

# Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

## May 20, 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 members present.

*Mrs. Fox began the meeting by reading a letter from the Brackenridge Police Department thanking the teachers and staff at Grandview and Highlands Middle School for a luncheon honoring police for their service.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** The Board approved the minutes of the April 15, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** – Mr. Jon Rupert made the Board aware of an opening on the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System Board of Directors. Board members can apply for the seat. Mr. Rupert also read a letter from the Department of Labor notifying Highlands SD that the district will receive a savings of about \$10,000 for workmen's compensation costs due to having a workplace safety committee.

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

**Cole Emanuelson** reported the following:

- Students in the SADD group hosted the DUI Bug prior to Prom festivities. The purpose of the "Bug" is for students to understand the dangers of driving impaired. Students with valid driver's licenses were able to drive the car in the student parking lot.
- 286 students attended the Prom held on Friday May 17 at the Hard Rock Café in Station Square. Management at the venue commented that students were the best behaved of all the various schools that previously rented the venue.
- Keystone Exams were taken the past two weeks at the High School in Algebra, Biology and Literature.
- Students were honored at the Academic Ceremony at the High School for achieving high academic marks.
- Finals for Seniors begin next week, with the underclassmen taking final exams the following week. Baccalaureate will be held on Sunday, June 2 and Commencement will be held on Friday, June 7 at 6 PM at Highlands Golden Rams Stadium.

*Mrs. Fox thanked Cole for his time as Student Representative. Cole will be attending Carnegie Mellon University in the Fall. Mrs. Fox also thanks Chelsea Grinchuk for her time, she attended previous meetings.*

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Dr. Michael Bjalobok** reported the following:

- Regarding Prom feedback: The behavior of the students truly represents our community and district so well. Parents, staff and administration should also be commended for their hard work to have the event run so smoothly.

- During the Keystones Exams testing, a visitor from the PA Dept of Education observed and approved of testing procedures at Highlands High School.
  - A meeting has been held with administration regarding staffing. All decisions fall in line with preliminary budget guidelines.
  - We are on our way to moving to web-based analysis software for testing predictions and tutoring, these systems will replace 4Sights and Study Island.
- Mrs. Fox commented that she and Mrs. Thimons attended the Prom also and the event was well coordinated.*

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

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

- A Title I Monitor has been evaluating and auditing the Title I Program at Highlands and will report back to the district about its finding. Highlands likely will see a 5 to 8 percent decrease in Title 1 funding next year. This year, Highlands saw a \$21,000 decrease in funding.
- The Graduation Committee updated the Board with information about questions asked at the Planning Meeting last week. No action will be taken on the proposed Graduation Requirements at this time.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Ms. Misty Chybrzynski** reported the following:

- Highlands teachers left the schools and entered the community during a district-wide Teacher In-Service on April 30. Teachers cleaned Tarentum Park, hosted a lunch and Bingo at the Harrison hi-Rise, served police officers at the Middle School at a "Serve Those Who Serve Us!" luncheon, cleaned up the grounds and playgrounds around the schools, helped collect, package and ship donations to troops overseas, volunteered at Animal Protectors and helped customers load groceries at the nearby Community Market. Teachers also either held or planned various events throughout the year, such as the Highlands Gives Back concerts and a Breakfast Invasion food drive, which collected donations and contributed to several non-profits in our area.
- May 1 – Highlands held a Proud to Be Public Education rally along Freeport Road at the Middle School. Honored speakers and guests included Representative Frank Dermody, Board President Carrie Fox and Superintendent Bjalobok. Several students performed musical numbers, displayed art projects and Tech Ed creations. Administrators were on hand to distribute information about how important public education funding is to our schools.
- Highlands High School and Middle Schools held Academic Awards Ceremonies, honoring more than 250 students for achieving excellent grades this year.
- Highlands High School earned a Bronze Medal in the US News & World Report Best High Schools Ranking this month. Highlands received the honor out of 21,035 public high schools in the nation. The publication used information from The Common Core of Data Dept. of Education, the College Board, the International Baccalaureate and the state department of Education agencies to analyze high schools.
- Highlands Relay for Life will be held on June 1 and 2 this year. Please join the Highlands Relay committee and community in honor and remembrance of our community members fighting cancer. Food, fun, games, and entertainment will take place while teams trek the track. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Please support this hard-working committee and the many students, staff and friends and neighbors who are fighting this disease.
- Tarentum and Fawn received recognition as 2013 Banner Communities. The list includes towns or municipalities that are active in the council of governments, host Government Weeks for public

awareness, conduct a citizen communication program or shadowing program for students and participate in a government mentoring project. Tarentum also completed an LED street light project, changing 100 percent of the borough street lights to LEDs, and received the 2013 Governor's Award for local government excellence.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

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

### **CAFETERIA – Mr. Hanford, Mr. Krzton, Mr. Lang**

- The Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for May 2013, as submitted.
- The payment of Cafeteria Fund bills, as submitted.  
To be paid \$118,109.95

### **STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Love, Mrs. Beale**

- The Student Activities Fund Financial Report for March and April 2013, as submitted.
- Approving **Jamee Bonnett** as Varsity Cheerleading Sponsor for the 2013-2014 school year.

### **INSTRUCTION – Mr. Love, Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Beale**

- **No report.**

### **TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Masarik, Mr. Love, Mrs. Beale**

- **No report.**

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Miles, Mr. Hanford**

- The use of facilities, as submitted, with the addition of a Blood Drive in honor of Mrs. Thimons' niece Kaelyn Thimons, on June 10 at the Community Center from 1 to 7 PM,, no fees attached. [**SEE APPENDIX 6.1**]
- Selling surplus equipment to other schools and then have a garage sale.
- Ratifying the purchase of a new truck with Allegheny Ford at a cost of \$33,416 and trading in 1979 GMC, 1997 Ranger, and 1997 Ford Dump (trade in value \$3,150) purchase to be made using bond issue funds.

### **PERSONNEL – Mrs. Beale, Mr. Hanford, Mrs. Thimons**

- Accepting the retirement of the following Food Services Employees:

#### **Cecelia Jablonowski**

Cafeteria Alternate

#### **Sylvia Crow**

Cafeteria Alternate

- 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:

#### **Candice Rae**

Cafeteria Alternate

Effective January 22, 2013

- Ratifying the resignation of **Kristina Gontis**, Personal Aide Grandview Upper Elementary effective April 19, 2013.
- Ratifying the resignation of **Linda Erskine**, Title One Aide Fairmount Primary Center effective May 3, 2013.

- Extending the Leave of Absence of **Lynne Swartz** to June 7, 2013.
- Ratifying the hiring of **Courtney Kordes**, Substitute Elementary Teacher.
- Ratifying the change in position for **Alex Konesky**, Custodian II Grandview effective May 6, 2013, as per SEIU Contract.
- Approving the following requests for Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:
  - A. **Jessica Pittman**  
 Kindergarten Teacher  
 Fairmount Primary Center  
 Beginning August 30, 2013 through January 2, 2014
- Approving the following 2012-2013 Summer School Program:  
 Secondary Summer School Program: Summer High School and Middle School in grades 7-12 for English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and Physical Education/Aquatics. The rate of pay will be \$24.50 per hour (teachers) and \$28.50 per hour (Coordinator). The program will run from June 17 to July 16 and will consist of one session per day from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Teachers will use Highlands Virtual Academy Curriculum.  
 Summer School Coordinator: **Todd Bengel**  
 Summer School Teachers: **Pat Hassler, Jennifer Motosicky, Kathleen Rizzo, Catherine Stack, Mindy Eckenrod, Katie Black, Jeff Karaica**
- Approving **Jon D. Rupert** as Board Secretary to a 4-year term as required under school code.
- Approving **Lisa M .Ray** as Board Treasurer to a 1-year term as required under school code.
- Approving the 11-month contract with **Sharon Conway** Food Services Director 4 days a week with the understanding that she is permitted to work at another school district. Salary and benefits will be prorated as per Act 93 Agreement.
- Approving **Jay Morgan** as Buildings and Grounds Supervisor in addition to his current positions at a salary of \$72,000 including benefits per the Act 93 Agreement.
- Accepting the retirement of **Patricia Cavanaugh**, Learning Support Teacher High School effective June 10, 2013.

**FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Krzton**

- Tax Refunds in the amount of \$1,211.82 for May 2013, as submitted.
- Payment of General Fund bills, as submitted.
  - May to be ratified \$ 141,819.30
  - May to be paid \$ 863,204.47
- TOTAL \$1,005,023.77**
- The adoption of the preliminary budget in the amount of \$39,365,196 in accordance with Act 1 and the Pennsylvania School Code, as submitted.
- Bond Issue reports for 2007 and 2012, as submitted.

**FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons**

- Approving the adoption of the Forbes Road Career and Technology Center Budget, as submitted.
- Mrs. Fox reported that the Forbes Road CTC Certificate Ceremony will be held at Gateway High School on Tuesday May 21 at 7 PM. 186 students and 9 adults will receive certificates. Speaker will be Ashley Hartway from WTAE. In addition, Mrs. Fox reported that Forbes will host a summer camp from June 17 to June 20 for Grades 6 to 9. Camp will run from 8:20 AM to 2:30 PM, Monday through Thursday, for a \$25 fee.*

**PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Love**

**Mrs. Thimons** provided a report to the Board of various conferences and topics discussed at the National School Board Association Conference that she and **Mr. Lang** attended last month.

**POLICY – Mr. Krzton, Mr. Masarik, Mr. Miles**

No report.

**ATHLETICS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Masarik, Mr. Hanford**

- Donating used baseball uniforms to the Goldenrams Summer Program for a \$100 donation.
- Extending the contract of **Mr. Lang**, Girls Varsity Basketball Coach, for one more season.
- **Mr. Love, Mr. Masarik and Mrs. Beale** voted "NO".

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Moving the June board meeting to June 20, 2013 due to 30 days needed to advertise the budget.

*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*

## APPENDIX 6.3

### **Highlands School District**

#### **Use of Facilities**

**May, 2013**

#### **HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

##### **Ratify**

May 5, 2013 / 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – Highlands Gridiron Club

Contact: Amy McKinney

Cafeteria and Maintenance Fees Apply

##### **Ratify**

May 19, 2013 / 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Baseball Banquet - Highlands Varsity Baseball

Contact: Debbie Shiring

No Fees

May 21, 2013 / 4:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Softball Banquet

Contact: Lori Miller

No Fees

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

##### **Ratify**

May 9, 2013 / 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Employee Communication Meeting/ATI Allegheny Ludlum

Contact: Olivia Leslie

No Fees

#### **TENNIS COURTS**

May 11, 2013 / 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Charity Tennis Tournament/Fundraiser/Relay for Life

Contact: Sharon Thimons

No Fees

#### **GRANDVIEW GYM AND CAFETERIA**

June 17 – June 20 / 8:00a.m. – 12:30p.m.

Highlands Basketball Camp

Contact: Coach Tyler Stoczynski

No Fees