

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

November 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

Mrs. Fox congratulated the Varsity Rams Football players and coaches, Highlands Marching Band and its sponsors and the Cheer Squad and its coaches on a great season!

ROLL CALL – Mr. Hanford and Mr. Myers were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Board approved the minutes of the October 20 2014 Special 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 – Zaire Frison reported the following:

- On November 10th, Student Council sponsor Mrs. Jen Galcik organized a safety presentation for HHS students. Approximately 150 students participated in the Simulator presentation in the back parking lot of the high school. The Safety Simulator is an educational tool that enables students to feel first-hand how alcohol and other adverse conditions impair the ability to safely operate an automobile.
- Congratulations to **Mr. Sam Albert and the Varsity Football Team on an outstanding season!** Thank you, Coach Albert, for instilling in our students the values of commitment, hardwork, teamwork and school pride! Thanks also to **Mr. Matt Beresik, Mr. Lee Lynn and Mrs. Lisa Evans** for their commitment and guidance of the **Marching Band** this season! And to **Mrs. Bonnett** for her leadership and hard work with the **Varsity Cheerleaders!** These young ladies went above and beyond to promote school spirit and school pride! And Finally Thank You to **Mr. Chuck Debor** and **Mr. Jay Morgan** for their tireless efforts in making sure all of our fall events ran smoothly.
- Congratulations, also, to **Mr. Abbott** and his students on a successful and fun **Fall Play, Murder Most Fowl**, which debuted on November 8th and 9th.
- On Wednesday, November 12th, the guidance counselors met with the senior class during Mentoring time where they shared with them the resources on the Guidance page of the district website including links to available scholarships, college majors information, bureau of labor statistics, college board and other financial aid seminars. Each student also received a packet of information to help them begin planning for college and careers.
- Last week, the Social Studies Department hosted the 13th Annual Veterans Day Living History Program. We invite the veterans to come and share their stories with our students. Special thank you to Paul Minarik, who served on a Navy Destroyer during World War II, Dave Christopher, who served with the US Army in Vietnam; Bill Miller, who served in the US Army in Vietnam; Frank Maier, drafted for Vietnam but served with the US Army at Checkpoint Charlie on the Berlin Wall; Gary Lilly, who served in the US Navy in Vietnam, Vincent Krzeminski who was drafted for Vietnam and served with the US Army as an MP with the Executive Fight Detachment- guarding President Johnson's Helicopters and Karen Hassler who is currently a Captain in the US Army who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Krzeminski, organizer of the event, says "Each day when we come to school, as administrators, teachers, staff and students; we get to do so in a free democratic society because of the sacrifice and efforts of these presenters and the millions of other veterans that served us, many at a high cost and sacrifice, and made us free."
- The members of the National Honor Society have chosen the Make-A-Wish foundation as their charitable benefactor this year. A few weeks ago Ms. Andrea Ballas met with the entire NHS and explained how the foundation works and showed them a moving video of a boy getting his wish. Although the average cost of a child's wish is \$3900, the members overwhelmingly decided they want to make a wish come true for a deserving child!
- Mrs. Woodrow and the Health Administration along with some students from the Nutrition Club will be starting a morning announcement on Mondays and Fridays

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

- I have requested our solicitor, Ira Weiss, to contact attorney Philip DiLucente and request that he cease and desist in making disparaging remarks about the Highlands School District. Mr. DiLucente's misquotes about Highland's policy toward bullying are irresponsible. His allegations regarding the District's commitments are unfounded. This weekend Mr. DiLucente went to the media and stated he was disappointed in not hearing from the District, when, in fact, he did not call the District. We haven't heard from Mr. DiLucente regarding the soccer field incident in over a month. Highlands is focused on addressing the needs of the students and families who are served by this district, and not on continuing to

replay past events to serve other purposes. The students involved are back at school, the victim and his family have communicated to me that they are satisfied with the way the District addressed this incident, and the Highlands community is moving forward in a positive educational climate, free from bullying and hazing. The Highlands School District requests that everyone attempt to move forward in a positive and productive manner. The School District deserves an apology from Mr. DiLucente.

- The recently released School Performance Profiles (SPP) for Highlands schools were a dismal representation of the district. The district administration were notified of a review period and given a link to access the site prior to its release. However, the link was not operational and did not allow the district to offer revisions or corrections to the state's calculations. The district was not able to verify or correct errors. According to the district calculations by the building principals, SPP scores should be as many as 10 points higher for some of the district's schools. Regardless of this, we do have an improvement plan in place for the district. I have been here for one and a half years, and began that process the moment I returned to the district. First, we analyzed the issues that needed to be addressed and put various programs in place to better identify areas that need improvement. At the high school, we are working with the Model Schools Assessment. At the middle school, we are working with the PA Middle Schools Association to focus on what a true middle school concept is and how we can model that. At the elementary levels we have the students and staff learning on the Compass Learning system, which ties in to the NWEA MAP testing and data analysis. This will be the true growth model for our students – not the PSSA. Next week, administration will be participating in a webinar to learn the back end of NWEA and how to compare and analyze the student data and results. This process is just that – a *process* – not a magic bullet, but a very comprehensive and all-encompassing plan with various elements that all fit together. It is a process still in its infancy. The SPP scores are a very dismal representation of our district, but we will improve, we will keep moving with professional development and identification of areas of need. We are committed to providing the best opportunities.

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

- An HVA Committee has been set up to explore options for improving the program. A limited Google+ site has been set up for committee members to continually exchange ideas and thoughts about the program. The next meeting is tomorrow.
- A two-day professional development was held in October for teachers to learn about Student Learning Outcomes. The SLO is a part of the Educator Effectiveness Model and is comprised of a goal statement, a big idea and relevant assessment to show how the students are performing.
- The Bright Bytes Survey is completed. We are now analyzing data and the feedback is voluminous and of great variety! We will report back about this at a later board meeting. **Dr. Bjalogok added on to Mr. Graczyk's report that a Questeq survey also has been completed and is being analyzed.*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Ms. Misty Chybrzynski reported the following:

- **PARENT WORKSHOP: Helping Your Child Succeed!** Parents of Grandview, Fairmount and Fawn students can attend this parent workshop on Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 5-6:30 PM at the Grandview Library to hear topics such as Helping with Homework; Connecting to School and Technology, and Getting Involved and Getting Information. Hosted by teachers Lauralee Milberger and Yvette Kowal. Contact Grandview with questions.
- Encourage your student to submit art for the **Highlands Holiday Card Contest**. Submit either electronically to Misty Chybrzynski at mchybrzynski@goldenrams.com or send to the Administrative Center. Submission must be **received** by Nov. 21 at 4 PM. Superintendent Dr. Bjalogok will select eight submissions to create the district's greeting cards that will be sent to communities groups and members, as well as to schools and other educational institutions across the state! Check <http://bit.ly/1A80rfb> for guidelines.
- Tarentum / Brackenridge Christmas Parade will begin at 1 PM on Saturday, Nov. 22. Line up is at Noon under the Tarentum Bridge. Check out our Highlands High School football team, Variations, Scout Troops and local youth sport teams in the parade sponsored by the boroughs' Recreation Boards.
- Christmas on Corbet Street will be held from 5-7 PM on Saturday, Nov. 29 along Corbet Street in Tarentum. Bonfire, hot chocolate and sweets, basket raffles and Live entertainment featuring Highlands Middle School Choirs and Andy Mangini. Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus. There will be a gift bag for the kids. Check out our Food vendors & Treats for sale.
- Don't forget to send your POSITIVE ATHLETE nominee to Misty Chybrzynski at mchybrzynski@goldenrams.com. Indicate the athlete's name, grade level, sport, and how they are being a positive athlete. Please also note the best way to contact you with questions. Nominees must be in HIGH SCHOOL.

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, as submitted.

November to be paid	\$108,553.86
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STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mr. Love, Mr. Masarik

- The Student Activities Fund Financial Report, as submitted.
- The following 2014-2015 Student Activity Sponsors:

- A. Zeiler, Michael
High School Musical Stage Manager
- B. Kirin, Tyler
High School Musical Tech Director

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

- The Student Discipline Agreement, as submitted.

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Beale, Mrs. Thimons

No report.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Beale

No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Myers

- Ratifying the Use of Facilities, as submitted.

** Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Fox and Mr. Miles voted "NO" for the Elementary Basketball Camp. Mr. Love, Mr. Masarik and Mrs. Beale voted "YES" for the camp.*

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). [COPY ATTACHED]
- 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). [COPY ATTACHED]
- Ratifying the resignations of the following staff:

- A. Day, Monica - RATIFY
Personal Aide – Fawn Primary Center
Effective September 26, 2014
- B. Bashforth, Matthew – RATIFY
Personal Aide – High School
Effective October 31, 2014

- The following requests for FMLA:

- A. Employee #4787 - RATIFY
Elementary Teacher - Grandview
November 5, 2014 – December 23, 2014
- B. Employee #5437
Elementary Teacher – Grandview
January 16, 2015 – May 18, 2015
- C. Employee #3993
Personal Aide – High School
October 15, 2014 – January 6, 2015

- 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:

- A. Ehrmentrout, Matthew (Replacement) - RATIFY
Custodian II – High School

Effective October 27, 2014
\$8.90 per hour

- Heather Hauser's salary adjustment to \$89,320 effective November 18, 2014.

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mr. Love

- Tax Refunds, as submitted.

November to be paid: \$44,674.00

- Payment of General Fund Bills, as submitted.

November to be ratified \$2,403,765.56

November to be paid \$ 773,148.14

TOTAL \$3,176,913.70

- Joint purchasing for 2015 in the following areas: Paper Supplies, Electricity, General School Supplies, Natural Gas, Gasoline, Diesel Fuel & Heating Oil, Custodial Supplies, and Other Items as approved by the Joint Purchasing Board.

- The annual donation to the Allegheny Valley Community Library in the amount of \$5,000.

- Sheriff Sale of the following properties.

- A. BRAUN – 1366-P-155
Cedar Street
Tarentum, PA 15084
- B. HENKLE – 1223-S-215
107 Allegheny Street
Tarentum, Pa 15084
- C. MILLER/ERICCO – 1676-K-325
3306 Bull Creek Road
Tarentum, PA 15065
- D. VALENCICS – 1846-F-62
4001 Freeport Road
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
- E. WRIGHT/PARKS – 1367-M-060
1251 9th Avenue
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
- F. GRZYWINSKI – 1368-N-099
1275 Argonne Drive
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

- Extending the tax abatement program for 2 years, through December 2016.

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Fox reported the following:

- 766 students enrolled currently.
- A blood drive was held on October 28 and was very successful.
- The Skills Leadership Conference was held from Nov. 5 – 7 at Seven Springs. Three students attended and competed for Highlands – Nick Carrigan, Jeremy Renwick and Gregory Hirtz. A banquet was held on Nov. 6.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Love

Mr. Love reported the following:

- Act 195 of 2013 regarding EpiPens and the stocking of those devices to have on-hand for students with allergic reactions.
- Act 51 of 2014 – regarding a Basic Education Funding Committee being formed.

- Act 168 – requiring a thorough review and background check for all employees of a school prior to being hired.
- At the Nov. 16 session PSBA outlined the core issues, which include working towards pension prices, enacting charter school reform and especially for Special Education and providing adequate and fair funding for public education.
- Dr. Bjalogok presented a short video from the PSBA Conference featuring Highlands students in the STEAMM Academy!

AIU3 REPORT – Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Beale reported the following:

- The Board of Directors met at the October 27 2014 meeting to discuss the operations of the many programs and services for all of the AIU / County schools.
- Recommendation to place a link on the www.goldenrams.com website for the AIU to link the school with one of its supporting partners.

POLICY – Mr. Masarik, Mr. Love

- Mr. Masarik reported the following:

- The Supt. Secretary and an administrator received training on the new web-based policy manual. It appears to be more user-friendly. The policy committee will next see how the back-end of the site works. The process is only a few steps from adoption to public viewing of board policies. Highlands is a pilot program for the service.

ATHLETICS – Mr. Myers, Mr. Hanford

- The Athletic Fund Financial Report, as submitted. [COPY ATTACHED]
- 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
Pringle, Cody	Asst. Wrestling Coach
Orris, Josh	Volunteer Asst. Wrestling Coach
Schaltenbrand, B.J.	Volunteer Asst. Wrestling Coach
Pollick, Luke	Volunteer Asst. Wrestling Coach
Walters, Grant – RATIFY	Varsity Wrestling Coach
Jonczak, Drew – RATIFY	7 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Reorganization/Planning/Regular Meeting for Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

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