

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

December 7, 2009 Agenda & Regular 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 members present, one absent. Absentee members: **Mrs. Laura Thimons**.

The Board unanimously approved the following items:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - **Corey Negley** reported the following: Highlands High School students will be offered a reduced rate to enroll in a college-credit psychology course this summer. The 2008-2009 yearbooks, titled "Controlled Chaos", were distributed this month. The music department announced this year's musical, "Cinderella." **Mr. Michael Zeiler** conducted excellent choral concerts for the Lion's Club and the Highlands Rotary Christmas Concert. The High School semi-formal winter dance will be held this Saturday. Many Christmas concerts will be performed at the various schools, and the public is encouraged to attend. The High School will host a "Christmas Around the World" on December 18, at which high school students will introduce Fairmount and Grandview elementary students to cultural celebrations of the holiday season. It will be held at the Community Center. This year, a motivational tutoring program began to assist students in improving their grades. An academic restricted list will prevent students who did not take advantage of this tutoring or improve their grade from participating in extracurricular activities. Parents can contact **Mr. Tom Shirey**, High School principal, for more information about this offering.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – No report.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – **Dr. Joseph Latess** invited the public and parents to attend holiday concerts at each of the buildings. In addition to the concerts, many of the classes and buildings are conducting drives and supporting packets for troops. Also, various festivities, including the "Jewish Food Festival" and "Christmas around the World" are incorporating educational lessons with holiday activities.

CAFETERIA

No Report.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Report.

INSTRUCTION

The Board approved a contract with **Keystone Consulting Group** to conduct a needs assessment of the special education program. Dr. Latess reported that this group, which has been successful at other school districts, is a very reputable group of professors and staff affiliated with Slippery Rock University. The group will interview administrators, teachers and staff and visit classrooms, in addition to other procedures during its assessment. The goal is to analyze and ensure that the Special Education program at Highlands is able to provide the best interventions and education necessary in order to return students to the traditional education program. The contract will not exceed \$28,000 and will be payable with IDEA Stimulus Funds.

TRANSPORTATION

No Report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The Board approved the use of facilities, as submitted.

Mr. Jon Rupert provided to the board an update on the Act 77 Trane contract. Mr. Rupert said that a final contract will be provided to the board for approval at the January meeting.

The Board approved a 5-year renewal of an agreement with T.W. Phillips Gas & oil Co. for Gas Supply and Service.

PERSONNEL

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

Amy Karavlan

Music Teacher

High School

Child Rearing and Family and Medical Leave of Absence

Effective January 20, 2010 through the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year.

The Board ratified the Unpaid Family Leave of Absence of **Renee Zrebny** – Personal Aide, Grandview Elementary effective November 25, 2009 for approximately 12 weeks.

The Board ratified the Unpaid Family Leave of Absence of **Darlene Smith** – Classroom Aide, High School effective November 17, 2009 through January 4, 2010.

The Board ratified the resignation of **Carolyn Supansic** – Transportation Aide, effective immediately.

The Board approved ratifying the 2009-2010 School Nurse Aide 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 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 Substitute Security Guard 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 the hiring of the following Classified Employee, in accordance with Board Policy #504 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check:

Mimma Spataro – Replacement

Personal Aide – Middle School

Effective December 7, 2009

Salary as per Aide Salary Schedule

FINANCE/TAX

The Board took no action regarding a letter from a taxpayer requesting help with Sheriff Sale fees.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mrs. Beale reported that a 2000 graduate, **Mr. Jeremy Benvenuti**, will appear on WTAE-Channel 4 news on Monday evening at 5 p.m. for a 15-second appearance from Afghanistan. It is Mr. Benvenuti's second tour. He also graduated from West Point Academy.

Mrs. Fox reported that Tarentum will host "Christmas in the Park" on Saturday, December 12, 2009 along First Avenue in Tarentum. The event will benefit each of Tarentum's volunteer fire departments and will offer horse-drawn carriage rides, children's activities, holiday music and other festivities.

Mrs. Fox reported that Variations will perform at the Pittsburgh Mills Mall on Tuesday, December 9, 2009.

Mrs. Wisner reported that the Gold Card Thanksgiving Luncheon was a pleasant event that highlighted various students and departments in the district. In addition, the GoldCard newsletter, prepared by **Mrs. Jennifer Goldberg**, informed Gold Card members of the current events at Highlands.

FORBES ROAD CTC

No Report.

PSBA/NSBA

Mrs. Wisner reported on state taxes and a "Reach for the Top" program that will address federal stimulus programs.

POLICY

No Report.

ATHLETICS

The Board approved the hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2009-2010 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 |
|--------------------------|--|
| Fletcher, Earl | Volunteer Basketball Coach – 7 th Grade Girls |
| Foster, Chester | Volunteer Asst. Coach – Varsity Track |
| Mack, Janet | Substitute Ticket Taker – Winter Sports |
| Masarik, Andrew | Asst. Coach – Varsity Track |
| Moxie, Marianne | Substitute Ticket Taker – Winter Sports |
| Pastorek, Kristen | Head MS Track Coach |
| Pollick, Jeff | Assistant Coach – Junior High Wrestling |
| Rice, Chris | Asst. MS Track Coach |
| Walsh, Chad | Asst. Coach – Varsity Track |

2009 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