

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

June 16, 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

ROLL CALL – Mr. Ron Lang was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Board approved the minutes of the May 19, 2014 regular meeting.

**Mrs. Beale voted "NO" due to her absence of the voting meeting in order to represent Highlands School Board at the Monthly AIU3 meeting and the fact that had she been present, she would have voted against many items.*

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 was absent.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – No Student Representative during Summer Break.

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

Highlands School District congratulates members of the **Class of 2014**. Graduation was celebrated at the 46th Commencement in Golden Rams Stadium on Friday, June 6. This year's exceptional class includes 174 students with bright futures, big plans and an impressive list of accolades. Members of this class include 53 members of the National Honor Society, 2 members of the National Vocational Technical Honor Society, 26 members of The STEAMM Academy at Highlands and 8 future servicemen and women. Congratulations to **Robert Love**, Class Valedictorian, and **Michael Calfe**, Class Salutatorian. Congratulations also to **Jonathan Hladney**, Forbes Road CTC Valedictorian. Cumulatively, the Class of 2014 earned **90** scholarships and monetary prizes worth **\$2,291,161**. This marks the highest amount of scholarship monies in at least the past decade. Several students were awarded for excellence in academics, service and other accomplishments during their school career. Some of these were: The Caplan-Leiber Human Relations Award, Horatio Alger Scholarship, The President's Volunteer Service Award, Girl Gold and Eagle Scout Awards, Southwestern PA Bots IQ winning teams, USMC Distinguished Athlete Award, Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen Awards, Forbes Road CTC Students of the Year Awards, National School Choral Award, Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, Troy Polamalu Student of the Month, Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence. 6 STUDENTS are now registered with the NCAA. 27 students were recognized by Governor Tom Corbett's Office for being the first graduating class from the STEAMM Academy at Highlands. Student plans include: 83 to Four year colleges, 28 to Community/Junior College, 20 to Technical/Business/Health, 8 to Armed Services, 1 to an Apprentice Program, 7 to Full-time Work/Employment, 26 Undecided or Other.

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

- Highlands Summer Academy will be offered to the faculty during the weeks of June 25 and August 4. Courses include professional development in tablet and Promethean Board training, Odyssey Learning software, CPI, NWEA and Child Abuse Mandatory Reporting.
- Public is welcomed to attend the Comprehensive Plan Midpoint meeting on June 19 at 12:30 PM in the High School Library.
- Faculty and I last week engaged in curriculum writing for English / Language Arts, Math and Science for the upcoming school year.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Ms. Misty Chybrzynski reported the following:

- GOVERNOR'S OFFICE VISIT: Mary Anne Eisenreich from the Governor's Pittsburgh office visited The STEAMM Academy at Highlands High School at the end of May and presented students with certificates of recognition from Governor Corbett for their commitment to the STEAMM initiative and academic success. During the visit, Mary Anne was very impressed by the caliber of our students and our programs. She also shared details about her visit with Acting Secretary of Education Carolyn Dumaesq. Having visited various STEM projects in the state, she thoroughly enjoyed the unique set-up, goals and college associations with our academy. Read more information about our STEAMM Academy at www.goldenrams.com/STEAMM. **Dr. Bjalobok noted that he also spoke with Mrs. Eisenreich about the Governor's concerns about pension reform. He informed her that public school districts will not be able to support the pension indefinitely as it is currently modeled. His comments will be used as a talking point for pension reform in upcoming legislative conversations.*

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE SUMMER AT HIGHLANDS! Compass Camp for those entering Grades 1 to 5 – students will use Compass Odyssey to continue learning path through the summer break, but still get to be involved in various camp-like activities! Camp runs 5 weeks June 30 – July 31, from 9 AM to Noon at Grandview. Transportation is not provided. Register your student by calling their school.

STEM SUMMER PROGRAM AT HIGHLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL for students entering grades 6 - 8

Highlands Middle School Summer [program](#) is provided through the Private Industry Council offers a STEM-based "Passport to Adventures" curriculum with activities, art and breakfast and lunch. Camp will be from June 23 - July 17, Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to Noon. Free transportation is provided. It is for students who will be in grades 6, 7, 8 in the Fall. ***The program is presented through partnerships with Penn State "Kids in College" and the Education and Technology Institute.*** Students can get an application at the MS, or online at www.privateindustrycouncil.com. Students can also contact Amy Dodds at 724-836-2600 ext. 213.

The community is also full of events! CHECK OUT WWW.GOLDENRAMS.COM/EVENTS FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THESE SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

- Free Summer Food – all children eat for free during the week at the Tarentum Par, in the Natrona Playground area and in Sheldon Park.
- The Tarentum Recreation Board is offering Crafts in the Park on Fridays beginning at 11 AM
- The Tarentum Concert Series will be held on Wednesdays at the Stage in the Tarentum Park from 7 to 8 PM with the Snack Shack opening at 6 PM. Check out the line-up on goldenrams.com/events.
- Summer Reading Program held at the library offers various programs for different levels of readers. Some of the program is done independently, although group meetings are held weekly. Visit or call the library to register. Programs are free!

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

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles

- Approving the payment of Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for June 2014, as submitted.
- Approving the payment of Cafeteria Fund Bills for June 2014, as submitted.

June to be paid

\$114,286.43

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mr. Love, Mr. Masarik

- No report.

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Beale, Mrs. Thimons

- Approving the annual agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3 to provide Special Education Services for the 2014-2015 school year, as submitted.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Beale

- No Report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Myers

- Dr. Joseph Thimons and Mr. John Barch presented plans regarding the Administrative Center purchase proposal. Read about the presentation in this Valley News Dispatch article: <http://bit.ly/1nMP2cQ>.
- Approving the Agreement of Sale of the Administrative Center, as presented. **[SEE APPENDIX 6.2]**
- Approving the Extension Agreement of Heights Elementary School, as submitted by solicitor. **[SEE APPENDIX 6.3]**

PERSONNEL – Mr. Hanford, Mrs. Thimons

- Approving the following request for Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Kelly Bloch

Nurse Aide

Fairmount Primary Center

Effective September 8, 2014 thru November 3, 2014

- Accepting the retirement of Louise Harvilla, Visual Arts Teacher, Highlands Middle School effective June 6, 2014.
- Ratifying the resignations of the following staff:

Shelby McMenamin

Speech & Language Assistant

Grandview Upper Elementary

Effective June 6, 2014

David Levandoski – Ratify

Custodian I

Middle School

Effective May 27, 2014

(Pursuant to terms of settlement agreement and release, as submitted)

- Approving the following ESY/Summer School Staff:

Paraprofessional Staff:

Lisa Mazza

Kerri Lobaugh

Carrie Drobka

Professional Staff:

Katie Chirdon - Science

- Approving the hiring of the following Positive Engagement Grant Facilitators at Curriculum Rate:

Erin Conley

Jennifer Kosior

- Approving the following Elementary Compass Camp Staff, contingent upon meeting the minimum student enrollment:

Patricia Meldon

Lauralee Milberger

Janet Mazzotta

Sandra Reidmiller

Kristine Hrivnak

- Ratifying 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:

Nickolas, Cindy

Highlands Middle School

Custodian II

Start date: May 12, 2014

- Ratifying Charles Mort as the Director of Transportation effective June 16, 2014 at a stipend of \$7,500.00.
- Approving Charles Debor for a supplemental position as Athletic Director effective July 1, 2014 at a stipend of \$15,000.00.
- Rejecting SEIU Maintenance Grievance, as submitted.

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mr. Love

- Approving Tax Refunds in the amount of \$2,869.37 for June 2014, as submitted.
- Approving payment of General Fund Bills, as submitted.

June to be ratified	\$ 540,319.40
June to be paid	<u>\$ 586,248.60</u>
TOTAL	\$1,126,568.00

- Approving administration to secure necessary insurance programs for the 2014-2015 school year, in accordance with Section 513 of the School Code, such as Property Casualty, Life, Board Liability, Workmen's Compensation with most efficient companies.
- Approving the district general supplies to the lowest responsible bidders, as submitted. **[SEE APPENDIX 8.4]**
- Approving the Forbes Road CTC Revenue Anticipation Note for 2014-2015 school year.
- Bidding for sale the following properties taken at Sheriff Sale:

1023 Maple Street
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

Drum - 1678-R-00305
1025 Maple Street
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

Metz – 1514-A-00196
Metz Road
Tarentum, PA 15084

- Authorizing Business Manager to pay all necessary invoices in July to be listed on the August 2014 bill list.

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Fox reported the following:

- **Johnathan Hladney (Highlands HS – Auto Technology)** was this year's Valedictorian at the ceremony.
- There were 22 Highlands graduates in this year's Forbes Road CTC graduating class. Highlands also had 5 Students of the Year and two top Senior Portfolios. Students of the Year are: **Jonathan Hladney** - Automotive Technology, **Harley Leasure** - Collision Repair Technology, **Julie Dawson** - Culinary Arts, **David Zaborowski** - Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, **Dominique Jones** - Advertising/Design. Top portfolios belonged to **Julie Dawson** and **Jonathan Hladney**.
- Dr. Bjelobok volunteered to continue as Superintendent of Record if the next Superintendent is not able to do so next year.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Love

Mr. Love reported the following:

- PSBA is in the process of revising / updating their platform and is open to suggestions from member districts. Please respond by June 30 with suggestions.
- PSBA streamlined the Core Beliefs in order to better focus on certain goals and themes. These can be reviewed here: <http://bit.ly/1vsyy8>.

AIU 3 REPORT – Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Beale reported the following:

- This past meeting, the group discussed planning details for the next Convention, such as the voting and student participation. The committee is currently conducting a survey that board members will receive.
- Board members can sign a letter of support for **Shauna D'Alessandro** from West Jefferson Hills SD for the Timothy M. Allwein Advocacy Award.
- I attended a workshop for the State Bylaws Committee last weekend. One particular subject was regarding the eligibility for election of officer. Discussion involved a nominee having two or four years board experience. I sided with two years, in reference to Mr. Love's passion for advocacy and his work at Highlands, yet he only has three years experience. At this point two years was understood to be sufficient.

POLICY – Mr. Masarik, Mr. Love

- Ms. Chybrzynski provided an overview and summary of responses from various parents and booster organization representatives or volunteers in response to the Board's review of Policy 916.

ATHLETICS – Mr. Myers, Mr. Hanford

- 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
Bielak, Steve	7 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Sinclair, Jeff	Volunteer Middle School Football Coach
Nowicki, Chris	Head Coach Middle School Football

- Accepting the resignation of Matthew Bonislowski, Middle School Football Head Coach – 2014-2015 school year.

- Approving Raymond Drabicki, M.D., as the Athletic Department Physician at a stipend of \$6,000 for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Approving the contract with Mike Rizzo, Athletic Trainer for the 2014-2015 school year at a salary of \$36,000.00.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Mrs. Fox** reported that the Board will not meet in July, unless otherwise advertised for an urgent issue.

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