

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

January 24, 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 – Seven board members present. **Mr. William Krzton** and **Mr. Eric Miles** absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The Board approved the minutes of the December 6, 2010 Reorganization and Regular Board Meetings.

- **Mrs. Wantland** abstained from the Regular Board Meeting minutes vote.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – No report.

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

- Winter Sports standings. The Swim Team had many WPIAL qualifiers; Boys Basketball team is at 9-6 and Girls Basketball at 4-6; Wrestling Team is at 4-9, with **Richie Bass** passing his 100-plus career mark; Competition Cheerleading Squad has 3 First Place and 2 Grand Champ victories; in Track, **Vickie Crise** qualified for states and broke the hurdles record.
- "The Wedding Singer" musical cast has been busy rehearsing and fundraising for this year's production. On February 5, 2011, Harrison's Bar & Grille in Heights Plaza will host an adult-only '80s Prom from 7 p.m. to midnight. The cost is \$29.99 per couple or \$14.99 for a single ticket and includes a buffet dinner. A donation of \$10 will be accepted at the door after 9 p.m. (buffet not included). For more information, call Highlands High School. **Mr. Michael Zeiler** is doing a great job as producer.
- Underclassmen currently are taking 4Sights tests and Seniors are busy deciding which college to attend!

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

- Three elementary schools in Highlands School District received a **High Growth School Designation** from the Pennsylvania Department of Education based on tests scoring in the top twentieth percentile on the PSSA in a tested subject. **Heights Elementary School** (Grade Four) was designated as such in Math. **Fairmount Elementary School** (Grade Five) received the designation for Math testing. **Grandview Elementary School** (Grade Five) is a high growth school in testing for both Math and Reading. The schools showed growth in the tested subjects that was evaluated by the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS), an analytical tool that used Pennsylvania System of (PSSAs) test scores to examine how effective a year of schooling has been for a student and how likely it is that the student will reach his current performance level or achieve at a higher performance level on future PSSA tests. The most recent test scores are from the 2009-2010 PSSA exams.
- **Micah Mason** scored his 1,000th career point in basketball and **Richie Bass** passed the 100-mark in wrestling. Congratulations to these two athletes.
- Winners of this year's Superintendent Holiday Art Contest created designs for the district greeting card. Of hundreds of submissions, eight designs are selected. This year's winning designs were on display at the board meeting and the following students were recognized: **Marissa Callender, Matthew Watts, Brian Huston, Cera Dickerson, Nathan Parsons, Holly Penn, Andrew Ahr, and Stephanie Oertel.**

- January is **School Director Recognition Month**, and Dr. Latess informed the public of celebratory evening honoring the board, who volunteer time and talents for the betterment of public schools. Principals from each elementary building presented board members with cards, posters and essays from students.

ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT- Mr. Patrick Graczyk reported the following:

- Mr. Graczyk thanked the board for their time, commitment and support.
- The **Title I/PAC meeting** will be held in conjunction on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Community Center. Those who would like to attend and learn more about the Title I program at Highlands may contact **Mrs. Patty Sirota** at 724-226-2400, ext. 214.
- The **Vision For Success** goals are meeting mid-year marks and currently balanced scorecard reports are being completed to ensure we are in line with meeting our goals.
- Curriculum writing is being completed for Music and will soon begin for Science and Social Studies.

The School Board unanimously approved the following items:

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved accepting the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for November and December 2010, as submitted.

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

To be paid \$52,263.13

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for November and December 2010, as submitted.

The Board approved the creation of a High School Archery Club at no cost to the district.

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

A. Jay Morgan
High School Musical Set Construction

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Wantland

The Board approved moving the K/4 Program to Grandview Elementary for the 2011-2012 school year.

The Board approved the Program of Studies for the High School, as submitted.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Heasley, Mr. Lang

No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Heasley, Mrs. Fox

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

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Fox, Mr. Miles

The Board approved ratifying the Medical Leave of Absence of **Kevin McBurney**, Custodian I, effective December 13, 2010.

The Board approved ratifying the Medical Leave of Absence of **Darlene Artman**, Middle School Cafeteria, effective January 6, 2011.

The Board approved the renewal of contract of the **Law Offices of Ira Weiss** as the District Solicitor for the 2011 calendar year at no change in rates.

The Board approved a District Procedure for employees that have exhausted all leave of absences, except those that are under circumstances approved based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, as submitted.

The Board approved the appointment of a Buildings & Grounds Day-to-Day Substitute.

The Board approved the Varsity Baseball Assistant Coach's Memorandum of Understanding.

The Board approved the unpaid military leave of absence of **Mike Rizzo**, District Athletic Trainer for a period of 1 year beginning January 4, 2011, to attend an Officer Candidate School of the US Marine Corps.

The Board approved ratifying the resignation of **Marjorie Papariella**, Custodian II effective December 10, 2010.

The Board approved 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. **Billie Jean Burton** – Replacement
Custodian II – Grandview
Effective January 25, 2011

- B. **Nicole Fitzgerald** – Ratify
Personal Aide – Replacement
Effective January 3, 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).

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report for October, November and December 2010, as submitted and subject to audit.

The Board approved Tax Refunds, as submitted.

December 2010 to be ratified	\$15,044.54
<u>January 2011 to be paid</u>	<u>\$ 644.44</u>
TOTAL	\$15,688.98

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills for December 2010 and January 2011, as submitted.

December to be ratified	\$ 1,711,421.90
January to be paid	<u>\$ 463,927.08</u>
TOTAL	\$2,175,348.98

The Board approved the introduction of the 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget, filing for exceptions including public inspection and notices; and advertise to adopt on February 14, 2011 in accordance with the requisites of Act 1.

The Board approved ratifying the purchase of new finance software from Skyward, as submitted at a cost of \$92,000 payable over 3 years.

The Board approved authorizing district to open a G.O.B. 1991 series account at PNC Bank for unclaimed bonds.

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

The Highlands School District Music Department and Highlands Alumni Big Band performed on January 14, 2011 at Highlands Middle School. The **Second Annual "Highlands Gives Back" Charity Concert** collected more than \$1,550 plus food and clothing donations for the All-Kiski Hope Center, the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches and Highlands Area Meals and Wheels.

Mrs. Wantland reported that the **Alle-Kiski Health Foundation** will host a seminar about teen mental health issues and the dealing with the troubles they face today. The seminar is on February 23, 2011 from 6 – 8 p.m. and is being held at the new AKHF Center, 1 Acee Drive, Natrona Heights. The educational program is being sponsored by the Heatherlyn A. Marshall Memorial Fund and is FREE and OPEN to the public. Reservations are requested. For more information, call **(724) 294-3157**.

Mrs. Wisner informed the public about a visiting author, **Sharon Flake**. Sharon Flake visited Grandview Elementary, Highlands Middle School and Highlands High School and shared her personal story with district students. Her books feature young adults and children who face and overcome diversity. Many students were very perceptive to Sharon's story and books. This is just one recent program sponsored by the district librarians that have improved the library experience for students.

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Carrie Fox reported the following:

- In December, Forbes Road CTC held its annual reorganization meeting and holiday dinner for its board members. Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Beale attended as Highlands representatives. Alumni **John Stanoski** joined the gathering. Mrs. Fox encouraged parents to support student's choices to attend this excellent trade school.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Wisner

Mrs. Wisner reported that school board members should be aware of the pros and cons of the School Tuition Voucher Program being discussed.

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

The Board approved the 1st Reading of the following policy:

816 - Public Communications by Employees

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

The Board approved the Athletic Fund Report for November and December 2010, 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
Zendarski, Michael	Head Varsity Softball Coach
Wichrowski, Beth	Volunteer Varsity Softball Coach
Olszewski, Ray	Head Baseball Coach
Weissert, Jeff	JV Baseball Coach
Foster, Michael	Head Track Coach
Grove, Phil	Varsity Track Assistant Coach
Walsh, Chad	Varsity Track Assistant Coach
Pastorek, Kristen	Middle School Track Head Coach
Masarik, Andy	Middle School Track Assistant Coach
Rice, Chris	Middle School Track Assistant Coach
Sobotka, Patrick	Varsity Baseball Assistant Coach

The Board approved ratifying the hiring of **Gina Difranto** as Athletic Trainer, effective January 11, 2011, at a hourly rate of \$17.77 for 4.5 hours a day. In accordance with Board Policy #404 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check.

TECHNOLOGY – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board approved a Special Board Meeting to adopt the preliminary budget as required under Act 1 on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Administrative Center. The agenda planning meeting will immediately follow the special meeting.

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