

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

March 21, 2011 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 – Eight board members present. **Mr. Ron Lang** was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Board approved the minutes of the February 14, 2011 Special Meeting and February 21, 2011 Regular Meeting.

****Mrs. Wisner abstained.***

SECRETARY'S REPORT – No report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Miss Allie Thimons reported the following:

- Track, Softball, Baseball and Tennis teams are beginning seasons. We wish them success this year! Congratulations to swimmer **Connor Calarie**, a 2010 PIAA Class AA champion.
- Junior class students will begin taking PSSA tests.
- The prom this year, hosted by the Junior Class, will have a theme of "Hollywood Vintage" and will be held at Highlands High School.
- The High School musical "Wedding Singer" received much positive feedback. Mr. Michael Zeiler (director) and the production staff worked really hard to make this a successful, fun event for the students.
- Graduation is nearing. Seniors are determining what schools they plan to attend and other post-graduation plans.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph Latess reported the following:

- Four Highlands schools received the Keystones Awards for achieving Adequate Yearly Progress consecutively for two years. Dr. Latess commended principals, staff and students for working diligently to earn these awards. Accepting Keystones Awards at the board meeting were Principals **Charles Mort** for Fairmount Elementary, **Kathi Shirey** for Fawn Elementary, **Gene Nicastro** for Heights Elementary and **Cathy Russo** for Highlands Middle School.

ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Patrick Graczyk reported the following:

- The Strategic Plan is undergoing a mid-point review. Mr. Graczyk is blending the Strategic Plan with the "Vision for Success" to make one comprehensive working document to guide the school district. The review will be submitted in September.
- Title I schools are awaiting budget numbers and non-public participating schools are reporting lunch (free & reduced) numbers to determine allocations.
- Students in 7th/8th Grade who have taken Algebra I will be required to take the Keystone Exams. Any other Keystone tests will be optional and taken in May.

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Wisner

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

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wisner

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Wantland

The Board approved the 2011-2012 School Calendar, as submitted.

The Board approved the following Make-up Days for the 2011-2012 school year:

- The Board approved the 2011-2012 Designated Holidays for Administrators & Secretaries, as submitted.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Heasley, Mr. Lang

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Heasley, Mrs. Fox

The Board approved the final settlement payment of \$5,500 with Mario Palumbo for construction of the Grandview Steps.

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Fox, Mr. Miles

The Board approved ratifying the resignation of **Leonard Mehal**, Custodian I, effective February 16, 2011.

The Board approved ratifying the termination of **Mary Vantine**, Personal Aide, Grandview Elementary effective February 28, 2011.

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 90-day Disability Leave of **Kevin McBurney**, Custodian I effective March 7, 2011 through June 5, 2011.

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

A. Faith Freed-Foster

Special Education Teacher
Highlands Partial Hospitalization Program
Child Rearing and Family and Medical Leave of Absence
Effective April 12, 2011 for 4-6 weeks

B. Julie Melnick

Secretary – Heights Elementary
Intermittent Family and Medical Leave of Absence
Effective March 29, 2011

C. Teri Strong - Ratify

Personal Aide – Grandview Elementary
Unpaid Family and Medical Leave of Absence
January 27, 2011 to April 20, 2011

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. Jamie Spohn - Ratify

Personal Aide – Replacement
Heights Elementary
Effective February 16, 2011
Salary as per Secretary/Aide salary schedule

B. Michelle Fenton - Ratify

Personal Aide – Replacement
Grandview Elementary
Effective February 8, 2011
Salary as per Secretary/Aide salary schedule

The Board approved the hiring of **Mr. Michael Zeiler**, Spring Musical Director, for the 2011-2012 school year. Salary as per HEA agreement.

The Board approved accepting the retirement of **JoAnn Bryant**, Title 1 Reading Specialist, Grandview Elementary effective June 30, 2011.

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report for February 2011, as submitted and subject to audit.

The Board approved Tax Refunds for March 2011 in the amount of \$3,295.02, as submitted.

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

March 2011 to be ratified	\$ 714,770.06
March 2011 to be paid	<u>\$ 695,796.21</u>
TOTAL	\$1,410,566.27

The Board approved the payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills for March 2011 in the amount of \$5,500.00, as submitted.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Fox, Mr. Krzton, Mrs. Thimons **HIGHLANDS RELAY FOR LIFE**

The Highlands Relay for Life committee is seeking Team Captains and teams to participate in the fun community event being held on June 3 to June 5, 2011 at Highlands Golden Rams Stadium. Several fundraising events are underway. Check out www.GoldenRams.com/Relay for updates on events and contact Jan McCurdy at Grandview Elementary School (724-224-0300) to sign your team up! Help Highlands raise funds for cancer research and have a great time doing it!

HIGH SCHOOL PROM

Highlands High School Prom 2011 will be held at Highlands High School on May 13, 2011. The HHS Junior Class is seeking business sponsorship to help bring this event back to the High School. Contact Teresa Emeloff at temeloff@goldenrams.com or by calling the High School to discuss sponsorship or to make a donation.

ART CONSORTIUM

Visit the Alle-Kiski Art Consortium Student art show at Penn State New Kensington campus in the month of March to support Highlands students with works on display in this multi-district celebration of the arts!

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

The following Highlands High School Students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at a ceremony on Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

- Briana Hughes
- Kenneth Karlo – 2nd Year
- Hillary Pitkavish – 2nd Year
- Paige Reed – 2nd Year
- Jacob Roenigk
- Avanelle Willison

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Krzton

Mr. William Krzton reported the following:

PSBA has been evaluating the tax and finance structure. It also has been working with the Pennsylvania State Educators Association to encourage legislators to vote against Senate Bill 1, also

known as the School Voucher Bill. This bill would allow students from low-scoring public schools to receive a voucher to be accepted at a private or parochial school.

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

No report.

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

The Board approved the Athletic Fund Report for February 2011, 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
Kuniak, Mary - Ratify	Middle School Softball Coach
Heasley Jr., William – Ratify	Junior Varsity Softball Coach
Hanford, Ryan	Volunteer Junior Varsity Baseball Coach
Keenan, Kate	Track Timekeeper
Beam, Trish	Track Timekeeper
Ferrante, Kristen	Track Timekeeper
Lenart, Kala	Track Timekeeper
Foster, Chester	Volunteer Track Coach
Maples, Erin	Volunteer Track Coach
Rice, Zachary	Volunteer Track Coach
Yant, Andrew	Volunteer Track Coach

****Mr. Heasley abstained from vote of William Heasley, Jr.***

TECHNOLOGY – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS

The School Board will hold a meeting on Monday, April 4, 2011 at the Highlands High School library to discuss budget items. This meeting is open to the public. The School Board will also hold an Executive Session.

2011 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