

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

September 16, 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 – Eight members present. **Mr. Ron Lang** was absent.

Mrs. Fox requested a Moment of Silence for Robert Rose, a Highlands School District employee who passed away in August; and the victims of the Navy Yard shooting in Washington, D.C.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – Senior **Derrick Mazur** reported the following:

- The High School has had 2 fall pep rallies to support the student athletes. A Pep Band also plays in the morning to set an exciting tone for school.
- First fire drill went well at HHS.
- Wednesday is the AK Music Fest at Golden Rams Stadium beginning at 7 PM. Tickets cost \$5.
- After school tutoring begins this week, and will be available Tuesday through Thursday. Three teachers will be available for students for various subjects and a bus will be available to transport students home.
- Students will take PSATs, funded by the SIG grant.
- Mrs. Yoder's Art Club is creating various art installations throughout campus.
- NHS will sponsor a Hat Day for Children's Hospital this Friday, Sept. 20.

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

- The Business Dept. will be sending a mandatory notice about new Patient Protection Portability Act regulations to all employees.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – **Dr. Michael Bjalobok** reported the following:

- With severe weather coming just around the corner, the district has looked into various aspects of salt purchases. **Mr. Jay Morgan** is presenting to the board information about purchasing from COSTARS at \$54 per ton versus a third party at \$380 per ton. This could save nearly \$7,000 per year in road and snow salt purchasing. However, in order to maintain the supply, a semi permanent structure would need to be installed behind the maintenance garage with a canvas roof. This will cost about \$15,000 to build.
- I have been reporting about the Northwest Evaluation Association and its assessment program, MAP. At the elementary levels, students will be taking assessments through the end of the month. This data will be available for teachers to access data for their students, for the principal to evaluate data for their school and for the administration to review district data. The data will also transfer into Compass Learning. Baseline assessments are being created through the end of this month for students.

ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - **Patrick Graczyk** reported that Grade Level Leaders, Department Chairs and Principals have been meeting after school to discuss the Common Core. At faculty meetings, a goal will be to teach teachers to make their lessons more rigorous.

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

- Our Highlands Rams are 3-0 so far and are leaders of the Greater Allegheny Conference. They face Mars this Friday at 7 PM at the Golden Rams Stadium. It also is Middle School Band night. Please come out and support our students!
- Highlands is hosting the 67th Annual Alle-Kiski Band Festival on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 7 pm, Golden Rams Stadium. The festival features ten high school bands from the Alle-Kiski region. Tickets are \$5. Buy tickets in advance from any HHS Varsity Band member or contact by email to hsdbandboosters@gmail.com. Tickets will also be available at the gate. Rain date is Sept. 19.
- KidZone "So You Think You Can Cheer?" Competition: Highland Hornets Youth Football organization football players and cheerleaders recorded a Steelers KidZone show and competed in the "So You Think You Can Cheer?" competition that will air on Sunday, September 22 on The Pittsburgh CW at 10:30 AM. Highland Hornets Cheerleaders from Highlands Middle School performed their half-time cheer. The cheerleaders will need YOUR VOTES after the airing of the September 22 show. Go to the KidZone [website](#) to vote for Highlands! A video will be posted on the site for you to easily find your favorite kids.
- Brackenridge Ave Fair: The Brackenridge Improvement Group is hosting the Brackenridge Ave Fair from 2 to 7 PM on Saturday, Sept. 21 along Brackenridge Avenue from Morgan to Locust Streets. Stroll the borough strip and visit businesses, enjoy food, crafters, live music and a car show! There also will be kids games and prizes.
- Tarentum Fall Festival will be held Sept. 26 & Sept. 27 from 6 to 10 PM and Sept. 28 from Noon to 10 PM at the Riverview Memorial Park in Tarentum. Stop by for food, music, carnival games, Bingo, crafts and carnival rides. Also coming up in Tarentum is the FOURTH ANNUAL SCARECROW CONTEST. Schools, businesses, recreation groups and others can create a 'crow and vie for one of three great gift certificate prizes. There is no entry fee. Submissions are due from October 1 to October 16, before 8 PM. Get entry forms, construction guidelines and info on the Community Events Bulletin on www.goldenrams.com.
- 9/11 Tribute: Highlands Middle School student **Sarah Young** ran a segment of a 9/11 Memorial Run to Shanksville, Pennsylvania in honor of the Flight 93 victims and heroes of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The large group left Heinz Field and trekked 93 miles to arrive at the Shanksville Chapel at 9:11 AM. **Kate Bielak**, a Natrona Heights resident and former military police officer, is the founder of the Western PA Team RWB chapter. Kate and her husband Steve also ran in the kick-off race and memorial run with their children Chaz, Troy, Trent and Joci. **Troy and Joci Bielak** are Fawn Primary Center students and **Trent Bielak** is a student at Grandview Upper Elementary School. In addition, the **Team RWB of Western PA** also coordinated a moving tribute of the United States flag across our region. All day people in our community honored US vets, 9/11 victims, heroes and the country by running with the United States flag for all to see! Grandview Upper Elementary School Speech and Language Therapist **Mrs. Jennifer Del Duca** and her daughter **Madison Black** and friend **Olivia Duncan** participated today, as well as Sarah and her Cross Country team.
- Grandview Upper Elementary School presents "Braving the Playground." Filmed in May last school year, students conveyed how badly we need a new playground and fitness area for our students and the district community. This was a NATIONAL competition with more than 180 schools hoping for the top prize. Our students were awarded with a third prize \$2,000 check from the Big Lots store in Natrona Heights at an in-store reception in August. An additional \$1,451.28 was collected through in-store donations. Highlands community members donated the third-highest amount from all stores involved in the contest! Some of the actors and creators of the Braving the Playground video were present to be recognized by Dr. Michael Bjalobok. Those recognized are: **Jason Vanderhoff, Scott Polly, Josh Beck, Rebekah Young, Maerra Williams, Sara Rugh, Allison Love, Olivia**

Duncan, Madison Black, Hanah Kneiser, Olivia Solar, Samantha Dutch, Bella D'Amico, Ethan Gillette, Trent Bielak, teachers **Mr. Michael Zeiler, Miss Rebecca Galie** and volunteer directors **Nick Chybrzynski** and **Brooklin Chybrzynski**.

The Board voted unanimously for the following agenda items (unless otherwise noted):

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

- Approving the payment of Cafeteria Fund Bills for September 2013, as submitted.
To be paid: \$62,692.25

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

- Approving the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for August 2013, as submitted.
- Approving the High School Band Trip, as submitted.
- Approving the following 2013-2014 Student Activity Sponsors:

Coulter, Amanda

Middle School Student Council
Co-Sponsor

Cale, Natalie

Middle School Student Council
Co-Sponsor

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

Mr. Love reported that the State mandatory teacher evaluation system is no available on the PATEP website and administration and faculty have been trained on the system. The first observations are scheduled next week, according to **Mr. Graczyk**, and the Educator Effectiveness information is available on the www.goldenrams.com website under Mr. Graczyk's webpage.

5.0 TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Masarik, Mr. Love, Mrs. Beale

No report.

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

- Approving the Use of Facilities, as submitted. **[SEE APPENDIX 6.1]**
*With the addition of the use of the HMS gym for the 6th Grade Traveling Basketball Team, under **Jeff Thimons**, from October 21 through March 30, time to be determined by the Athletic Director, for no fee.*
- An Amendment to Agreement of Sale for Heights Elementary School, as presented.
- Motion to contract salt and salt shed with contract verified by Board at October meeting.

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

- Ratifying the 2013-2014 Substitute Teacher Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test, #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check).
- Ratifying the 2013-2014 Substitute School Nurse Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #505 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check).
- Ratifying the 2013-2014 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).
- Ratifying the following resignation/retirement of the following employees:

Mackowski, Kerrienne – ratify
Personal Aide
Fawn Primary Center
Effective: August 26, 2013

Ekas, Shannon – ratify
Personal Aide
Fairmount PC
Effective: August 23, 2013

Beck, Robert – ratify
ISS Monitor
High School & Middle School
Effective August 23, 2013

Sober, Jack – ratify
Custodian
Fawn Primary Center
Effective August 16, 2013

- Approving the following request for Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Marilyn I. Skwortz
Guidance Counselor
High School
Effective November 1, 2013 thru February 3, 2014

- 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:

Bollinger, Kaci – ratify
Personal Aide – replacement
Grandview
Start: August 28, 2013
Salary as per Secretary/Aide Contract

Fitzgerald, Emily – ratify
Personal Aide – replacement
Fawn PC
Start: August 28, 2013
Salary as per Secretary/Aide Contract

Stoczynski, Tyler – ratify
ISS Monitor
High School / Middle School
Salary: \$20,600
Start: August 27, 2013

McMenamin, Shelby – ratify
Speech & Language Student Assistant
Fawn Primary Center
Start: August 30, 2013
Salary: \$13.73 per hour

Sanner, Karlye – ratify
Speech & Language Student Assistant
Highlands MS
Start: August 30, 2013
Salary: \$13.73 per hour

- Extending the Business Manager's Contract for an additional three (3) years.

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

- Approving Tax Refunds in the amount of \$31,480.91 for September 2013, as submitted.
- Approving payment of General Fund bills, as submitted.

September to be ratified	\$ 150,504.26
September to be paid	<u>\$ 546,436.90</u>
TOTAL	\$ 696,941.16

- Approving the 2012 Bond Issue bills, as submitted

To be ratified	\$229,566.00
To be paid	<u>\$130,710.98</u>
TOTAL	\$360,276.98

- Approving the annual donation to the Allegheny Valley Community Library in the amount of \$5,000.

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons

Mrs. Fox reported the following:

- Forbes Road CTC students began classes on August 28, with an Open House held on Sept. 10.
- 820 students are enrolled. Cost to instruct is \$6,278 per student.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Love

- Approving the vote for the following PSBA Offices:

President Elect – Mark B. Miller
Vice President – Charles Ballard
Treasurer – Otto Voit
At-Large Representative – Daniel O'Keefe

- **Mr. Love** reported the following:

- The past few years has been focused on revealing the onslaught against public education. One great source of daily reports regarding Public Education's fight against unequal funding and regulations is the Keystone State Coalition. Recently, a few reports from the Coalition merit reporting. These include:

- Of 12 cyber/charter schools in Pennsylvania, ZERO made AYP in 2012.

- In one particular, Chester Community Charter School's 2009 PSSA scores showed the odds of 7th Grade scores erasure patterns would only be created in 1 in a QUADRILLION instances, meaning an administrator or management there almost certainly altered the scores.

- In 2011, a study showed that 100 percent of students performed worst in Math & Reading than they did in public schools.

- Cost per student for cyber/charter schools exceeded \$3,000 MORE in Pennsylvania than the national average.
 - Public school districts are required to cap Special Education costs at 16 percent of their annual budgets. There is no cap for Special Education for charter schools in the code.
 - One contributor and supporter of cyber / charter schools, Vahan Gureghian, contributed \$384,000 to Gov. Corbett's campaign. In fact, he contributed \$1.3 million in total to other political contributions.
- **Dr. Bjalobok** noted that there is one regulation in the State Constitution regarding education and that is that a "thorough and efficient education be provided to all children." We ask, with these findings, if the cyber and charter **taxpayer funded** schools are either efficient or thorough.

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

No report.

ATHLETICS – Mr. Hanford, Mr. Masarik

- Approving the Athletic Fund Financial Report, as submitted.
- Ratifying the renewal of annual agreement with Comcast to broadcast district games.
- Approving the hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2013-2014 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:

Name	Position
Weissert, Jeff	Equipment Manager
Urbanski, Raymond	Volunteer 7&8 Grade Boys Football Coach
Duggan, John	Volunteer Girls Soccer Coach
Helgert, Dan	Football Usher
Smouse, Jeff	Football Usher
Kosmal, Marnie	Fall Ticket Taker/Seller
Meanor, Steve	Fall Timekeeper/Scorekeeper
Choma, Michael	Fall Timekeeper/Scorekeeper
Reudiger, Derek	Volunteer Middle School Boys Soccer Coach
Seskey, Lucas	Volunteer Middle School Boys Soccer Coach
Walters, Grant	Varsity Wrestling Coach

14.0 MISCELLANEOUS

- Approving September 17 as "Eddie Teorsky Day" at Highlands High School in honor of Mr. Teorsky's 46th Birthday!

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