



Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

August 18, 2008 Regular School Board Meeting

NOTE: This Board Highlights document includes the approved actions of the School Board Meeting. It is not meant to be an exact reflection of the meeting's minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Board approved the minutes of the June 16, 2008 Regular School Board Meeting and The Special School Board Meetings held on July 14 and 21, 2008, as submitted.

SECRETARY CORRESPONDENCE - **Mr. Rupert** reported that the district received a thank you letter from The Brothers Brother foundation for donating used furniture from the High School. He also reported that Highlands School District has been approved for a 5% Certified Safety Committee Credit by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Workers Compensation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - **Dr. Galcik** reported on the productive summer the district had, which included an intensive district-wide intense summer cleaning schedule which will be completed by September 2nd. Dr. Galick reported that the district held 3 summer school programs.

The Extended School Year Program for special needs children was attended by 80 students and data was collected on individual IEP goals and skill areas in need of remediation. This information will be provided to students' support teachers to establish baseline at the beginning of the new school year. The Title I Summer Program was highly successful with data driven instruction and progress monitoring for teachers to teach based on individual student needs. The Secondary Summer Program was well attended, with 115 Highlands students and 29 out-of-district students in attendance. 99% of the students passed their courses.

The district also received the results of the PSSA assessments taken during the spring of last year. All buildings and the district met the requirements of Adequate Yearly Progress as required by NCLB. More information will be provided when the reports arrive in the fall.

The classroom computers were cleaned, painting projects have been completed, furniture has been donated or discarded, and new furniture arrived at the High School and Grandview. The wiring of the Stadium, Community Center, and the Middle School for the district wide security system was also installed. The new K-4 Modular also arrived.

Fall sports teams are practicing, the Band Camp has been completed and the 9th Grade Orientation was held last week. Both the School Board and the Administrative Team held goal setting meetings for the new school year. The new teacher induction program, as well as a 6th grade induction, will be held this week.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Bjalobok reported the district's professional development initiatives for this year. He reported that at the June Administrative meetings, the team discussed strategies for higher level thinking. The guest speaker was Beth Sattes, the author of Quality Questioning.

Another topic for professional development came from the research of Ruby Payne as presented in her book "Bridges out of Poverty" which examines the economic variables of influence learning.

Both of the researchers presented information that will impact instruction and ultimately student achievement. Dr. Bjalobok reported that the Principals now are well versed in these areas and will provide professionally rewarding experiences for their respective faculties.

Other topics for professional development this year will include: Lesson Study as presented through the Math and Science Collaborative; Writing across the curriculum; Letters training; Study Island Training and Special Education Regulation Updates.

Dr. Bjalobok also reported that last year the Elementary Language Arts Curriculum as well as the Math Curriculum were reformatted to reflect the state standards and highlight the state anchor statements and eligible content for the teachers. This year's focus will be to reformat Science and Social Studies.

He also reported that this year, the district will also conduct a Kindergarten to 12th grade needs assessment for social studies materials to ensure that Highlands students and teachers will have updated materials readily available for their access.

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Fox

The Board approved payment of Cafeteria Fund bills in the amount of \$98,857.19, as submitted. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the purchase of the High School Cafeteria A la Carte equipment at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00 as budgeted, as per State Bid. *Unanimous vote.*

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for June 2008, as submitted. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the contract with Josten's Studio for High School Yearbook photographs for the 2008-2009 School Year. *Unanimous vote.*

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved the textbook titled International Business 3E for use in the Distributive Education Curriculum for the 2008-2009 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$2,480.50. *Unanimous vote.*

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Misejka, Mr. Heasley

The Board approved a contract with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for Transportation of Head Start Children between Highlands School District and W.L. Roenigk, Inc. for the 2008-2009 School Year. *Unanimous vote.*

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Misejka, Mr. Heasley

The Board approved requests for the use of facilities (cleared by Administration and as per Board Policy). *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved a bid for Termite Services to Pest-A-Side Exterminating Co., Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$23,920.50. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the advertisement for a District Architect. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board authorized Administration to bid repairs needed on the Grandview stage. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board awarded a quote to Dan Thimons to paint the Grandview Library (repairs include, doors, walls, etc.) at a cost not to exceed \$3,900.00 (paid from Bond Issue). *Unanimous vote.*

The Board awarded a quote to Dan Thimons to paint the Pool Area (walls and upper window area) at a cost not to exceed \$3,950.00 (paid from Bond Issue). *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the ratification of a bid to paint the High School auditorium ceiling with Dan Thimons at a cost not to exceed \$9,950.00 (paid from Bond Issue). *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved The Right of Way Agreement with Fawn Township Sewer Authority as required to proceed with the sewer project. *Unanimous vote.*

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Wantland, Mr. Peck

The Board approved the creation of a District Attendance Officer position, as submitted (In accordance with Board Policy #401). *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the 2008-2009 Substitute Custodian Call List, as submitted (In accordance with Board Policy #505 (Pre-Employment Drug Test) #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check.) *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the 2008-2009 Substitute Teacher Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the 2008-2009 Substitute Secretary Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #505 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the 2008-2009 Substitute Aide Call List, as submitted, As per Board Policy #505 (Pre-Employment Drug Test) #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check). *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the following request for a Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement: *Unanimous vote.*

- A. **Molly Smith**
Computer Applications & Programming Teacher
High School
Child Rearing Leave
2007-2008 School Year

- B. **Erin Johnson**
Learning Support Teacher
Heights Elementary

Child Rearing Leave
9 weeks/1st Semester

- C. **Mary Ann Corbett**
Kindergarten Teacher
Fawn Elementary
Medical Leave of Absence
6 Months

The Board approved the appointment of **Lisa M. Ray** as Treasurer for the 2008-2009 school year, in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the hiring of the following Professional Staff, in accordance with Board Policy #404 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check. Effective August 26, 2008; salary as per Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:

- A. **Joshua Helgert**
Social Studies Teacher – High School
BS Degree, Step 1

** The motion received a vote of 5 yes, 3 no, with Mr. Lang, Mr. Misejka and Mrs. Thimons voting "No."*

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

- A. **Diane DePew** (replacement)
Personal Aide – High School
Effective August 26, 2008

The Board ratified the following Band Camp Personnel: *Unanimous vote.*

Matthew Beresik – Director
Eric Laseck – Assistant Director
Debra Lehew – Color Guard
Bridgette DePew – Drill Team and Majorette Sponsor

The Board approved the appointment 2008-2009 School Year Curriculum Managers, Program Facilitators, Team Leaders, and Grade Level Leaders. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Diane Klugh**, Clerical Aide – Nurse’s Office/Food Service Office – High School, effective immediately.
Unanimous vote.

FINANCE/TAX – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Thimons

The Board accepted the Treasurer’s Report for May and June 2008, as submitted and subject to audit. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved Tax Refunds in the amount of \$9,367.55, as submitted.
Unanimous vote.

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills, as follows: *Unanimous vote.*

To Be Ratified	\$2,781,100.37
To Be Paid	<u>\$ 130,654.44</u>
TOTAL	\$2,911,754.81

The Board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills in the amount of \$161,438.43, as submitted.

** The motion received a vote of 7 yes, 1 no. Mrs. Wisner voted “No” to check numbers 1088, 1089 and 1097.*

The Board approved the lots to be sold to the highest bidder: *Unanimous vote.*

A. 1070 3rd Avenue
Brackenridge, PA 15014
Sold to: James C. Huet
1072 3rd Avenue
Brackenridge, PA 15014
Amount: \$2,040.00

A. 1044 9th Avenue
Brackenridge, PA 15014
Sold to: David & Kathy Zembrowski
1046 9th Avenue
Brackenridge, PA 15014
Amount: \$1,000.00

The Board approved continuance of the HEA Sick Day Incentive for the 2008-2009 School Year. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the bid to purchase High School desk/drafting tables and stools from: *Unanimous vote.*

- A. ATD American Desks
\$12,629.12

- B. Herlihy Company Chairs
\$2,290.17
(Paid from Bond Issue).

The Board approved the joint agreement with Allegheny County, Brackenridge Borough, Harrison Township and ATI as it pertains to the Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone Agreement, as submitted by solicitor. *Unanimous vote.*

PSBA/NSBA

Mrs. Wisner asked that the board elect 2 voting delegates for this upcoming Conference. The Board nominated **Mrs. Fox** and **Mrs. Wisner**.

Mrs. Wisner also suggested that each board member try to attend the PASA-PBSA School Leadership Conference on October 14-17, 2008 in Hershey PA. She also reminded the board that if they register as a group by August 29, 2008, the cost would be \$995.00. If not, it will cost \$1,195.00.

POLICY

The Board approved the second reading of the following policy: *Unanimous vote.*

- A. 419.1 – Intellectual Property

ATHLETICS

The Board approved the Athletic Fund Report for June and July 2008, as submitted. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2008-2009 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.)

Basketball

Meghan Ziemianski - Eighth Grade Girls Coach

Zachary Ziemianski - Seventh Grade Girls Coach

Football

Beau Elliott – Ratify - Seventh & Eighth Grade Asst. Coach

Tennis

Aaron Kessler – Ratify - Varsity Girls

** The motion passed, with Mrs. Wisner voting "No" on the 8th and 7th grade girls basketball coaches and Mrs. Wantland voting "No" on the 7th Grade girls basketball coach.*

The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Jennifer Snyder**, Varsity Cheerleading Sponsor – Competitions and Practices effective immediately. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Virginia Heasley**, Volunteer Cheerleading Sponsor, effective immediately. *Unanimous vote.*

TECHNOLOGY

The Board approved Parent Broadcast to provide the One Call Now services for the 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011 School Years (paid from Technology Budget). *Unanimous vote.*

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board authorized Solicitor's motion to notify and remove a School Board Member, as per Pennsylvania School Code.

**The motion passed with a vote of 5 yes, 3 no. Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Wisner and Mr. Lang voted "No."*

The Board approved the Administration to investigate the advantages of a four-day work week during the summer and a possible district-wide, one-week summer shutdown. *Unanimous vote.*

2008 Highlands School Board Members

Debbie Beale – President

Laura Thimons – Vice President

Carrie Fox

William Heasley

Ron Lang

Ron Misejka

Mark Peck

Karen Wantland

Judy Wisner