

# Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

## January 18, 2012 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

**ROLL CALL** - All members present.

**AGENDA ITEMS** - The Board unanimously approved the following items:

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Approved the minutes of the November 21, 2011 Regular Meeting and the December 5, 2011 Reorganization Meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** – No report.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

**Mr. Andrew McBurney** (HHS- Senior) reported the following:

- Thank you to the School Board during School Board Appreciation Month.
- Indoor track season is underway, with more student participation than ever.
- Post-prom fundraising is underway, contact Trina Colberg or Teresa Emeloff to donate.
- Musical practice of Highlands High School "High School Musical" production is in the works.
- It is the end of the first semester and students are completing mid-terms and projects.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Dr. Joseph Latess** reported the following:

- Governor Corbett froze school district assets by \$160 million dollars across the state. This has high impacts on school districts, including Chester-Upland, which has now declared bankruptcy and will no longer be a school district. Teachers are voluntarily providing instruction to students in order for the school year to be completed. This is a high poverty area that still has managed to achieve student success. These students will be enrolled in cyber and charter schools upon completion of the school year as public education will not be an option. ***We must continue to contact our legislators and ask them to work on funding for cyber and charter schools that does not destroy public education budgets!***

Thank you to our School Board members during School Director Appreciation Month. Principals presented each member with a certificate and Administration gave each member a small token of appreciation for the time and efforts dedicated to the schools.

## **ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Mr. Patrick Graczyk** reported the following:

- Thank you to the School Board for constant support and volunteering time.
- High School Math co-teachers are really helping students to improve skills.
- Title I allocation is effected by the budget freeze and amounts will not be released until February.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

Prior to moving on with the agenda, Mrs. Beale requested a Moment of Silence for **Marsha Hanford**, mother of School Board member Ryan Hanford and a regular contributor to the Highlands School District and Highland Hornets Youth Football Association. Mrs. Hanford will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace.

*The Board unanimously approved the following items:*

## **CAFETERIA**

- Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for December 2011, as submitted.
- Payment of Cafeteria Fund bills, as submitted. [SEE FINANCIAL REPORT 1.2]

December to be ratified   \$62,992.32  
January to be paid       \$54,245.27

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

- Caroline Jackson as Volunteer Advisor for the High School Chess Club.

## **INSTRUCTION**

- The Program of Studies for the Middle School, as submitted. [SEE APPENDIX 4.1]
- The Program of Studies for the High School, as submitted. [SEE APPENDIX 4.2]

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Mr. Masarik reported that the Transportation Committee would like to discuss parameters and review resources familiar with local street knowledge to further develop the Transportation Policy prior to the end of this school year.

## **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- The use of facilities, as submitted.
- The revised Moving Proposal from Weleski Transfer, Inc., as submitted.

*\*Mrs. Thimons voted 'No'.*

- Authorized administration to proceed with getting an appraisal of the Heights Early Childhood Center with David King at a cost of \$1,600.

- Authorized Administration and Solicitor to proceed with the sale of the Administrative Center to the highest bidder.

## **PERSONNEL**

- Approved the 2011-2012 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).

- Approved the following requests for Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:

### **Rachel Chester - REVISED**

Elementary Teacher

Grandview Upper Elementary

Family and Medical Leave of Absence

Beginning December 20, 2011 through February 28, 2012

### **Carol Fraser – Ratify**

Elementary Teacher

Grandview Upper Elementary

Medical Leave of Absence

Beginning December 7, 2011 through June 7, 2012

### **Melissa Klug – Ratify**

Elementary Teacher

Grandview Upper Elementary

Family and Medical Leave of Absence

Beginning March 28, 2012 through June 8, 2012

- Approved the renewal of contract of the Law Offices of Ira Weiss as the District Solicitor for the 2012 calendar year at no change in rates.

- Accepted the resignation of **Gene F. Nicastro**, Principal Fairmount Primary Center effective January 13, 2012.

- Approved the change in position of **Ian Miller**, Interim Elementary Principal, Fawn Primary Center and Heights Early Childhood Center to the position of Elementary Principal, Fawn and Fairmount Primary Centers and Heights Early Childhood Center

effective January 19, 2012 at an annual salary of \$70,000, in accordance with the Act 93 Compensation Plan.

- Approved the recall of the following personnel:

**Cynthia Barnhart**

Writing Lab Instructor – High School  
Part-Time Position, Funded through SIG Grant  
\$24,009.50 and 50% of benefits  
Start Date: January 19, 2012

FINANCE/TAX

- Approved the Treasurer’s Report for November 2011, as submitted and subject to audit.

- Ratified Tax Refunds in the amount of \$1,576.20 for December 2011, as submitted.

- Approved payment of General Fund bills, as submitted.

|                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| December 2011 to be ratified | \$ 1,518,800.41       |
| December 2011 to be paid     | \$ <u>567,460.13</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>\$2,086,260.54</b> |

- Adopting the preliminary budget for 2012-2013 school year in the amount of \$39,105,330, in accordance with Act 1.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Highlands School District recognizes **Grace Ann Bello** for Standing Up for Public Education. Grace Ann, a Highlands parent of two, has volunteered her services for years to the science program and classrooms at Fawn Primary Center and at Highlands Middle School. Grace Ann shared her connections with the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh and as a Research Associate at PPG Industries to assist teachers in securing grants and opportunities that provides interactive learning for Highlands students. Thank you, Grace Ann, for contributing to the science program and volunteering time and expertise to our students and faculty. Superintendent Dr. Latess presented Mrs. Bello a Highlands stadium blanket and a certificate recognizing her contribution to public education.

Mrs. Thimons notified the public of the Sweethearts Prom on February 11, a fundraiser for the High School Musical production by Highlands High School students. Contact Mr. Mike Zeiler for more information or to purchase tickets. This is an adult only event.

FORBES ROAD CTC

No report.

PSBA/NSBA

Mr. Love reported that two classes are being offered for new school board members at the AIU3.

POLICY

No report.

ATHLETICS

- The hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2011-2012 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               |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Weissert, Jeff</b> | Varsity Baseball Coach |

- Mr. Masarik noted that the PIAA revisions for Fall Sports have been released. Check the GoldenRams.com website for the new classifications that Highlands will be competing in – check homepage and Athletics Dept. page on January 25 for updates.

MISCELLANEOUS

No report.

*2012 Highlands School Board Members*

*Debbie Beale - President*

*Carrie Fox - Vice President*

*Laura Thimons*

*Jonathon Love*

*Ron Lang*

*William Krzton*

*Eric Miles*

*Michael Masarik*

*Ryan Hanford*