

# Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

## September 20, 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** – All board members present.

**Mrs. Debbie Beale** notified the public that there was an Executive Session held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel items.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** The board approved the amended minutes of the August 16, 2010 Regular Meeting. The amendment was made to correct that Mr. Lang was present.

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

Keystone Collections Corp has been appointed as their wage tax collector. A number of agencies submitted RFPs and Keystone was selected by 60 entities. Everyone's wage tax will be sent to them they are out of Irwin. Effective January 1, 2012 it will be mandatory that all employers withhold all wage tax including non-residents. There will be meetings and forums held for questions and answers.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT** – **Miss Allie Thimons** reported the following:

- Fall sports are underway, the Golf Team is doing much better, the Volleyball Team is really enthusiastic about their season, the Girl's Tennis and the Cross Country Teams are doing well. The Football Team is doing well so far, currently at 2-1.
- Art Classes have an "artist-in-residence" teacher, Heather Joy Puskarich, coming and she will bring a lot of "cutting edge" techniques, teaching students how to use glass creatively and putting portraits on the glass. She is well known and does seminars in Pittsburgh that people from all over the world come to attend. This has not been done in any other high school so it will be very interesting. Heather Joy wants to have an administrator to come in to have students teach the techniques they are learning themselves. She will be contacting Dr. Latess about being a student in the class. **Mrs. Teresa Emeloff** would also like to thank the Board for being so supportive of the Art Program.
- In the Music Program this year, **Mr. Nathan Hart** is doing a fantastic job as choral instructor substitute. The Band will be attending the AK Valley Band Festival tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Valley High School. The band uniforms were well received, although there were mixed feelings about the band front uniforms.
- In the High School, the ceilings and HVAC modifications have made it a lot more comfortable and a lot of the students are commenting about it. The school looks cleaner and nicer with all the paint. The Gym is also very beautiful.
- AmeriCorps volunteers are helping with tutoring in the Library.
- Students have expressed concern about the lockers and auditorium seating being in such bad shape. It would be greatly appreciated if we could find a way to purchase new ones.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** - Dr. Latess reported the following:

- The opening in-service day was a great success. All staff participated in Sanctuary Training which involved several activities devoted to teaching the Sanctuary Model Seven Commitments and aimed at building a collaborative culture. Representatives from the Sanctuary Institute are here this evening to conduct a brief presentation for the board and public regarding this district and community initiative.

- The opening day for students was equally successful as we welcomed them back for a very positive start to the new school year.
- **Mrs. Beale, Mrs. Wisner** and I attended the Joint PTO meeting last week and received some very positive feedback.
- Elementary Open House was held on Thursday, September 2, 2010. Listed below is the parent attendance by building:
  - Grandview 351
  - Fawn 228
  - Heights 186
  - Fairmount 360
- Congratulations to **Teresa Emeloff**, High School Art Teacher who was chosen to speak at the Pennsylvania Arts Education Association (PAEA) State Conference in Pittsburgh on October 31, 2010 about our Mattress Factory Artist/School Partnership last spring with Artist-in-Residence John Pena.

*The board unanimously approved the following items:*

### **CAFETERIA**

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

**To be paid                      \$36,467.02**

### **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

The board approved the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for June and July 2010, as submitted.

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

- A. Louis Lynn**  
Middle School Jazz Club Sponsor
- B. Renee Yoder**  
High School Art Club Sponsor  
(Replacement for **Teresa Emeloff**)
- C. Teresa Emeloff**  
High School Prom Construction  
(Replacement for **Nick Polcha**)

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

The board approved the expulsion of Case 10-01.

### **INSTRUCTION**

The board approved the D.A.R.E. program at a cost of \$2,000 to the district until further discussions are made.

**Mrs. Landa Harrison** of the Sanctuary Institute presented a brief presentation of the district-wide Sanctuary initiative.

### **TRANSPORTATION**



The board approved the 2010-2011 bus schedules, as submitted.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

The board approved ratifying the use of facilities, as submitted.

The board approved the appointment of Hayes Large as the District Architect as per proposal.

- *Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Wantland and Mr. Heasley voted "NO".*

The board approved the waiving of the Stadium Usage fees for the Rams Youth Football League.

### **PERSONNEL**

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 accepted the retirement of **Evelyn Jean Wiskemann**, Security Guard, Middle School effective September 30, 2010.

The board approved ratifying the retirement of **Mary Walker**, Classroom Aide, Highlands High School effective August 10, 2010.

The board approved ratifying the retirement of **Dale Albaugh**, Custodian effective August 23, 2010.

The board approved ratifying the retirement of **Mary Vance**, Personal Aide, Heights Elementary effective August 23, 2010.

The board approved ratifying the resignation of **Brittany Howells**, Classroom Aide, K/4 program effective August 19, 2010.

The board approved ratifying the resignation of **Tracy Volk**, Cafeteria Worker effective August 20, 2010.

The board approved ratifying the resignation of **Darlene S. Myford**, Title 1 Aide, Grandview Elementary effective August 14, 2010.

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

#### **A. Melissa Klug**

Elementary Teacher

Grandview Elementary

Family and Medical Leave of Absence

October 29, 2010 through February 2, 2011

The board approved the K/4 Memorandum of Understanding, as submitted.

The board approved offering Colonial Insurance and Vision benefits to all non-covered employees at their cost.

The board approved the hiring of the following Professional Staff, 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:

**A. Christina Rago**

Home School Visitor/Attendance Officer  
Master's Level, Step 1  
Effective September 21, 2010  
Start Date will be October 12, 2010

On motion by Mrs. Fox and seconded by Mr. Lang approved ratifying 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. Hope Johnston**

Personal Aide – Replacement  
Grandview Elementary  
Salary as per Aide/Secretary Salary Schedule

**B. Kimberly Goerman**

Transportation Aide – Replacement  
Salary as per Aide/Secretary Salary Schedule

The board approved the appointment of **Mr. Patrick Graczyk** as Assistant to the Superintendent effective September 21, 2010 at his current salary.

**FINANCE/TAX**

The board approved the Treasurer's Report for July 2010, as submitted and subject to audit.

The board approved Tax Refunds for September 2010, as submitted.

<b>September to be paid</b>	<b>\$478.76</b>
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The board approved payment of General Fund bills for September 2010, as submitted.

September to be ratified	\$ 486,655.08
September to be paid	<u>\$504,564.96</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$991,220.04</b>

The board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills in the amount of \$198,000, as submitted.

The board approved authorizing a one-time donation of \$10,000 Highlands Emergency Services Alliance Program for Educational Purposes Only upon completion of the HESA facility.

The board approved authorizing a \$10,000 contribution to the Community Library of Allegheny Valley, as budgeted.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Mrs. Wantland** encouraged the community to support Superintendent **Dr. Joe Latess** during his "locked up" for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's local MDA LockUp event at 10 a.m. on



September 22 at Gatto's Harley Davidson Cycle Shop in Tarentum. Help local families and contribute to research in finding a cure by donating "bail money" to get Dr. Latess out of jail. **To donate, mail a check or money order payable to the Muscular Dystrophy Association to Dr. Joseph Latess, 1330 Eleventh Avenue, Natrona Heights, PA 15065. You may also bring a cash donation to the Administrative Center at the address above. Donors may remain anonymous, if preferred.**

**Mrs. Wantland** also reported that the Alle-Kiski Health Foundation will be having their Grand Opening of their new facility on October 11, 2010. The address is 1 Acee Drive in the Highlands Industrial Park.

**Mrs. Fox** reported that The Tarentum Recreation Board presents the 2nd Annual Scarecrow Contest! The scarecrows will be posted and on display throughout Tarentum beginning October 16. Winners will be announced at the Tarentum Boo Fest on October 23. Please visit [www.goldenrams.com](http://www.goldenrams.com) for more information.

**Mrs. Wisner** reported that the Tarentum Library will sponsor a festival on October 9, 2010 from 1-5 p.m. at several locations during the day in Tarentum.

**Mrs. Thimons** reported that there is currently a new Jr. Rams Track and Field program for children 6 and older. Please visit [www.goldenrams.com](http://www.goldenrams.com) for more information.

#### **FORBES ROAD CTC**

**Mrs. Fox** reported that Forbes is currently doing renovations to the roof on Building 1 and it should be completed by November 1, 2010. They have also installed a handicap shower, and a security station for the fire station. The Physical Education Program is up and running for students that cannot take Physical Education at their home school. The Guidance Office has also relocated closer to the main office to accommodate the students.

#### **PSBA/NSBA**

**Mrs. Wisner** reported that the PSBA Convention is approaching on October 12-15, 2010 and that 6 of the Board members will be in attendance. **Mrs. Beale** and **Mrs. Wisner** will serve as voting delegates this year. **Mrs. Wisner** hopes obtain information as it relates to the Pension Crisis and she will share any information she receives with the public.

#### **POLICY**

The board approved waiving first reading and approving second reading of the following revised policies:

- 226.1 – Metal Detector Device Policy
- 237 – Electronic Devices Policy

Mr. Krzton also wanted to make note that the Board did gather student input before implementing these policies.

#### **ATHLETICS**

The board approved the Athletic Fund Report for August 2010, as submitted.

The board approved ratifying 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.):

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Fry, Jason</b>	Assistant Volleyball Coach
<b>Beck, Robert</b>	Middle School Soccer Coach
<b>Nelson, Ross</b>	Volunteer Asst. Coach – Varsity Soccer
<b>Heavner, David</b>	Volunteer Asst. Coach – 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football
<b>Lapczynski, Norbert</b>	Substitute Ticket Taker/Usher – Fall Sports
<b>Eckenrod, Mindy</b>	Substitute Ticket Taker/Usher – Fall Sports
<b>Schnurr, Julie</b>	Volunteer Asst. Coach – MS Girls Soccer
<b>McCue, Catherine</b>	Swimming Coach

The board approved ratifying **Dr. Raymond Drabicki** as District Athletic Physician at a cost of \$12,000.

The board approved the termination of the current Head Volleyball Coach effective immediately.

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

No Report.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

No Items.

### *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*