

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

August 18, 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

Mrs. Fox asked for a Moment of Silence for **Judith Rupert**, Mr. Rupert's mother, who passed away in August, and for **Noah Cornuet**, a 16-year-old Burrell SD football player who passed away in August.

- Mrs. Fox also commended those involved in the Compass Camp Program this summer, which she was able to experience, and believed to be a successful program for the students.

ROLL CALL – Mr. Jon Love was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Board approved the minutes of the June 9, 2014 Special Meeting and June 16, 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 – No report.

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

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

- The Buildings & Grounds Department and Mr. Jay Morgan did an outstanding job this summer preparing the grounds and the schools for students and staff to return.
- Programs continued throughout the summer, with Compass Camp Learning, a Band Camp, Sports Camps and a STEM Summer Academy at HMS. Highlands was a place to learn and grow this summer.
- In addition to the students, faculty worked hard this summer at the Highlands Summer Academy, with training and courses in specific subjects. I was very impressed with the involvement.

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

- This year, Compass Learning will extend to Grade 9 at the High School for students in Biology, Algebra 1 and Comprehension. In addition, Grade 9 will have the MAP assessments previously capped at Grade 8. This will tie in to the NWEA data.
- Teachers in Grades K to 8 had advanced training for NWEA and MAP to better utilize systems and improve student achievement.
- Curriculum writing academies were held for math and language departments this summer. That curriculum will help realign data in the warehouse system and will become an online bank for all staff.
- Title I received a \$2,000 increase in funding.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Ms. Misty Chybrzynski reported the following:

- Students attended orientation for Sixth Grade at the Middle School last week. Students will be at the High School for Grade 9 Orientation on Tuesday from 9 AM to Noon and at Grandview from 6:30 to 8 PM (also on Tuesday).
- Wednesday, Aug. 20 is MARCHING BAND "PIE NIGHT" 7pm at Golden Rams Stadium \$5 admission includes pie, beverage and performance.
- Teachers return to school on Friday, August 22 and attend in-service training, orientations and clericals days on Friday and Monday, August 25 and Tuesday, August 26. Students return to school on Wednesday, August 27! Kindergarten will have transition days on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with noon dismissals.
- Friday, Aug. 29 Varsity Football: Rams at Ford City, 7pm
- **Season ticket holders for the Highlands High School Golden Rams may pick up their tickets from 6:30 to 7:30 PM on Tuesday, August 19 and Wednesday, August 20 at the Highlands Community Center in Natrona Heights, Harrison Township. Those interested in becoming season ticket holders may come to the Community Center from 6:30 to 7:30 PM on Thursday, August 21. Questions? Call Chuck Debor at 724.226.1000 x6102.
- NEW THIS YEAR: FREE SCHOOL MEALS beginning on the first day of the 2014-2015 school year, Highlands will offer FREE breakfast and lunch for all students. Highlands School District has been approved as a district-wide free food program through the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act passed by President Barack Obama in 2010. The community eligibility allows all students to receive free breakfast and lunch items that appear on the school's monthly menu calendar. The purpose of this legislation and the program at Highlands is to improve overall student health by providing nutritious,

healthy food. The program will continue in the district for four years. A la carte and seconds will still cost students to purchase. The "My SchoolBucks" accounts will still be used to charge students for such purchases. SchoolBucks balances will carry over from last year for A la carte items. Parents will still receive bills for debts accumulated up to the last day of the 2013-2014 school year. Parents will not need to fill out a Free or Reduced Lunch Application this year.

- Students entering grades 1 through 5 this year were invited to attend COMPASS CAMP, at Grandview Upper Elementary School for a school-based summer program that incorporated learning, camp-like activities, crafts and exploration of one of our district town's – Tarentum! Teachers **Lauralee Milberger, Kristine Hrivnak, Jan Mazzotta, Sandra Reidmiller,** and **Patricia Meldon** and principals **Ian Miller and Heather Hauser** welcomed students June 30 to the camp. Students spent time logged on to Compass Learning, a web-based study platform that students became familiar with over the course of the school year. The teachers incorporated learning in fun camp-like activities, created crafts while discussing math and science and also took an exploratory walking field trip once a week. Field trips coordinated by the teachers and with the courtesy of our community included learning about fire safety and emergency responders' jobs at Eureka Hose Fire Hall; learning about civil duties, township management and police duties at the Tarentum Municipal Building and Police Department; discovering the history and social work at the F & AM Masonic Lodge; learning about the Alle-Kiski Valley's origins and traits at the Alle-Kiski Valley Heritage Museum, and finding out all of Tarentum's amazing history and secrets in a Walking Tour. Students were treated to an end-of-program picnic sponsored by Generations House of Worship and included hot dogs, S'mores made by the students as a home economics lesson in class the day before, fun games and giveaways! Check out pics at www.goldenrams.com.

- Tarentum Recreation Board will sponsor 2 more concerts in the Park this Summer, on August 20 with Chris Denem and August 27 with Segriff and Friends beginning at 7pm. The Snack Shack opens at 6. Also, the Rec Board is selling woven blankets featuring Grandview School (old Tarentum High school)! They come in Red or Black and cost \$35. If you are interested in purchasing a blanket, please contact Carrie Fox.

- Please join Grandview student Cody Hubert and his family as they raise money to pay for medical and funeral costs in a Curt Hubert Memorial Golf Outing at Oak Lake Golf Course on September 14, 2014 beginning at 8 AM with a shotgun start. Cost is \$65 per golfer or \$260 per foursome. Registration forms and information are available at www.goldenrams.com/events.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles

- The payment of Cafeteria Fund Bills for August 2014, as submitted.
August to be paid \$8,041.09

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mr. Love, Mr. Masarik

- The Student Activities Fund Financial Report for May, June and July 2014, as submitted.
- The Variations Trip to New York City, April 30 through May 3, 2015 at no cost to the district, as submitted. **[SEE**

APPENDIX 2.2]

- Setting Saturday, June 6, 2015 as the district's Kennywood Picnic.
- Highlands Cross Country Boosters as a recognized booster organization for the 2014-2015 school year, per Board Policy #915.
- The 2014-2015 Student Activity Sponsors, as submitted. **[SEE APPENDIX 2.5]**

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Beale, Mrs. Thimons

- An annual renewal of PA-Educator with AIU for recruitment services at \$2,175.00.
** Mrs. Beale abstained from vote due to her position as an AIU Board Member.*
- A 30-day public review of the District Comprehensive Plan.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Beale

- The 2014-2015 bus stops/routes.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Myers

- The Use of Facilities, as submitted. **[SEE APPENDIX 6.1]**
- Rebidding the following properties:
 - A. Drum – 1678-R-00306
1023 Maple Street
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

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

- The sale of the following property to Ed Lojak as follows:

A. Shutak – 1841-A-3
880 Dellenbaugh Road
Tarentum, PA 15084
\$2,600.00

- The purchase of a 2015 dump truck and snow plow at a cost of \$49,721, in accordance with state bid.

PERSONNEL –Mr. Hanford, Mrs. Thimons

- 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). **[SEE APPENDIX 7.1]**

- 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). **[SEE APPENDIX 7.2]**

- 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) **[SEE APPENDIX 7.3]**

- The 2014-2015 Substitute Secretary/Aide 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 7.4]**

- The hiring of the following Professional Staff, in accordance with Board Policy #404 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #415, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check:

A. Wyant, Kristen
Autistic Support Classroom Teacher - Grandview
Bachelor's Step 4 - \$47,300
Effective August 22, 2014

B. Elliott, Beau
Autistic Support Classroom Behavior Specialist - Grandview
\$30,897 per Behavior Specialist Agreement
Effective August 22, 2014

C. Surovchak, Daniel
Art Teacher – Highlands Middle School
Bachelor's Step 1 - \$45,800
Effective August 22, 2014

D. Jackson, Caroline
Coordinator of Family Supports & Community Resources
\$35,000 – Payable from IDEA Grant
Effective August 22, 2014

- The recall of four (4) furloughed teachers, according to HEA Contract.

A. Black, Katherine – HS Physical Ed/Health/Aquatics
B. Robinson, Sarah – 7th Grade Language Arts
C. Brancato, Beth – 4th Grade
D. Burris, Patricia – 3rd Grade

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

A. Hock, Jaclyn
Teacher
Highlands Middle School
August 22, 2014 to January 21, 2014

- The hiring of the following Classified Employees, in accordance with Board Policy #504 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #515, Act 34, 151 and FBI Record Check:

- A. Kayda, Elizabeth
Speech & Language Student Assistant - Replacement
Grandview Upper Elementary School
Start: August 22, 2014
Salary: \$13.98 per hour
- B. Roth, Beverly
Speech & Language Student Assistant - Replacement
Highlands Middle School
Start: August 22, 2014
Salary: \$13.98 per hour
- C. Squires, Bobby
Custodian II
Highlands High School
Start: August 19, 2014
Salary per SEIU Agreement

- Ratifying the resignation of the following staff:

- A. Walters, Patricia
Personal Aide
Highlands High School
Effective: August 1, 2014
- B. Majcher, Michele
District Home & School Visitor / Attendance Officer
Effective August 18, 2014
- C. Sanner, Karlye
Speech & Language Assistant
Highlands Middle School
Effective August 1, 2014
- D. Miller, Ian
Principal / Supervisor Early Childhood Programs
Fawn & Fairmount Primary Centers
Effective July 31, 2014
- E. Kostewicz, Adam
Elementary Teacher
Grandview Upper Elementary School
Effective July 16, 2014
- F. Ray, Lisa
Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent
Highlands Administrative Center
Effective: August 15, 2014
- G. Fitzgerald, Emily
Personal Aide
Fawn Primary Center
Effective August 24, 2014

- With regret the retirement of the following staff:

- A. Bonatesta, Jody
Food Services

Effective June 6, 2014

- The PSEA/NEA Memorandum of Understanding regarding the 2014-2015 school year calendar **[SEE APPENDIX 7.11]**
- The PSEA/NEA Memorandum of Understanding regarding settling grievance #2-2013-2014, as submitted. **[SEE APPENDIX 7.12]**
- Ratifying the following Buildings & Grounds Summer Workers, salary as per substitute custodian payment scale:
 - Squires, Bobby
 - Ehrmentrout, Matthew
 - Menhart, Heather
 - Bash, Cheryl
 - Burkett, Jane
 - Cottone, Phil
 - Crowe, Mary Ann
 - Erb, Brian
 - Ehrlich, Ron
 - Grzywinski, Tim
 - Konesky, Alex
 - Krause, Kurt
 - Loughlin, Heather
 - Reynolds, Travis
 - Weidenhoff, Bonnie
 - Williams, Stacey
 - Nickolaus, Cynthia
 - Bise, Nicole

- The Substitute Personnel Payment Scale. **[SEE APPENDIX 7.14]**
- The 2014-2015 Department Chairs, Team Leaders and Grade Level Leaders, as submitted. **[SEE APPENDIX 7.15]**
- The agreement with Questeq to provide an Application Technician and Data Administrator at a cost of \$73,000 for 1 year.
- Three year Supervisor of Food Services Department contract for Mrs. Sharon Conway at her current salary under Act 93 Agreement for five days per week with no bonuses and consideration of sharing services with another district, should the situation arise.

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mr. Love

- Tax Refunds in the amount of \$18,682.86 for August 2014, as submitted **[SEE FINANCIAL REPORT 8.1]**
- Payment of General Fund Bills, as submitted. **[SEE FINANCIAL REPORT 8.2]**

July to be ratified	\$ 1,289,889.87
August to be paid	\$ 531,867.81
TOTAL	\$ 1,821,757.68

- Security contract with Capital Asset Protection, Inc. for district-wide security, as submitted **[SEE APPENDIX 8.3]**
- Tax collector audit reports, as submitted **[SEE APPENDIX 8.4]**
- Exonerating 14 Tarentum Borough properties on the delinquent tax list, as submitted **[SEE APPENDIX 8.5]**

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

No report.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Love

* *The Board tabled* approving two PSBA voting delegates for October 21 meeting at the conference.

AIU 3 REPORT – Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Beale reported the following:

- There was not an AIU meeting held in July.
- At the June meeting, a celebration of AIU employees was held as well as for Mr. Joe Bailey, who would be leaving the AIU Board. Mr. Bailey was instrumental in bring the Strings Program to the Pittsburgh area. Another notable recognition was for an AIU teacher in the Allegheny County Jail system that assisted an inmate in composing a book.
- Mrs. Beale will take an official seat next Monday.

POLICY – Mr. Masarik, Mr. Love

Mr. Masarik reported that the Board Policy manual is in the drafting stage of being updated and revised.

ATHLETICS – Mr. Myers, Mr. Hanford

- The Athletic Fund Financial Report for June and July 2014, 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/or Board Policy #916.1:

Name	Position
Holliday, Joe	Football Announcer
Stabile, Tom	Clock Operator – Fall Sports
Choma, Michael	VOL: General Manager, Football
Walsh, Chad	VOL: Football Coach
Swaney, Patricia	Ticket Seller/Taker
Motosicky, Jennifer	Ticket Seller/Taker
Jones, Tammy	Ticket Seller/Taker
Tutak, Christy	Ticket Seller/Taker
Stawinski, Pam	Ticket Seller/Taker
Glaister, Stephanie	Ticket Seller/Taker
Kosmal, Marnie	Ticket Seller/Taker
Kosmal, Kenneth	Ticket Seller/Taker
Wesolowski, Thomas	Girls Head Volleyball Coach

- **Michael Rizzo** and **Jeff Weissert** as Equipment Co-Managers for 2014-2015 school year. Co-Managers will split stipend of Equipment Manager position at \$3,199 each.
- The following athletic game manager positions for the 2014-2015 school year:
 - A. Krzeminski, Michael
Event Coordinator - Football
\$50 per night
 - B. Polcha, Patrick
Ticket Manager - Football
\$50 per night

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