

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

November 15, 2010 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.

ROLL CALL – All board members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The Board approved the minutes of the October 18, 2010 Regular Meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – **Mr. Jon Rupert** reported that charter school costs have increased over the years. Currently, Highlands School District pays out \$730,000 to charter schools and \$400,000 for Special Education placements for district students enrolled in such educational entities. The district needs legislative help in order to reduce this costly expense for school districts. For those who would like more information to pass on to representatives or legislators, contact the Administration Center at 724-226-2400.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - **Miss Allie Thimons** reported the following:

- Fall Sports teams standings.
- The Highlands Players presented the play *Left in the Wicker Basket OR Right Under the Ol' Boarding House Steps*, written by Paul Collette and Robert Wright and directed by Thomas L. Abbott on November 12 and 13. It was well attended and received good reviews.
- The marching band will perform in the Holiday Parade at 1 pm in Tarentum and Brackenridge, and the Madrigals and Variations will perform at Lite Up Nite in Tarentum Memorial park following from 2 pm to 5 pm the parade.
- The HHS Choral Concert will be held on December 12, at the High School at 1 pm.
- The Art Department enjoyed an "Artist in Residence" program with Heather Joy Puskarich, an artist who taught students the process in making glass portraitures.
- Homecoming King and Queen were Julia Helgert and Don Bushman.
- The 2011 musical was announced. Please stay posted for more information about the upcoming production, "The Wedding Singer."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – **Dr. Joe Latess** reported the following:

- Senior **Elissa White** placed Best of Show at the student juried exhibit that was a part of the Pennsylvania Art Education Association conference in October. The work of seven other high school students was exhibited as well, including **Becky Homza, Carley Negley, Dan Grove, Randi Moser, Stephanie Oertel, Kayla Weinfurther, and Samantha Thornton**. The artwork was on display at Pittsburgh Children's Museum before traveling to an exhibit in Harrisburg.
- **Mrs. Deb Lehew**, Director of Special Education, received the "Star Award" from the Sanctuary Institute at a national convention held in New York. Mrs. Lehew was invited to teach other leaders about the Sanctuary Model and was surprised with this award, which is presented to those who have "outstanding accomplishments in implementing the Sanctuary Model." Highlands is the only school district in the nation that is implementing this model as a

whole district. The model is based on changing the culture of the school community from the betterment of workers, students and the general environment.

- **Highlands Middle School students** competed in the first Invention Convention held at Penn State New Kensington. The event was sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Chamber of Commerce and Penn State, whose Electro-Optics Center at the Northpointe Industrial Park in Slate Lick provided the chamber with a \$1,000 grant for the competition.

Mr. Patrick Graczyk, Assistant to the Superintendent, noted the following items:

- Parent Teacher Conferences were successful events at each building. Teachers and administrators created parent-friendly atmosphere and highlighted student projects and works in classrooms and common areas.
- Title I and Joint PTA held a meeting last week. Title I teachers and support staff joined parents, sharing information about the reading improvement program and how teachers monitor student performance and progress in efforts to bolster reading achievement. It was a great opportunity to educate parents about Title I and receive valuable input and feedback.

The School Board unanimously approved the following items:

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved accepting the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for October 2010, as submitted.

The Board approved the payment of Cafeteria Fund bills, as submitted.

To be paid \$123,261.07

The Board approved the 2010 Cafeteria Budget, as submitted.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for October 2010, as submitted.

The Board approved appointing the following 2010-2011 Student Activities Sponsors:

- A. Jody Shumaker**
Fourth Grade Level Co-Leader
- B. Adam Kostewicz**
Fourth Grade Level Co-Leader
- C. Heather Brubaker – Ratify**
Yearbook Sponsor
Middle School
Effective October 11, 2010
- D. Carolyn Kremer**
Special Education Department Chair
- E. Erin Conley**
Sapphire Team Leader – Middle School

The Board approved the 2010-2011 Cheerleading Competitions, as submitted.

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Wantland

The Board approved the Independent Services Agreement with Grubb Consulting Services, Inc. for the 2010-2011 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$23,716 (payable from IDEA funds).

Mrs. Sandra Reidmiller presented information about the Library and Media Services provided to students, staff and families across the district. To view Mrs. Reidmiller's presentation, click on the link below the Nov. 15, 2010 Board Highlights title on the Board Highlights page of the GoldenRams.com website.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Heasley, Mr. Lang

No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Heasley, Mrs. Fox

The Board approved ratifying the use of facilities, as submitted. **[SEE APPENDIX 6.1]**

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Fox, Mr. Miles

The Board approved the 2010-2011 Substitute Teacher Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test) #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check).

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

A. Kristy Frisco

Biology Teacher – High School
Family and Medical Leave of Absence
Effective November 15, 2010 through February 11, 2011

The Board approved ratifying the Medical Leave of Absence of **Leonard Mehal**, Custodian II, Fairmount Elementary, effective October 28, 2010.

The Board approved the hiring of **Dr. Robert M. Marchi** to perform Dental Exams for the 2010-2011 school year at a stipend of \$800.00.

The Board approved the Teacher of Record Stipends as follows:

A. Jennifer Motosicky

Teacher of Record – Business Math - \$1,500.00

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:

A. Susan Runyan – ratify

Cafeteria Alternate
Effective October 22, 2010

B. Ann Lang

Cafeteria Alternate – replacement
Effective November 16, 2010

The Board approved the addendum to the Behavior Specialist agreement.

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report for September 2010, as submitted and subject to audit.

The Board approved Tax Refunds, as submitted. **[SEE FINANCIAL 8.2**
November 2010 to be paid \$8,649.50

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills for November 2010, as submitted.

November to be ratified	\$ 352,782.90
November to be paid	\$ <u>623,725.81</u>
TOTAL	\$ 976,508.71

The Board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills for November 2010, in the amount of \$99,000.00, as submitted.

The Board approved the D.A.R.E. Program at a cost of \$2,116.00 to the District.

The Board approved the AIU Joint Purchasing Resolution, as submitted.

The Board approved the 2010-2011 Budget Calendar, in accordance with Act 1, as submitted.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Fox, Mr. Krzton, Mrs. Thimons

Highlands School District staff and students held fundraising events in October in recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. District wide, staff donated \$1,250 for the Lee National Denim Days fundraiser. HMS raised \$275 on the school-wide Pink Out day for the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Highlands High School cheerleaders raised \$386 by soliciting votes for staff members who volunteered to get "A Pie the Face" at the school pep rally. Ryan Yates, Sharon Conway and Jennifer Motosicky took one for the cause! At the Highlands v. Hampton varsity football game, HHS cheer squads hosted a Pink Out at the game, uniting with Hampton cheerleaders in the stands to collect a total of \$3,400 for the Young Women's Breast Cancer Foundation. **In total, district donations for breast cancer research and awareness totaled \$5,311!**

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Carrie Fox reported the following:

- The roof project is near completion.
- Students attended the SkillsUSA Conference held in Seven Springs. Eight of the fifteen students attending the competition were from Highlands! In addition, dental student **Paige Reed** received the Student of the Year award. Forbes also won the First Place award for the logo contest; instructor James Gould won an award and Forbes won the Spirit of the Year award, as well as several other competitive awards. Congratulations to Highlands students and Forbes Road CTC!

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Wisner

PSBA Focus: Executive Director Thomas J. Gentzel discusses the latest information on pension reform and the recent release of the documentary "Waiting for Superman," which looks at public education. To view the full presentation, click on the link below the Nov. 15, 2010 Board Highlights title on the Board Highlights page of the GoldenRams.com website.

POLICY – Mr. Krzton, Mr. Lang, Mrs. Wantland

No report.

ATHLETICS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Heasley, Mr. Krzton

The Board approved the Athletic Fund Report for October 2010, as submitted.

The Board approved ratifying the hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2010-2011 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.):

Name	Position
Celko, William	9 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Foster, Michael	8 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Barr, Ryann	Girls JV Basketball Coach
Helgert, Joshua	Ticket Seller/Boys Basketball
Glaister, Stephanie	Ticket Seller/Girls Basketball
Foster, Chet	Ticket Taker/ Boys and Girls Basketball
Stawinski, Pamala	Ticket Taker/Boys and Girls Basketball
Helgert, Maria	Sub Ticket Taker/ Boys and Girls Basketball
Johnson, Susan	Sub Ticket Taker/ Boys and Girls Basketball
Thimons, Rose	Sub Ticket Taker/ Boys and Girls Basketball
Heasley Jr., William	Sub Ticket Taker/ Boys and Girls Basketball
Glaister, Stephanie	Sub Ticket Taker/ Boys and Girls Basketball
Mosovsky, Rita	Sub Ticket Taker/ Boys and Girls Basketball
Mosovsky, Rita	Ticket Taker/Wrestling
Zendarski, Mike	Timekeeper/Boys and Girls Basketball
Stabile, Tom	Timekeeper/Boys Basketball – Middle School
Corso, Domenic	Timekeeper/Boys and Girls Basketball
Snyder, Candice - Ratify	Middle School Girls Soccer Coach
Foster, Michael	Volunteer Indoor Track Coach
Grove, Phil	Volunteer Indoor Track Coach
Walsh, Chad	Volunteer Indoor Track Coach
Masarik, Andrew	Volunteer Indoor Track Coach
Rice, Chris	Volunteer Indoor Track Coach
Foster, Chet	Volunteer Indoor Track Coach

TECHNOLOGY – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board approved the Board Reorganization, Planning and Regular Meeting on Monday, December 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

2010 Highlands School Board Members

Debbie Beale - President

Carrie Fox - Vice President

Laura Thimons William Heasley

Ron Lang William Krzlon

Eric Miles Karen Wantland

Judy Wisner