

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

October 18, 2010 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.

ROLL CALL – Mrs. Laura Thimons and Mrs. Karen Wantland were absent.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Mr. Jon Rupert, Board Secretary, reported that Tarentum Borough requested a property with delinquent school taxes to be demolished.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – Representative Ms. Allie Thimons was absent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT –

Dr. Joseph Latess reported on the following items:

- School Board members and Dr. Latess attended the PSBA Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania from October 12 – October 15. In addition, Mr. Mike Krzeminski and students from the Highlands Emergency Services Alliance class manned a booth and shared the program with other school officials from across the state. Highlands High School students under the supervision of Mr. Jeff Karaica also participated in a Student Delegates Leadership Program, which simulated school board meetings and allowed for recognition of Highlands School District.
- Highlands High School held its annual Homecoming Parade prior to the October 15 varsity football game versus Valley High School. The parade was a very nice community event and a wonderful first experience for Dr. Latess. The high school also held a Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 16.

Mr. Patrick Graczyk, Assistant to the Superintendent, noted the following items:

- The Title I Family Reading Night will be held on Wednesday, October 20 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Highlands Middle School. "Let's Get WILD About Reading" will feature essay winners, free giveaways and the entertainment of 'John Lege – That Guy with the Birds.'
- Mr. Graczyk observed the Highlands Middle School applied learning schedule. Mrs. Cathy Russo and Mr. Shawn Bennis have done a wonderful job with this schedule. Students acted responsibly and were actively engaged in learning.

The Board unanimously approved the following items:

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report, as submitted.

The Board approved the payment of Cafeteria Fund bills, as submitted.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved the Student Activities Fund Financial Report, as submitted.

The Board approved appointing the following 2010-2011 Student Activities Sponsors:

- A. **Janet McCurdy**
Grandview Pride Representative
(Replacement for **Lauralee Milberger**)

B. Antoinette Woods
Middle School Newspaper

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Wantland

The Board approved the revised Elementary Report Cards.

Mr. Ryan Yates and **Ms. Debbie Beucker** presented a PowerPoint presentation about the Highlands High School Mentor/Portfolio Program, a new venture created by Mr. Yates for grades 9 through 12. A committee of high school staff discussed the issues students faced and that needed to be addresses through a mentoring program. In addition, they discussed the items necessary to meet state requirements for a graduate portfolio. The revised program accurately meets Highlands High School needs versus the fixed programs purchased at costly prices previously. In addition, the lessons are easily accessible to teachers and mentors. There are 72 lessons, or 18 lessons per grade that address various issues affecting Highlands students this year. Mentee groups meet twice per month for 42 minutes per lesson. There are 12 – 14 students assigned to one teacher for all four years. This year, mentors have witnessed a more open dialogue between mentees and mentors and a greater trust established between the groups.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Heasley, Mr. Lang

No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Heasley, Mrs. Fox

The Board approved the use of facilities.

The Board approved the 2011 Lease Renewal with Natrona Heights Baseball/Softball Association, Inc., for use of the fields adjacent to California Avenue, and the field adjacent to the back parking lot of the high school.

The Board approved a service agreement with TRANE for district-wide HVAC at a cost of \$68,148.

The Board approved the installation of automation (DDC) at the Middle School with TRANE as per proposal (approximately \$20,000).

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Fox, Mr. Miles

The Board approved the 2010-2011 Substitute Teacher Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test) #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check).

The Board approved the 2010-2011 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).

The Board approved ratifying the resignation of **Beth Ringer**, Behavior Specialist – High School effective August 17, 2010.

The Board approved the following request for a Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:

A. Wyllie F. Keefer
Middle School Teacher

Family Leave of Absence
November 30, 2010 through December 30, 2010

- B. Renae Yoder**
High School Art Teacher
Family and Medical Leave of Absence
12 weeks beginning October 27, 2010

The Board ratified the hiring of the following Classified Employee, in accordance with Board Policy #504 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #515, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check:

- A. Brad Vorp** (casual as needed)
Audio Visual Support – Special Events
District-wide
\$15.00 per hour

The Board approved the following requests for Sabbatical Leave of Absence for Educational Purposes, in accordance with Board/District policies:

- A. Shawn W. Hisiro**
6th Grade Social Studies Teacher
Highlands Middle School
Spring 2011

The Board approved rejecting grievance 11-01.

The Board ratified the resignation of **Carol Fraser** from the position of 4th grade level leader at Fairmount Elementary.

The Board approved awarding Permanent Professional Contracts to the following teachers, in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code (three years of Satisfactory Performance at the Highlands School District.)

- A. Bridgett Seery**
Elementary Teacher
- B. Susan Giovengo**
Guidance Counselor
- C. Marilyn Skwartz**
Guidance Counselor

The Board approved the 2010-2011 bus drivers contingent upon verification of all clearances through our Human Resources Department and as per contract with WL Roenigk., Inc., as submitted.

The Board approved the hiring of the following Professional Staff, in accordance with Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test) #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check). Salary as per Board/Behavior Specialist Agreement:

A. Amy Grove

Behavior Specialist – High School

Effective: October 20, 2010

Salary in accordance with Behavior Specialist Agreement

The Board approved the hiring of the following Classified Employee, in accordance with Board Policy #505 (Pre-Employment Drug Test) #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check).

A. Gina Naviglia

Personal Aide

Grandview Elementary

Effective: October 19, 2010

Salary as per Secretary/Aide Salary Schedule

B. Shannon Kerr - RATIFY

Personal Aide

Heights Elementary

Effective: October 1, 2010

Salary as per Secretary/Aide Salary Schedule

C. Billie Jean Burton

Cafeteria Alternate

Effective: October 19, 2010

Salary as per Cafeteria Salary Schedule

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report, as submitted and subject to audit.

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills, as submitted.

October to be ratified	\$746,039.08
<u>October to be paid</u>	<u>\$961,783.39</u>
TOTAL	\$1,707,822.47

The Board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills for August 2010, in the amount of \$99,000.00, as submitted.

The Board approved the 2007 Bond Issue Report, as submitted.

The Board ratified the change of district cell phone, internet, and security services from Nextel to Verizon (approximately 75% paid by E-Rate funding.)

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

This month, OneSight Community Eye Care selected Highlands School District as one of only 20 districts in the nation to provide free eye exams and eyeglasses for students. OneSight partnered with Sears Optical in the Pittsburgh Mills. In total, 80 students were brought to the Community Center, where had their vision tested and then were fitted for eyeglasses created in the "Vision Van", a mobile lab. The Costs of these services could have exceeded \$18,000 if students were to pay for exams and lenses. Highlands School District recognizes the time and dedication of Ms.

Stacey Stout, Sears Optical Manager, who coordinated the event and the many opticians and technicians who volunteers to provide this wonderful service for our students. Since 1988, these charitable efforts have provided free vision care and eyewear to more than seven million people around the world. **Dr. Karen King**, director of pupil personnel services, presented a certificate of appreciation to Ms. Stout.

Mrs. Wisner thanked **Mrs. Russo** and **Ms. Misty Chybrzynski** for sharing information about the Anti-Bullying programs at Highlands Middle School in a Letter to the Editor in the Valley News Dispatch.

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

The Board approved authorizing the resolution to approve Option 2 regarding the Roof Project at Forbes Road CTC.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Wisner

Mrs. Wisner reported information about the PSBA conference:

- It is an election year; voters should remember that they have significant influence right now.
- HB 2497 re: PSERS did pass this summer, but there is legislation in the Senate that may amend this bill.
- Other topics include drilling and revising cyber school expense funding.
- The HESA group and student delegates did a phenomenal job representing Highlands. HESA was invited back to the conference, which is a great honor considering groups traditionally are required to submit an application to attend.

Mrs. Fox reported information about the PSBA conference:

- The conference is a great way to network and learn about other ventures in area schools.
- Speaker Sean Stephenson was very inspirational and reminded the audience that we must not judge students as many are enduring personal struggles.

Mrs. Beale reported information about the PSBA conference:

- The speakers were very inspirational, especially Mr. Stephenson, who wrote "Get Off Your 'But' ", a motivational book. The conference inspires veteran and new school board member alike. This year, Mrs. Beale brought souvenirs that reminded her of how to make the board's endeavors a successful year: a brick block symbolizing building for the future; an ear symbolizing a need to listen; a brain symbolizing "it's not about what you think, it's about what you know"; a pig symbolizing savings and fiscal responsibility and a mallet, symbolizing a need for order to make everything work.

POLICY – Mr. Krzton, Mr. Lang, Mrs. Wantland

No report.

ATHLETICS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Heasley, Mr. Krzton

The Board approved the Athletic Fund Report, as submitted.

The Board approved the hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2010-2011 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.):

Name	Position
Karaica, Jeff	JV Boys Basketball Coach
Falter, Rich	Volunteer Asst. Boys Varsity Basketball Coach

Bushman, Don	Volunteer Asst. Boys basketball Coach
Pollick, Luke	Head Wrestling Coach
Schaltenbrand, William	Asst. Wrestling Coach
Broadbent, Dan	MS Wrestling Coach
Pollick, Jeff	MS Asst. Wrestling Coach
Pujol, Ashley	Asst. Volleyball Coach

TECHNOLOGY – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles

No report.

2010 Highlands School Board Members

Debbie Beale – President

Carrie Fox – Vice President

Laura Thimons William Heasley

Ron Lang William Krzton

Eric Miles Karen Wantland

Judy Wisner