

# Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

## January 22, 2013 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 present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - The Board approved the minutes of the November 19, 2012 and December 3, 2012 Regular Meeting and the December 3, 2012 Reorganization Meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** – **Jon Rupert** reported the following:

- The administration is reviewing the Affordable healthcare Act and will report to the Board details in the future.
- New assessments in Allegheny County will require the Board to adjust the millage for the district. This will be recommended when the Board approves the budget.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT** - Cole **Emanuelson** reported the following:

- HHS students participated in a "Mentoring Morning" on Dec. 21. Students were able select three topics from a list of over 50 sessions, including Dating Violence, Smoking Cessation, Prepping for College, Performing Arts, Government Careers, and a great variety of others. This event was organized by **Susie Giovengo** (guidance), **Amy Eidenshink** (library) and the SADD team.
- Students in **Patrick Hassler's** classes coordinated the annual Christmas Around the World event last month. Students set up displays, made food and played music from various countries. Students in grades K through Six came to the Community Center to experience the holidays around the world.
- Juniors took the Keystone Exams in January in Algebra I, Biology and Literature. This is the first time student took these tests, which replace the PSSAs.
- Highlands hosts a **NCAA Night** on January 30 at 6 PM in the Audion.
- The Highlands High School Planetarium made its debut as an integral part of student science presentations given in **Matthew Sespico's** 11th grade physical science classes. The system is the Digitarium® Delta 2, a high resolution digital planetarium that projects a 1080 pixel diameter circle over the full dome that is already in existence at the High School. The Digitarium was funded by the School Improvement Grant (SIG).

**ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – **Mr. Patrick Graczyk** reported the following:

- January is School Director Recognition Month. This year, the theme is "Serving Every Child Every Day." Thank you to the School Board members, who work endlessly and without pay to make decisions for the district and the community to benefit our public schools.
- The Title I PAC meeting will be held on January 30 beginning at 10 AM at Fairmount Primary Center. This meeting will feature a speaker explaining details about a free program for parents to help their students succeed. All district parents are invited to attend.
- A letter will be read from the National Honor Society students at the Executive Session for the Board.
- The High School experienced a safety issue in December involving a weapon. The item later was identified as a look-alike weapon. During the incident, three members of the Highlands team gave a heroic effort to protect our students. These individuals' actions reflect the importance that student

safety is for Highlands and how much we truly care about our children. The Superintendent Recognition Certificate is presented to security guards **Salvatore Chiusano, Kristina Truitt** and school-based probation officer **Matthew Domaracki** for their bravery and courage. The three were also presented with a St. Michael's pendant.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT** – **Misty Chybrzynski** reported the following:

- Highlands hosted a Holiday Community Luncheon in December to discuss the state of the district, various projects in different schools and upcoming events with members of the Harrison, Tarentum and Fawn municipality leaders and the Highlands School District administration team and board members. The annual event allows new members or administrators to meet, connect and partner with the local government.

- Highlands hosted a Safety Summit following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. The Summit connected local police departments, municipality leaders, school administration and emergency responders to discuss the state of security at Highlands, issues between the community and the district and to schedule future meetings. The Summit was very productive, proactive and beneficial for planning and responding to future emergencies.

- Highlands School District Music Department hosts **Highlands Gives Back**, an annual concert to benefit local charities featuring Highlands musical faculty, alumni and friends. The concert will be held on **Friday, January 25** beginning at 7 PM at Highlands Middle School. The concert accepts monetary donations, non-perishable food items and children's clothing as admission to benefit the AVAC Food Bank, Highlands Area Meals on Wheels and the Alle-Kiski Hope Center. There will also be gift basket raffles, drawings and refreshments. All proceeds benefit the three local charities. Contact Highlands Middle School band director **Lee Lynn** at [llynn@goldenrams.com](mailto:llynn@goldenrams.com) for more information or to offer a donation for the gift basket raffle.

- The cast of FAME the Musical at Highlands High School will host a Musical Alumni Cabaret Concert on February 9 from 7-10 PM at HHS. This event is a fundraiser for the musical, and replaces the annual Prom event formerly held at Harrison's Grille in the Heights Plaza. Due to a fire last month, Harrison's has yet to reopen. Please contact Musical Director Michael Zeiler at [mzeiler@goldenrams.com](mailto:mzeiler@goldenrams.com) or by calling Grandview Upper Elementary School for more information or to donate. More details will be posted on [www.Goldenrams.com](http://www.Goldenrams.com).

- Stop by McDonald's in Natrona Heights on January 24 from 4 to 7 PM to help the Swim Team. A portion of sales during this time period will be donated to the Swim Team.

- **SAVE THE DATE!** Pennsylvania School Board Association will host a Stand UP for Public Education Meeting with local and county legislators on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013 at 7 PM at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in Homestead. The meeting will discuss the tough economic challenges that all school districts will be facing in 2013. Allegheny County legislators will be invited to join the discussion and answer questions. Highlands School District directors, superintendent, administrators, union presidents, teachers and PTO/PTA officers are invited to discuss and learn about the challenges ahead. Refreshments will be served. The meeting will be held at Allegheny Intermediate Unit Central Office at 475 East Waterford Drive, Homestead PA 15120. Reservations are not required.

All of this information and much more can be found on the district website [www.Goldenrams.com](http://www.Goldenrams.com). Jennifer Goldberg presented information about online communication methods and outlets for parents and school community members (view PowerPoint presentation on Board Meeting Highlights page.)

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

Unless otherwise noted, the Board unanimously agreed to the following items:

### **CAFETERIA**

- Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for November 2012, as submitted.
- Payment of Cafeteria Fund bills, as submitted.

December to be ratified	\$72,004.64
January to be paid	\$82687.84

Report: The Highlands Food Services Department will be selling copies of their cookbook for \$10 each at Highlands High School. Proceeds benefit the Lunch Ladies Scholarship Program to benefit a Highlands Senior.

### **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

- The Student Activities Fund Financial Reports for October, November, and December 2012, as submitted.
- Ratifying **Hugh Rumbaugh** as High School Musical Set Construction for the 2012-2013 school year.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

- The Student Discipline Agreement, as submitted.

### **INSTRUCTION**

No action.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- **Mr. Masarik** reported that he contacted Jim Struzzi from PennDOT regarding the Burtner Road construction project. He has not been contacted, but by visiting the site it appears that the project is moving along quickly.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- The use of facilities, as submitted.
- The Agreement of Sale between the Highlands School District and RBG Development, Inc. for the Heights Elementary School Property at the sale price of \$1 million, pursuant to the Agreement of Sale dated January 22, 2013, as submitted.
- The Board tabled the proposal from HESA and Eagle Scout Volunteer to jointly move the Modular behind the High School at no cost to the district.

### **PERSONNEL**

- The 2012-2013 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 7.1]**

- The 2012-2013 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 7.2]**

- Ratifying 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:

**Tina Reiter**

Cafeteria Alternate  
Effective January 22, 2013

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

**Erin Shoemaker**

Classroom Aide  
Middle School  
FMLA  
6 to 8 weeks beginning February 2013

- Accepting the resignation of the following staff:

**Maria Helgert** - ratify

12 Month Secretary  
High School  
Effective January 1, 2013

**Nicole Kravits** – ratify

Personal Aide  
Fawn Primary Center  
Effective November 30, 2012

**Susan Johnson** – ratify

12 Month Secretary  
Middle School  
Effective December 4, 2012

**Justine Wagner – ratify**

Personal Aide

Fairmount Primary Center

Effective January 4, 2013

**Nicholas Polcha**

Teacher

High School

Effective February 22, 2013

- Ratifying administration to recall 2 secretaries in accordance with contract.
- The renewal of contract of the Law Offices of Ira Weiss as the District Solicitor for the 2013 calendar year at a hourly rate of \$115.00 per hour, all other services to remain the same as 2012.
- Real Estate Tax Collectors stipend for next term, as submitted. **[SEE APPENDIX 7.8]**

**FINANCE/TAX**

- Tax Refunds in the amount of \$4,378.80 for January 2013, as submitted.
- Payment of General Fund bills, as submitted.

December/January to be ratified	\$ 1,850,872.30
January 2013 to be paid	\$ <u>415,963.35</u>
TOTAL	\$ 2,266,835.65

- Ratifying payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills for December 2012, in the amount of \$2,105.55, as submitted.
- Payment of 2012 Bond Issue bills for January 2013, in the amount of \$638,935, as submitted.
- Budget resolution in accordance with Act 1 whereas the District will remain within the established index rate, as submitted.
- Authorizing Solicitor to Sheriff Sale properties in cooperation with Harrison Township, as submitted.
- Authorizing District participation again this year with Clear Choice energy curtailment program (saves approximately \$8,000).

**FORBES ROAD CTC**

No report.

## **PSBA/NSBA**

**Mr. Love** reported the following:

- There will be a Stand Up for Public Education meeting at AIU3 (see above in Community Outreach).
- PSBA announced its legislative focus items for this year. They include Pension / Retirement Costs; Charter School Laws and School Funding.
- PSBA issued a report regarding charter schools, including cyber and brick-and-mortar, finding that an alarming rate of only 30 percent of such schools would have made AYP and of those, not one of the 12 state cyber schools would have met the standard.

## **POLICY**

No action.

## **13.0 ATHLETICS**

- The Athletic Fund Report for November and December 2012, as submitted
- The hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2012-2013 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:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Corso, Domenic</b>	Girls/Boys Basketball Timekeeper (ratify)
<b>Kordes, Kerry</b>	Girls/Boys Basketball Timekeeper (ratify)

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- The Board voted to table the Middle School Wireless Lease for the 2013-2015 school years at a cost of \$24,814, to be paid from the Technology Budget, pending review of the lease and corrected information on the Agenda.
- ***Debbie Beale, Jon Love and Ryan Hanford voted "NO" to tabling this item.***
- The replacement of 14 CAD machines at a cost of \$15,190, to be paid from the current Technology Budget.
- The Upgrade to the Active Directory in all Buildings at a cost of \$32,827 to be paid from the current Technology Budget.
- The Sequestration Resolution #08-12, as submitted. **[SEE APPENDIX 14.4]**

## *2013 Highlands School Board Members*

*Carrie Fox - President*

*Ryan Hanford - Vice President*

*Laura Thimons*

*Jonathon Love*

*Ron Lang*

*William Krzton*

*Eric Miles      Michael Masarik      Debbie Beale*