



Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

May 19, 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 April 21, 2008 Regular School Board Meeting, as submitted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Karol L. Galcik

Dr. Galcik recognized the following students and staff:

Senior **Marie Mikolay** was chosen as a semi-finalist in **Congressman Jason Altmire's** 2008 Congressional Art Competition for PA's 4th Congressional District.

Senior **Michael Gezo** was a gold medal winner of the Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen Award. Michael was recognized for his outstanding achievements in academics, community service and extracurricular activities.

Thomas Jackson, a Highlands graduate, will be graduating from Harvard University in June and begins graduate school at Notre Dame University. Tom will receive a \$12,000 stipend each year of graduate school.

Colleen Friel, a junior, has been accepted to the PA Governor's School of Agricultural Sciences. Admission to this program is highly competitive – students are selected on the basis of their academic talent.

Jenala Cox and **Jessica Frappier** were named March Students of the Month by the Tarentum Area Lions Club. Selection is based on character, leadership, scholarship, outstanding achievement in school activities, and outstanding dedication and service to the communities of the Highlands School District.

Danny Jackson was named Optimist Boy of the Month / Year. Selection was based on academics, extracurricular activities, and community service.

Fairmount 4th grade students **Christina Manley** and **Brenden Kovel** won the first place award in the Mo Willems "The Pigeon Wants A..." contest. The students had to draw what they thought the pigeon wanted in Mr. Willems' new book. Both students received an autographed copy of Mo's new book, "The Pigeon Wants A Puppy."

Dr. Galcik presented a Certificate of Commendation to **Patrick Graczyk**, Principal of Grandview Elementary, for being named Pennsylvania's Elementary Principal of the Year. She also presented a commendation certificate to Fawn / Heights elementary

music teacher **Michael Zeiler** for being named a “Rising Star” by the Teacher Excellence Recognition Program.

Senator Jane Ori, majority whip of the Pennsylvania Senate, has given Highlands High School a special recognition for their participation in the Career Education and Work Standards Program. The recognition states in part, “Highlands School District, with several other schools, have truly stood above the rest in working to prepare their students for the road ahead.”

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Michael A. Bjalobok

Dr. Bjalobok reported that the Title I teachers and aides have been involved in the Kindergarten and K4 screening process. Over 240 children entering our programs will be screened in several areas of school readiness using a test called DIAL 3. This helps us to identify students who have delayed development in their speech and language skills, motor skills, social development, and understanding of important concepts and terms. This allows us to better prepare for those students when school begins in the fall.

Last week, the Title I teachers participated in a training from the same group who gave us DIBELS on a new assessment tool used with the Palm Pilot handheld devices. This new assessment is called CIRCLE. It will become a familiar term to you as this assessment will be used at Summer School and in the fall for all Kindergarten and K4 students.

The PA Department of Education has accepted our grant to continue the Pre-K Counts classroom that has been at Heights Elementary this year. We were recently visited by the national level preschool inspectors who were pleased to hear of plans for a new modular. We do not have confirmation yet whether or not the expansion of the K4 program was approved.

Summer School is being planned and will be held at Fawn Elementary for the elementary students. There will be at least 75 students in grades K-3, and we are also beginning a preschool group as well to ensure full enrollment in the fall for our preschool classes.

AGENDA ITEMS

CAFETERIA - Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Fox

The Board approved the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for April 2008, as well as the payment of Cafeteria Fund bills in the amount of \$61,277.26, as submitted.

INSTRUCTION - Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved a PAYS survey for students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12, on a voluntary basis, and in accordance with the Safe Schools Initiative Grant.

The Board approved an Educational Services Agreement with Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2008-2009 school year, as submitted.

Highlands High School Principal Thomas Shirey gave a presentation on the district's Blended Schools Program that provides online courses for students.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - Mr. Misejka, Mr. Heasley

The Board approved requests for use of facilities, as submitted. (Cleared by Administration and as per Board Policy.)

The Board authorized Administration to seek bids for High School gymnasium bleachers.

The Board ratified the retention of Chris Miller for engineering services to prepare Pool Pac and alternate specifications, in accordance with Pennsylvania School Code.

The Board approved the submission of PDE 3074 for a new modular classroom, and for the district to obtain a Harrison Township permit while bidding the project.

The Board approved the Stakeholders Committee members and scheduled a meeting for Thursday, May 29, 2008, 7:00 p.m., at the Highlands Community Center.

The Board approved Greensburg Waterproofing to repair High School brick work, as submitted, at a cost of \$8,168. Payable from 2007 Bond Issue.

PERSONNEL - Mrs. Wantland, Mr. Peck

The Board ratified additions to the Substitute Teacher Call List for the 2007-08 school year, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check.

The Board ratified the following additions to the Substitute Custodian Call List for the 2007-08 school year (as per Board Policy #505 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check):

Debbie Becker
Sean Rupert

The Board approved **Eric Walton** as a student summer computer worker.

The Board accepted, with regret, the following resignations:

Professional
Timothy Hanley
English Teacher – High School
Effective August 30, 2008

Classified
Rose Thimons
Nurse's Aide – Elementary
Effective June 10, 2008
Retirement

Janet Chapp-Stewart (Ratify)
 District Aide – K/4
 Effective May 9, 2008

The Board approved the following staff for the Blended Schools Summer School – Senior Session: (Salary – Curriculum Rate)

Tom Culleiton - Coordinator
Patrick Hassler – Social Studies
Tim Hanley – English
Jennifer Motosicky – Math
Matthew Sespico – Science
Charles Debor – Physical Education

The Board approved the following Title I Summer School program and staff:

Program

June 30, 2008 – August 3, 2008, Fawn Elementary, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Teachers (Salary – Curriculum Rate, Payable from Title I Funds)

Patricia Burris	Samantha Perlik	Jody Shumaker
Patricia Jamieson	Melinda Gourley	Randall Rybak
Mary Ann Trettel	Jaclyn Bueche	Kristen Gettens (as needed)
Lauralee Milberger	Melissa McCurdy	

Aides (Salary as per Aide Salary Schedule)

Tina Gearhard	Geralyn Misejka
Caroline Binner	Dorothy Croker

The Board approved the Special Education Summer Program / Extended School Year Program and staff, as submitted. (Salaries paid from ESY Funds / IDEA Funds / District Funds)

The Board ratified the following disciplinary actions:

Classified Employee CS – 3-week suspension
 Professional Employee WH – 90-day suspension

The Board approved the revision of Job Description for **Jay Morgan**, as submitted, with \$5,000 increase in salary, effective July 1, 2008.

FINANCE/TAX - Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Thimons

The Board accepted the Treasurer's Report for March, 2008, as submitted and subject to audit.

The Board approved Tax Refunds in the amount of \$639.71, as submitted.

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills, as follows:

To Be Ratified	\$1,043,310.02
To Be Paid	<u>621,075.75</u>
TOTAL	\$1,664,385.77

The Board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills in the amount of \$485,576.35, as submitted.

The Board approved 409.A payroll regulations for educational institutions, in accordance with Internal Revenue Service.

The Board approved PNC Bank as the District's Depository for the 2008-2009 school year, in accordance with Section 621 of the Pennsylvania School Code.

The Board approved District investment institutions, in accordance with Section 440.1 of the PA School Code:

PNC Bank	First Commonwealth
Citizens Bank	National City Bank
PLGIT	PSDAF
Huntington Bank	
PA State Treasurer's Investment Program	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Peck

Highlands Board member **Karen Wantland**, who is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Allegheny-Kiski Health Foundation, recognized the recent partnership the Foundation has with the Highlands Emergency Services Alliance (HESA) in a \$25,000 Community Challenge Grant program. The goal of the program is to increase the numbers of volunteer firefighters in the region by partnering with Highlands High School in the development and implementation of a unique program that trains emergency services volunteers. The program will provide high school students with the opportunity to earn high school credit for classes that prepare them to serve as emergency service volunteers. To date, more than 30 students have signed up for this class, which is the first of its kind in the state of Pennsylvania, and possibly the nation.

FORBES ROAD CTC - Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons

Mrs. Fox reported that the Forbes Road CTC graduation ceremony is on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

The Board approved the 2008-2009 Operating and Administrative Budgets for the Forbes Road Career & Technology Center in the amounts: Operating Budget - \$6,078,273; and Administrative Budget - \$286,717, as submitted.

PSBA/NSBA - Mrs. Wisner

Mrs. Wisner stressed the need to contact legislators concerning the proposal to require all PA high school seniors to demonstrate academic proficiency by scoring proficient or advanced on the 11th grade PSSA or by passing a series of state-developed Graduation Competency Assessments (GCA) in order to graduate high school. Mrs. Wisner stated that so far at least 128 Pennsylvania school districts (including Highlands) and 22 educational organizations (including PSBA & PSEA) are **strongly against this proposal**. More information concerning GCAs can be found on www.psba.org or

<http://www.psba.org/issues-advocacy/issues-research/assessments-testing-nclb/Joint-Statement-Opposing-GCAs.pdf> Mrs. Wisner said that meeting with legislators and/or their office staff face to face is the best way to express your concerns.

POLICY - Mrs. Wisner, Mr. Heasley

Recommend approving revising the following policies:

#707 – Use of School Facilities – Fee Schedule

#918 – Title I Parental Involvement (Annual Re-Approval)

ATHLETICS - Mr. Heasley, Mr. Lang

The Board approved the Athletic Fund Financial Report for April, 2008, as submitted.

The Board approved the hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2007-2008 school year, in accordance with Board Policy #404 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check:

Track (Ratify)

Andrew Yant Volunteer Assistant Coach

Baseball (Ratify)

Erik Bergstrom Volunteer Assistant Coach

TECHNOLOGY - Mrs. Fox, Mr. Misejka

The Board approved the use of the remaining allotted technology funds in the 2007 Bond Issue (\$294,100) for technology items.

Technology Director **Paul Hoffman** explained the new Raptor System process that will soon be in place in all of the school buildings. Visitors to the building will present their driver's license to the secretary upon arrival at the building. The license will be scanned via the Raptor System and stored in the computer. The system does a background check on the visitor (which is updated each time the visitor comes to the building) and prints out a tag with the photo, name and destination of the visitor. This will also eliminate the need for visitor sign-in books and handwritten name tags, since the system keeps a database of the visitors to the building. Comprehensive plans and procedures for the system's implementation will be developed over the summer.

June Meetings:

Agenda Planning

Monday, June 2, 2008 at 7:00 pm *(note change from June 9 due to Commencement)*

Highlands Community Center

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 16, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Highlands Community Center

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