

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

October 20, 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 August 18, 2008 Regular School Board Meeting, with two minor changes.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – **Brittany Hudek** reported that the Fall Follies would be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at the High School. The annual talent show is expected to be well attended.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – **Dr. Karol Galcik** reported that the past month has been a busy one for the District, its schools and the students.

In keeping with the busy theme, the Middle School kicked off school-year involvement in an afterschool program, funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. The program provides students with a safe outlet for free time and positive activities. Its goal is to help students meet state and local standards by offering tutoring, activities involving athletics, arts, and academics and social services. Last week, it invited 60 students and their parents or guardians to learn more about the program with Halloween-themed activities. The afterschool program is open three days per week, and a team of 10 teachers oversee it.

Parents were invited in to the High School this past week to observe their students' classes and school day activities. The all-day Open house allowed parents to attend one, a part of, or all of their child's classes.

The District also received commendation this past month for being participants in the Keystone Healthy Zone School program by the Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity. The Food Services Department, headed by Sharon Conway, joined the program four years ago and has continued to achieve the healthy zone status by altering the menu ingredients and providing healthy options. Congratulations to the food services department for its continued participation in this program.

Our students also continue to shine as the school year progresses. Two students – a recent graduate and a Senior – were awarded for receiving high honors on their AP Exams scores. Corey Clifford, an '08 grad, received the AP Scholar with Honor Award and Senior Colleen Friel earned the AP Scholar Award. Congratulations on your high scores to these two individuals.

Dr. Galcik also reported about the outstanding scores students earned on the PSSA tests throughout the District. More information can be read by clicking http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/news/s_594355.html, for coverage in a Valley News Dispatch article.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – **Dr. Michael Bjalobok** reported that the Title I Family Reading Night would be held on Wednesday, Oct. 22 at the Middle

School from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. He reported that the teachers for Title I are in the process of remediating and monitoring the progress of students. He also reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has had meetings and that he will have further information to report to the Board and to the public at the regular meeting in November.

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Fox

The Board approved the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for August and September, 2008, and approved payment of Cafeteria Fund bills in the amount of \$62,616.14, as submitted. *Unanimous vote.*

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for August and September 2008, as submitted. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the appointment of the 2008-2009 Activity Sponsors, as submitted. *Unanimous vote.*

A. Tom Abbott

Drama Club- Sponsor
High School

B. Terry McKrisky

Student Council – Advisor
Heights Elementary

C. Colleen Stearns

Yellow Team Leader
Middle School

D. Jennifer Galcik

Student Council – Sponsor
Middle School

The Board approved the 2008-09 High School DECA Conference attendance on Dec. 4, 2008 (District 3), Feb. 18-20, 2009 (State), and April 29-May 2, 2009 (International). *Unanimous vote.*

STUDENT DISCIPLINE – Mr. Peck, J. Wisner, R. Lang

Mr. Peck reported that there were a few incidents of student discipline that were discussed in executive session. He reported that he is looking to rewrite some policies regarding student discipline, but that he is still gathering information.

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved the Grandview Elementary Outdoor Classroom project titled "No Child Left Inside." *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the distribution of the Pennsylvania Youth Survey, as submitted.
Unanimous vote.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Misejka, Mr. Heasley

No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Misejka, Mr. Heasley

The Board approved the use of facilities, as submitted. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the renewal of the contract with Siemens on an annual basis for DDC and Mechanical Controls, as submitted. *Unanimous vote.*

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Wantland, Mr. Peck

The Board *unanimously voted* to pass the following motions:

The Board ratified the 2008-2009 Substitute Teacher Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check.

The Board ratified, with regret, the resignation of:

Jeane A. DeAngelis, personal care aide, Heights Elementary, Sept. 26, 2008
Brian C. Ferra, Mathematics teacher, Middle School, Sept. 30, 2008

The Board ratified, with regret, the retirement of:

Janet Vorp, Title I Coordinating Teacher, District, Oct. 10, 2008

The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of:

Patricia DiLuigi, Confidential Secretary, Admin. Center, Oct. 31, 2008

The Board approved 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.

- A. **Maria Robinson** – Ratify, replacement
Personal aide
Heights Elementary
Effective Oct. 16, 2008
Salary as per aide/secretary salary schedule

- B. **James Palmer** – Ratify, replacement
Teacher Aide
High School
Effective Oct. 20, 2008
Salary as per aide/secretary salary schedule

C. Laurie Jacob – Replacement
Personal Aide
Heights Elementary
Effective Oct. 21, 2008

D. Rikki Vinkovich – Replacement
Cafeteria Alternate
Effective Oct. 21, 2008
Salary as per aide/secretary salary schedule

The Board approved the hiring of the following Professional Staff, in accordance with Board Policy #504 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #515, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check. Salary as per Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:

A. Daniel M. Broadbent
Mathematics Teacher – Middle School
BS Degree, Step 2
Effective Oct. 21, 2008

B. Danielle Baldige
District Attendance Officer
Salary \$25,336
Effective Oct. 27, 2008

The Board ratified the following request for Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/District Policies:

A. Mark Duncan
Second Grade Teacher – Grandview
Family and Medical Leave
Oct. 28 – Nov. 20, 2008

B. Natalie Cale
Seventh Grade Science teacher – Middle School
Maternity Leave
Dec. 15 – Jan. 27, 2009

C. Christine McLaughlin
Special Education Teacher – Grandview
Maternity Leave
Nov. 24 – Jan. 19, 2009

D. Leslie Smith – Ratify
Personal Aide – Grandview

Family and Medical Leave
Sept. 18 – Dec. 1, 3008

E. Jody Bonatesta – Ratify

Cafeteria
Family and Medical Leave
Effective Sept. 2, 2008

F. Cynthia Lambing

Science Coach
Fairmount Elementary
Family and Medical Leave/Sick Leave
Effective November 14, 2008

G. Melodi Cochran

Kindergarten Teacher
Grandview Elementary
Family and Medical Leave
Effective November 18, 2008

The Board ratified the appointment of the following 2008-2009 Program Facilitator:

A. Jeffrey Mclaffery

Science and Technology
High School

FINANCE/TAX – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Thimons

The Board voted unanimously to approve the following motions:

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

The Board approved Tax Refunds in the amount of \$6,931.56, as submitted.

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

To Be Ratified	\$1,409,742.64
To Be Paid	<u>\$ 377,964.11</u>
TOTAL	\$1,787,706.75

The Board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills in the amount of \$362,166.66, as submitted. *Judy Wisner voted "no" on Checks #1112 & 1124.*

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

Mrs. Wantland reported that the delinquent taxpayer list would appear in the Valley News Dispatch within the next two weeks.

Mrs. Wantland reported that the corporate store OfficeMax recognized teacher **Lauralee Milberger** as the recipient of a \$1,000 grand prize of the Day Made Better Program. The program also awarded her with a new desk chair.

Mrs. Wantland reported that **Dr. Galcik** received the honor of being named one of the "Top 20 to Watch" in technology and leadership by the National School Boards Association. The honor is a reflection of some of the advancements Dr. Galcik spearheaded in the District, including helping to secure a Classrooms for the Future grant.

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons

Mrs. Fox reported that **Mr. Dean Karns** was named as the representative for Forbes Road and the state Department of Education Technology Assistance program. She also reported that Forbes has a new web site, and that she is proud of the attendance of administrators and counselors at the Forbes meetings.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Wisner

Mrs. Wisner reported that there is a fall legislative meeting at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in Homestead on Nov. 3 and encouraged Board members to attend.

POLICY – Mrs. Wisner, Mr. Heasley

The Board *voted unanimously* to approve the second reading of the following policy:

- A. 907 – School Visitors

ATHLETICS – Mr. Heasley, Mr. Lang

The Board *voted unanimously* to approve the following motions:

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

The Board approved the hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2008-2009 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.)

Basketball

Chet Foster	Boys/Girls Ticket Taker
William Heasley, Jr.	Boys/Girls Ticket Taker
Janet Mack	Boys Ticket Taker
Carole Milito	Girls Ticket Taker
Marianne Moxie	Boys Ticket Taker
Pamela Stawinski	Boys/Girls Ticket Taker
Don Bushman	Volunteer Asst. Boys Varsity
Ron DeJidas	Coach 7 th Grade Boys

**Mr. Heasley abstained from this vote.*

Wrestling

William Schaltenbrand	Assistant Coach
Jeff Pollick	Volunteer Assistant Varsity Ticket Taker

The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Zachary Ziemianski –Middle School Basketball Coach effective immediately.

The Board approved the plans for a fourth baseball field, as proposed by the Natrona Heights Baseball and Softball Association.

TECHNOLOGY – Mrs. Fox, Mr. Misejka

Mr. Paul Hoffman reported that the District is ready to move ahead in the three-phase security plan with Phase II. Phase II involves installing security cameras and access control doors in the elementary schools, administrative center and the buildings and grounds office. The Board requested that Mr. Hoffman gather information about metal detectors for the buildings.

The Board voted unanimously on the following motions:

The Board approved Phase II of the District's security system at a cost not to exceed \$224,216.

The Board approved the renewal of contract with Epic Communications for the 2009-2010 E-Rate, as submitted.

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