

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

April 20, 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

ROLL CALL – Mr. Love was not present.

Mrs. Fox asked for a Moment of Silence for Mr. Hanford's grandmother, who passed away last month.

Mrs. Fox commended the staff and students for the performance of The Music Man, Jr. last month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Board approved minutes of the March 16, 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:

- AT&T still hasn't decided when to install the cell tower near the Golden Rams Stadium. The district received \$1,000 for the time extension from the company.
- The district locked in gas rates for \$1 less per gallon, which will save approximately \$76,000.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – Highlands H.S. student **Alexis Carrion** reported the following:

- A group of HHS teachers have created a *Student of the Month* program to recognize a student from each grade level who best exemplifies RAMS—Respectful, Accountable, Motivated and Safe. Teachers and staff nominate students based upon these qualities and a panel of teachers selects the winners. Here are the winners for April: 9th Grade - Austin Lauda, 10th Grade - Danielle Basista, 11th Grade - Deanna Webb, 12th Grade - Alexis Carrion
- On March 31st, HHS hosted its 3rd annual Mentor Day. This was an excellent opportunity for students to connect with and learn from community members and professionals from a wide array of fields. Students were able to select three presentations to attend - some of the favorites sessions were "Ace that Interview", "Working with Therapy/Service Dogs" and "Zumba". Special thanks to Mrs. Eidenshink, Mrs. Gurrera and Mrs. Galcik for organizing this event!
- On April 9th, we hosted the annual AFS Day. We had students from Thailand, Germany, Italy and Ghana. These international students spoke to a variety of classes about their culture and customs in their country. Several of them commented how well behaved our students were and how they wished that they attended here instead of the school they are going to. Special thanks to Renee Zrebny, Amy Eidenshink and Kathy Harenski for organizing this event.
- On April 15th, 44 high school students were inducted into the National Honor Society. It was a wonderful ceremony thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Eckenrod and Mrs. Armstrong.
- Congratulations to **Abigail Kuchek** (11th grade)! Based upon her PSAT score, Abby was selected to receive special recognition in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. This recognition means that she has a chance to compete for a National Merit Scholarships which is only offered to the top 16,000 students in the country!
- Keystone Testing will be happening on May 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21st. These end-of-course tests in Biology, Algebra and Literature are graduation requirements. Students have until the end of their junior year to demonstrate proficiency. Students who are retaking any exam will be able to take the on-line version of the test. All first time testers will take the exam by paper/pencil.
- And now we have a special presentation from Mr. Krzeminski and his fire service students to tell you about their trip to New York City. Mr. Krzeminski thanked the Board for their support for the trip, noted that the "behind the scenes" look at the world's largest fire department was a wonderful experience, and reported that the students were all excellent delegates of the school district.

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

- The track patches will be looked at by Nagle, the company that handled the top coat of the track renovation project last year. Also, the project manager will be asked to come back to the Board at a work session to talk about the track issues and also to discuss the tennis resurfacing project. We are also in the process of exploring other companies and price quotes.

- Highlands High School hosted the Cager Classic. The committee recognized the district's support for the event in the program. They also made a \$750 donation to the High School musical and a \$750 donation to the New York City trip for the firefighter students.
- PSSAs are going smoothly thanks to the organization and planning by the principals and teachers.
- Harris Solutions will be taking over Tenex and the district will be moving to iPass for the Student Information System. The training began today for some staff. We hope to make this a smooth transition by beginning to prepare now for the next school year.
- The Highlands Gives Back Concert held on Friday was phenomenal. The music was great and the event exceeded expectations again this year. They were able to raise \$1,000 for each of the organizations they are supporting.
- Dr. Bjalobok asked the Board for support in submitting an application for the Variations choir group to perform in the Student Showcase at the PSBA Conference held annually in Hershey, PA. The Board approved.

ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -Mr. Patrick Graczyk reported:

- Title I amendments have been submitted.
- The staff has received information about a possible Summer Academy, which was first offered last Summer and proved to be effective and popular for staff interested in a variety of topics. This year, two weeks of courses will be offered for training or professional development.
- Math Curriculum team continues to meet. We will have a two-day work session with the math department from the AIU.
- Harris did visit the Administrative Center today to begin training. As a note, the OneCallNow system and the report cards will likely be the most noticeable change to the Board and parents after the switch to iPass.
- The HVA committee continues to meet and will begin to expand to invite additional High School teachers to the meeting and also students.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT –Misty Chybrzynski reported:

- Thank you to all of the organizers, performers and supporters of the annual Highlands Gives Back Concert. This year's event was held on Friday, April 17 at the Clarion Hotel and raised about \$1,000 for The HOPE Center, the AVAC Food Bank and the Highlands Area Meals on Wheels!
- Positive Athlete Pittsburgh received nominations for 35 students involved in Highlands athletics and 1 coach for the annual Celebrate Positive program. Check out the nominees here: <http://bit.ly/1OyX8Rc>.
- Congratulations to the 44 students inducted into the National Honor Society last week. Missed the ceremony? Check it out here: <http://bit.ly/1bdSIIP>.
- Congrats to Pittsburgh Roundball Classic participants **Kaison Branch** and **Coach Tyler Stoczynski**. The pair competed at Geneva College this past weekend in the basketball games that brought the AK Valley's best on the same team. Read more here: <http://bit.ly/1D7WkqO>.

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.
- The bid awards for bread, milk, and ice cream services as follows:
Bread – Schwebel Bakery
Milk – Turner Dairy
Ice Cream – Pittsburgh's Best Ice Cream

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Beale

- The Student Activities Fund Financial Report, as submitted.
- The DECA trip to Orlando, FL on April 24-29, 2015. Two students will compete at the International DECA Conference. The cost to the district is \$577.20.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

- The student discipline agreement for High School student #201662, as submitted.
- The student discipline agreement for High School student #201548, as submitted.

INSTRUCTION – Mr. Love

- The 2015-2016 School Calendar, as submitted. *View the calendar on the PDF link on the Board Highlights page under the April 20, 2015 link.*
- The 2015-2016 Designated School Holidays, as submitted.
- Hosting a "Compass Learning Camp" at Grandview Upper Elementary School for the summer of 2015. Cost not to exceed \$15,000 in staff stipends (no transportation and a ratio of 1 teacher per 20 students).
- Hosting a "Keystone and/or Compass Learning Camp" for secondary students. Cost not to exceed \$7,000 in staff stipends (no transportation and a ratio of 1 teacher per 20 students).
- The 2014-2015 Extended School Year at Grandview Upper Elementary School Mondays through Thursdays from June 29 to July 30. Teacher and professional staff work time will be four hours per day, four days per week from 8 a.m. to Noon. Rate of pay is curriculum rate. Paraprofessional will work 8:30 a.m. to noon, four days per week and pay rate will be the individual's current rate.
- The 2014-2015 Secondary Summer School for students in Grade 7-12, held at Highlands High School from June 15 to July 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Pay rate is curriculum rate. Coordinator rate is \$28.50.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Masarik

Mr. Masarik reported that PennDOT will be replacing a bridge along Bull Cree Road near the Bonway to Bull Creek this summer. Fawn Supervisors will be contacting PennDOT and will notify us of the specific dates.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang

- The Use of Facilities, as submitted.
- - Third Amendment to Agreement of Sale between RBG Development, Inc. and Highlands School District regarding the sale of Heights Elementary, as submitted and as recommended by the Solicitor.

PERSONNEL – Mr. Miles

- The 2014-2015 Substitute School Nurse Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #505 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check.
- 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.
- The retirement, with regret, of the following Professional Staff:
 - A. Turner, Deborah
Instructional Support Teacher – Middle School
Effective June 4, 2015
 - B. Keefer, Wyllie
Grade 6 Social Studies – Middle School
Effective June 4, 2015
 - C. Eshenbaugh, Janet
Grade 1, Fairmount Primary Center
Effective June 4, 2015
 - D. Kowal, Yvette
Grade 3, Grandview Upper Elementary
Effective June 4, 2015
- The retirement of the following Classified Staff:
 - A. Sims, Elisabeth
Cook, High School
Effective June 4, 2015
- Approving/ratifying the following requests for FMLA:
 - A. Employee #5945 - RATIFY
Effective March 24, 2015
 - B. Employee #4675 – RATIFY
Effective March 2, 2015 through March 31, 2015
 - C. Employee #4897 – RATIFY
Effective February 17, 2015 through May 11, 2015

- D. Employee #5018
Effective May 7, 2015 through May 11, 2015
- E. Employee #5437
Extending FMLA through end of school year

- The Settlement Agreement and Release and Mediation Settlement Agreement to resolve EEOC Charge No. 533-2014-01132, as submitted, and as recommended by the Solicitor.

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles

- Tax Refunds in the amount of \$2,481.01 for April 2015, as submitted.
- Payment of General Fund Bills, as submitted.

April 2015 to be ratified \$	266,895.43
April 2015 to be paid \$	<u>765,997.70</u>
	\$1,032,893.13
- The Audit Report.
- The Tax Collectors’ Audit Reports.
- The adoption of the preliminary budget in accordance with Act 1 and the Pennsylvania School Code, as submitted.
- E-rate Project, contingent on E-Rate Funding of approximately \$142,060.91, as submitted.
- The proposed 2015/2016 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget as submitted. The Budget totals \$4,005,898. There is no increase in the total Allegheny County district allocation. The Highlands School District’s expected contribution to the AIU Program of Services budget is \$21,291.81.
- Sheriff Sale of the following properties.
 - A. WRIGHT – 1367-M-60
1251 9th Avenue
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
 - B. GRZYWINSKI – 1368-N-99
1275 Argonne Drive
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
 - C. MOSKHALIS – 2201-E-204
Millerstown Road (Fawn Township)
Tarentum, PA 15084
 - D. MOSKHALIS – 2201-E-359
Millerstown Road (Fawn Township)
Tarentum, PA 15084

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons

Mrs. Fox reported that the Forbes Road board is currently working on its budget.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Hanford

Mr. Hanford reported that the House Finance Committee is currently reviewing and expecting to vote on House Bill 860, which will adjust property taxes and sales taxes. However, not all money will be available for school spending.

Mrs. Fox reported about the NSBA Convention, attended by Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Thimons last month. A variety of workshops and sessions were available, focusing primarily on guidance, safety and technology, among other topics. Ann Beam provided a message to inspire and motivate School Board members and David Filo of Yahoo! spoke as well about utilizing apps in education and the future of student selection by their “digital footprints.” The conference was very informative and eye-opening. Mrs. Thimons and Mrs. Fox were able to bring back to Highlands information, which has been distributed to various administrators, and books for the High School Library.

AIU 3 REPORT – Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Beale reported the following:

- The Tri-State Area Council held their annual award banquet in Edgewood last week. Diane Kirk was the moderator. Members of the Highlands community have won the award six times in the past. It was a very nice event.

- The legislative council meeting for the AIU3 was held at Station Square this year at an event that combined the elections for new board members with presentations and training session. The event "Learning Together" brought many entities together and was an educational and entertaining evening.
- Fox Chapel Area High School is hosting a STEMM Camp this summer that may be a good option for our students. Information is available on their school district's website.

POLICY – Mrs. Thimons

- The second reading of the following Board Policies:
 - A. No. 100 Comprehensive Planning
 - B. No. 101 Mission/Beliefs/Goals Statements
 - C. No. 102 Academic Standards
 - D. No. 103 Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices
 - E. No. 103.1 Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities
 - F. No. 104 Nondiscrimination in Employment and Contract Practices
 - G. No. 105 Curriculum
 - H. No. 105.1 Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students
 - I. No. 105.2 Exemption of Instruction
 - J. No. 106 Guides for Planned Instruction

- The first reading of the following Board Policies:
 - A. No. 107 Adoption of Planned Instruction
 - B. No. 108 Adoption of Textbooks
 - C. No. 109 Resource Materials
 - D. No. 110 Instructional Supplies
 - E. No. 111 Lesson Plans
 - F. No. 112 Guidance Counseling
 - G. No. 113 Special Education
 - H. No. 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
 - I. No. 113.2 Behavior Support
 - J. No. 113.3 Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities
 - K. No. 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information

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
Santucci, Michael	Middle School Track Coach

- The resignation of the following athletic personnel for the 2014-2015 school year:

Name	Position
Rusiewicz, Jr., Albert	Middle School Track Coach

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Hanford made a motion to extend the Superintendent's contract of Dr. Michael Bjalobok for an additional three years. All voted yes.

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