

- The Memorandum of Understanding with the Highlands Education Association to resolve Grievance #13-04 regarding teacher observations, as submitted.

**FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mr. Love**

- Ratifying/approving Tax Refunds in the amount of $12,694.02 for February 2014, as submitted.

- Payment of General Fund bills, as submitted. [SEE FINANCIAL REPORT 8.2]

February to be paid $190,350.70

February to be ratified $527,565.92

**TOTAL $717,916.62**

- Authorizing solicitor to appeal any properties where sale price exceeds the assessed value by 25% or more, as submitted.

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

Mrs. Fox congratulated the honored students and the students accepted into National Technical Honor Society.

**PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Love**

- Mr. Love reported the following:

- A legislative meetings will be held on March 6 at the AIU3, involving local legislators to discuss education. Board members and public are welcome. Pre-register on the PSBA website, [www.psba.org](http://www.psba.org).

- There will be a free workshop hosted by PSBA and PASA at the Edgewood Country Club from 8:15 to 11:30 AM regarding enhancing school government and management.

- The PA House of Representatives passed Bill 1738 regarding forming a bipartisan committee to recommend a viable public funding formula. If you would like to get involved and encourage the Senate to move this bill through, go to [www.psba.org](http://www.psba.org) and look for tools and talking points available online.

- Political Action Committee called Students First is just one of many touting student choice. However, a lot of variable interests are involved or running these committees. This PAC raised $6.66 million from only 19 interests – a whopping $5.24 million comes from the Susquehanna International Group, alone. Please note that these are not interested in student rights, but more a free flow of money from the public education system.

**POLICY – Mr. Masarik, Mr. Love**

The Policy Committee has agreed to undertake a revision and review of the current Board Policy Manual. Meetings are held the Wednesdays before the board agenda meetings at the Administrative Center at 6 PM in the Conference Room. Public must enter through the Administrative Center doors.

**ATHLETICS – Mr. Myers, Mr. Hanford**

- 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:

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| --- | --- |
| Name | Position |
| **Godfrey, Patrick** | Volunteer Baseball Coach |
| **Thimons, Sharon** | Boys Varsity Tennis Coach |
| **Bowser, Marlea** | Volunteer Boys Tennis Coach |
| **Newell, Scott** | Varsity Track Assistant Coach |
| **Nowicki, Chris** | MS Track Assistant Coach |
| **Snow, Amy** | Volunteer Track Coach |
| **Christopher, David** | Volunteer Open Swim Supervisor |
| **Gibson, Bob**  **Bonislawski, Matt** | Volunteer Open Swim Supervisor  MS Track Coach |

- Ratifying the resignation of **Michael Masarik, II** Open Swim Supervisor effective January 28, 2014.

MISCELLANEOUS

No report.

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