

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

September 15, 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 noted that the School Board meeting was delayed due to an Executive Session for Personnel / Interviews.

ROLL CALL – All present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Board approved the minutes of the August 18 2014 Special Meeting with the corrections being made to the Headers of the Minutes.

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 – Zaire Frison represented Highlands High School and reported the following:

- **Student Council** members hosted the first Pep Rally with Fall Athletes and Sports being introduced this past Friday. Every Friday, the Pep Band plays in the Commons Area to promote Ram Spirit.
- There are **four (4) AFS Exchange Students** at Highlands this year! We are excited to share cultural awareness and traditions with these students.
- Highlands HS is partnering with Oberg Industries with the **Junior Apprenticeship Advantage** in Buffalo Township. The partnership launches the Junior Apprentice Advantage (JAA) at Highlands High School for the 2014-2015 school year. JAA will be offered to as many as 10 Highlands High School Seniors who pass an aptitude test and are in good academic standing at school. The students will be registered during the school day in courses including Manufacturing CAD & Geometric Dimension & Tolerance (GD&T), Advanced Geometry and Trigonometry, and Natural Resources & Production Technologies. Students will travel to Oberg Industries for on-site and hands-on training at quarterly trips to the manufacturing facility. There is no additional cost to test, participate or enroll in the JAA at Highlands. Upon successful completion of the courses and graduating from Highlands, JAA students will be offered acceptance in to the apprenticeship program at Oberg, starting at a salary in the \$30,000 range directly out of high school. The traditional apprenticeship program lasts three to four years for incoming adults to Oberg, which invests approximately \$200,000 in each apprentice while they complete the program. Many thanks to **Mr. Malobicky, Mr. Santucci, Mr. Sespico** and **Mr. Krynicki** for their hard work in securing this partnership!
- The SADD group is busy organizing events for the school year, including a program about dating violence and the annual mentoring morning, which invites individuals in to the school to speak with students about career options.
- The **Senior Executive Committee** will be reinstated this year in order to cultivate a positive atmosphere, promote positive student conduct and enhance the spirit of the student section at athletic events.
- The PSATs will be offered to every Junior that would like to take the test. The School District will cover the fee.
- Homecoming is right around the corner on October 10. Groups that would like to participate in the annual parade should contact **Mrs. Galcik** at the High School.

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

- The school year is off to a great start, but with every new year there are some glitches. This year's glitch is already out of the way – I received information about low water pressure at Grandview on Friday. Within half an hour I received an update about no water pressure at the school due to a water main break in Tarentum. With this occurring prior to lunch, it was a problem with health codes and potentially a great mess. Unfortunately, the OneCallNow message regarding the early dismissal did not transmit to all phone numbers provided by parents due to a glitch in the rollover of the student data system this year. We apologize for any unfortunate or frustrating situations this may have caused. This was due to several student data software programs being used. When we are able to roll over to one system this upcoming school year, this will not happen again. We will be testing the OneCall system after an upload.
- Students are currently taking the NWEA assessment tests. This will show true data as they are familiar with the tests now from taking them last year. Also there is no more of a learning curve for the students or the teachers when taking the tests or analyzing and using the data.

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

- Title I services are beginning at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

- I have submitted the Ready to Learn grant, which could result in double the amount of funding for Highlands schools. We will now wait to see if is approved or accepted.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Ms. Misty Chybrzynski reported the following:

- **TEENS? NEED SOMEWHERE TO GO?** The Deborah D Booker Center will host an OPEN HOUSE for parents and Highlands School District teens ages 13 to 18 on Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Check out the new gym facilities, computer lab and programmed activities for Highlands students offered at the Center located at 100 Park Avenue in Natrona Heights. Stop in and meet coordinator Elaine Dillman and find out how the Center can benefit your students!

- **-BOOSTER / PTO MEETING:** One representative from each Highlands Booster organization or PTO / PTA **MUST** attend a meeting at the High School in the Cafeteria at 6 PM on Thursday, Sept. 18 to review Board policies, submit required documents and meet with Superintendent Dr. Michael Bjalogobok. Please RSVP to Misty Chybrzynski at mchybrzynski@goldenrams.com with the name of the person and the booster / PTO they will represent.

- **ELEMENTARY CHEER CAMP:** Highlands Cheerleading Mini-Camp Registration will be held on Tuesday, Sept.16, from 6 pm - 7:30 pm at the Highlands High School cafeteria. students from K4 through 5th grade are welcome. Registration is \$20/child and includes a T-shirt. Mini-camp practice will be held on Thursday, Sept. 25 and the Mini-Camp performance will be on Friday Sept. 26 before the varsity football game. For questions or additional information, please contact Grace Tanilli at (724) 472-2522 or by email at gracet@consolidated.net.

- **DONATE YOUR USED SPECS TODAY!** Tarentum Area Lions Club will be collecting used Eye Glasses in each district building! Send your used specs or drop them off to any building to be recycled for those in need! Donations being accepted now!

- Thank you to **TEAM RWB** and Allegheny Moving Flag tribute organizer **Kate Bielak**. Along with staff, students and members of the Highlands School District community, Team RWB kept the American Flag moving from 5:30 AM to 9 PM on Patriot Day in remembrance of the terrorist attacks on September 11. Read about the event and see photos on www.goldenrams.com. Thank you to all of the volunteers for this very touching and memorable event!

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

AGENDA ITEMS

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles

- Approving the payment of Cafeteria Fund Bills, as submitted.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mr. Love, Mr. Masarik

- Approving the following 2014-2015 Student Activity Sponsors:

Zeiler, Ronald

Musical Set Construction – High School

Kirin, Tyler - RATIFY

Detention Supervisor – High School

- Ratifying the following 2014-2015 Department Chair:

Malcolm, Laurie – Library Department

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Beale, Mrs. Thimons

- Approving the purchase of 35 Promethean ActivBoard devices at \$139,233, in accordance with the PEPPM State Bid List.

- Approving the District Comprehensive Plan, as submitted.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Beale

No Report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Myers

- The Use of Facilities, as submitted and with the addition of the Use of Pool by the Fox Chapel Killer Whales Swim Team, at a rate of \$40 per night, Mondays through Fridays in coordination around the Highlands High School Swim Team and with scheduling per A.D. Chuck Debor. [SEE APPENDIX 6.1]

- Awarding bids for the purchase of the following properties to Brian Marra.

A. DRUM – 1678-R-00305

1023 Maple Street
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
\$2,500

- B. DRUM – 1678-R-00306
1025 Maple Street
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
\$2,500

PERSONNEL – Mr. Hanford, Mrs. Thimons

- Ratifying 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]

- 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). [SEE APPENDIX 7.2]

- Ratifying 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 7.3]

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

Smith, Leslie
Aide
Highlands High School
Extension through September 29, 2014

McLaughlin, Christina
Teacher
Grandview Upper Elementary School
August 22, 2014 – October 6, 2014

Davis, Mary Jo
Teacher
Fairmount Primary Center
Intermittent FMLA

- 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:

Thompson, Jordan – RATIFY
One-on-One Behavior Interventionist (Replacement)
Highlands High School
Start: August 27, 2014
Salary: \$13.34 per hour

B. Bashforth, Matthew - RATIFY
Personal Aide - Replacement
Highlands High School
Start: August 27, 2014
Salary: \$9.90 per hour as per ESP Agreement

Thompkins, Stephen - RATIFY
Personal Aide - Replacement
Grandview Upper Elementary School
Start: August 27, 2014
Salary: \$10.15 per hour as per ESP Agreement

Day, Monica - RATIFY
Personal Aide - Replacement

Grandview Upper Elementary School
Start: August 27, 2014
Salary: \$9.65 per hour as per ESP Agreement

Moucheron, Kaylah - RATIFY
Personal Aide - Replacement
Grandview Upper Elementary School
Start: August 27, 2014
Salary: \$9.15 per hour as per ESP Agreement

Johns, Nancy - RATIFY
Personal Aide - Replacement
Highlands High School
Start: August 27, 2014
Salary: \$9.65 per hour as per ESP Agreement

Szalanski, Tracy - RATIFY
7 Hour Cook
Highlands Middle School
Effective: August 18, 2014

- Ratifying the hiring of Marisa Greco as a Substitute High School Assistant Principal at \$300.00 per day, effective August 27, 2014.

- Ratifying Rhonda Caldwell as Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent at a salary of \$42,920.00, effective September 2, 2014.

- Accepting the resignation of the following staff:

Lang, Ann - RATIFY
Cafeteria Alternate – Middle School
Effective: June 6, 2014

Keasley, Chanelle
Elementary Social Worker - Grandview
Effective: September 17, 2014

- Ratifying the transfer of Shawn Bennis to Elementary Principal at Fawn and Fairmount Primary Centers and Early Childhood Supervisor, effective August 19, 2014.

- 10-day unpaid suspension for Employee #4989.

- The hiring of Mr. Adam Jones as High School Assistant Principal at a salary of \$78,000, effective Sept. 16, 2014.

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mr. Love

- Tax Refunds, as submitted.

- Payment of General Fund Bills, as submitted.

- Exonerating the following Tarentum Borough properties, as submitted by Tarentum Solicitor.

- A. Lot and Block 1223-E-25
- B. Lot and Block 1223-P-151
- C. Lot and Block 1223-P-151-01
- D. Lot and Block 1223-N-234
- E. Lot and Block 1223-N-236
- F. Lot and Block 1223-P-161
- G. Lot and Block 1223-P-157
- H. Lot and Block 1223-P-167

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Fox reported the following:

- Construction is completed on the Conference Room, which looks amazing with the new technology. All work was done in-house. The offices and former daycare also have been converted, with work now complete to accommodate the students accordingly.
- There are currently 252 students enrolled this year.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Love

- **Mr. Love** reported that there are two workshop[ps of interest for Board Members. One is a Collective Bargaining Workshop. The other is a video and on-site conference about school funding on Tuesday, Sept 30 from 7 to 8:45 PM. Details are in board packets and PSBA emails.

- The Board voted as a Board for candidates for the following PSBA offices, as submitted. (* = PSBA Recommended; Board abstained from voting for At-Large Representative - East)

- A. President Elect: ___ Kathy K. Swope*
 (select one) ___X Charles H. Ballard
 Vice President: ___X Mark B. Miller*
 Treasurer: ___X Otto W. Voit, III*
 At-Large Representative (East): ___ Robert M. Schwartz*
 (select one) ___ Michael Faccinetto*
 ___ Edward J. Cardow
 At-Large Representative (West) ___x Daniel J. O'Keefe*
 At-Large Representative (Central) ___x David Hutchinson*

AIU3 REPORT – Mrs. Beale

- **Mrs. Beale** reported the following:

- The AIU3 Board held a meeting on August 25. A hot topic of discussion was STEM education and STEM connections. There are many fall seminars and workshops planned in connection with this.
- There is an Administrative Contract discussion in progress.
- The Board Retreat will be held next weekend for the 5 new board members to better connect and collaborate on some topics with the board as a whole of 13 members.

POLICY – Mr. Masarik, Mr. Love

No report.

ATHLETICS – Mr. Myers, Mr. Hanford

- The Athletic Fund Financial Report for July and August 2014, as submitted.

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