

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

January 25, 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 – Eight members present, one absent. Absentee members: **Mr. Ron Lang**.

The Board unanimously approved the following items:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Board approved the minutes of the December 7, 2009 Reorganization, Planning, and Regular Meeting.

REMARKS BY SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT, MRS. DEBBIE BEALE

Mrs. Beale recognized former members of the Highlands School Board of Directors that attended the meeting in honor of School Director Recognition Month. Attendees included **Domenic Corso, Charles Lawton, Joseph Davidek, John Stanoski, Terrance Conroy, Sam Huey, Lysle Freehling, Patrick Duffy, John Clicquennoi, and Francis Salego**.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - **Corey Negley** reported on the following items: The Open Swim program at the High School has been well attended. HHS teacher and program supervisor **Ms. Katie McCue** is offering swimming lessons as a fundraiser for the swim team. The **Competition Cheerleading Squad** placed in a recent competition. **Mike Trenski** and **Abby Hetrick** were honored in the Valley News Dispatch Sports section for their athleticism. The High School library will be hosting an "I Love Books" themed book fair, with some proceeds benefitting the library. Also, **Mr. Negley** welcomed **Girl Scout Troop #50061** to the meeting, which attended as a requirement for Leadership badges.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - **Highlands Gives Back**, a concert held January 15 at Highlands Middle School, featured Highlands Music Department faculty and 20 former faculty members performing for charity. Featured groups included "The Don Aliquo Quartet" and the Alumni Big Band. Those attending were asked to bring in a donation of food, clothing or cash instead of paying for admission. Total donations included a van full of food donations for the AVAC Food Bank, a car full of clothing donations for the Alle-Kiski HOPE Center, and more than \$1,500 in monetary donations for these and other local charities. Check next year's calendar for this event.

Highlands Hope for Haiti, a collection drive involving all six schools and various athletic teams and student clubs, provided drop-off site for residents, staff and students to donate items that will be sent to the survivors of the earthquakes in Haiti through the Brother's Brother Foundation, based in Pittsburgh. Through this collection drive, Highlands School District will be donating about 2,000 much-needed items. Groups involved included the Boys Varsity Basketball team, which accepted donations at last week's game; Elementary and Middle School student councils; Life Skills students; Track and Field team; The Sapphire Team at the Middle School, which raised more than \$150 to donate, and Grandview Elementary students also raised funds for Vision of Hope Ministry. The efforts are continuing through this upcoming month, including a Heights and Fawn elementary

dance that will accept donations instead of admission fees. The community also became involved, including Girl Scout Troop #1383 that donated funds they raised; Lowe's, in Pittsburgh Mills Mall, which donated 20 buckets; J & S Pizza in Heights Plaza, which donated buckets; Weleski Transfer, which is volunteering to deliver the donations to Brother's Brother Foundation later this week, and Tribune-Review Publishing and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for printing information about the drive. The schools are still in need of five gallon buckets with lids to package the donations. If anyone can donate these, call Misty Chybrzynski at the Administrative Center.

This month is **School Director Recognition Month**, designated as such by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. It offers us a time to thank our school board. We elect these volunteers to help oversee the functions of the district and to ensure that residents have representation in the schools. Tonight, we thank the members of this school board for their dedication and time to the students and the community of Highlands School District. **Dr. Baldassare** introduced principals **Mr. Patrick Graczyk, Mrs. Heather Hauser, Mr. Charles Mort, Mr. Gene Nicastro, Mrs. Kathi Shirey, Mrs. Cathy Russo and Mr. Tom Shirey**, who presented letters of appreciation from elementary school students and certificates of recognition to each board member.

Dr. Baldassare invited residents to attend the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting being held on February 3, 2010 at the Administrative Center, beginning at 7 p.m. Anyone with questions can contact Ms. Misty Chybrzynski at the Administrative Center.

Dr. Baldassare acknowledged the completion of the security vestibule at the High School, which was a project under the supervision of **Mr. Joe Capozzoli**, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, and **Mr. Jay Morgan**, Special Services Coordinator. The project would have cost \$160,000 if contracted, but was completed mostly in-house for a cost of \$20,000.

Dr. Baldassare notified the public that there have been minor issues with the swimming pool Pool Pac, but that the district has been in conversation with the company and installers of the equipment in order to repair it.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - **Dr. Joseph Latess** recognized and thanked the Board of Directors for their service and for being a supportive element of his introduction to the district. Dr. Latess reported that the AFG, or "Middle States" process, is still underway, with committees meeting regularly for the assessment that includes business, school and residential members. Dr. Latess then presented the Annual Yearly Progress awards for satisfactory test scores for two consecutive years to **Mr. Charles Mort**, for Fairmount Elementary; **Mr. Gene Nicastro**, for Heights Elementary; **Mrs. Kathi Shirey** for Fawn Elementary, and **Mrs. Cathy Russo**, for Highlands Middle School.

CAFETERIA – **Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Wisner**

The Board approved the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for November and December 2009, as submitted.

The Board approved the Cafeteria Fund bills, as follows:

To be ratified	\$101,137.76
To be paid	<u>\$ 73,909.84</u>
TOTAL	\$175,047.60

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for October, November, and December 2009, as submitted.

The Board approved the 2009-2010 Activity Sponsors, as submitted.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Board approved the expulsion case 10-02.

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Wantland

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

The Board approved the revision of the last day of school for Elementary Students to June 3, 2010. (*Same as Secondary Students*).

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Heasley, Mr. Lang

The Board approved extending the current contract with **W.L. Roenigk, Inc.** for 5 years.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Heasley, Mrs. Fox

The Board approved the use of facilities, as submitted.

- *Mrs. Wantland voted "NO".*

The Board approved the Act 77 Energy Savings Contract with Trane, Inc. in the amount of \$3,571,484. This agreement carries a guaranteed minimum of \$3.5 million in savings over 15 years while updating the entire High School HVAC system with new equipment and technology.

- *Mrs. Wantland voted "NO".*

The Board approved the State Bid contract with IDN-Hardware Sales, Inc. for 7 additional cameras in the High School at a cost of \$20,000. Cost to be paid from the Technology Budget.

The Board approved the State Bid contract with AB Specialties to install new doors and other retro-fit in the High School at a cost of \$19,699. Cost to be paid from the Technology and Buildings and Grounds Budgets.

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Fox, Mr. Miles

The Board approved retaining the Law Offices of Ira Weiss as the District's Solicitor at current fee schedule.

The Board approved appointing **Mr. Jay Morgan** as Supervisor of District Security at current salary.

The Board approved ratifying, with regret the resignation of **Mrs. Debbie Young** – Middle School Aide, effective December 23, 2009.

The Board approved ratifying the 2009-2010 Substitute School Nurse 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 ratifying the 2009-2010 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 Teacher of Record Stipends as follows:

- **Mr. Pat Hassler** - \$3,000
- **Mrs. Jennifer Motosicky** - \$3,000
- **Ms. Catherine McCue** - \$3,000
- **Mrs. Ellen Pishko** - \$1,500
- **Ms. Kayla Wilhelm** - \$2,250

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved accepting the Treasurer's Report for the months of October and November 2009, as submitted and subject to audit.

The Board approved Tax Refunds for December 2009 and January 2010, submitted.

December to be ratified	\$6,856.25
January to be paid	\$8,904.05

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills for December 2009 and January 2010, as submitted.

December to be ratified	\$1,979,775.15
January to be paid	<u>\$ 473,733.92</u>
TOTAL	\$2,453,509.07

The Board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills for January 2010 in the amount of \$22,900, as submitted.

The Board approved the Joint Purchasing Resolution with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, as submitted.

The Board approved a budget resolution in accordance with Act 1, as submitted.

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

The Board commended the Highlands Music Department for the "Highlands Gives Back" concert being a success.

Dr. Joseph Latess was selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Allegheny Valley YMCA.

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Fox reported that Forbes Technology will offer landscape design, power line services and other programs to its study list. In addition, it will provide a “hands on” tour for students in Grade 8 and 9 to explore the option of attending Forbes. In addition, students participated in Skills USA competition and the district will get results soon.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Wisner

Mrs. Wisner reported on four items discussed by PSBA this past month: **Keystones Exams** are finalized and will be fully implemented by 2014-15 school year. The **Race to the Top** program only received 120 districts memorandums of understanding. Many districts, including Highlands, did not sign o due to little information and not enough time to evaluate, as well as uncertainty of availability of funds and loss of local control. **National evaluations** of education placed Pennsylvania education at a B- level, which is higher than the national average of C. Finally, the **pension crisis** in the PSEA is hitting this year, with a portion paid by the school district up 72 percent from last year.

The Board nominated **Mrs. Laura Thimons** for the AIU3 Board of Directors.

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

The Board approved the first and second reading of the following policy:

- 438.1 Compensated Professional Leaves

ATHLETICS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Heasley

The Board approved the Athletic Fund Report for December 2009, as submitted.

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
Meanor, Steve	Substitute Timekeeper – Basketball
Etzrodt, John	Timekeeper – Basketball
Zendarski, Michael	Head Varsity Softball Coach
Heasley Jr., William	JV/Varsity Assistant Softball Coach
Stobert, Katie	Middle School Head Softball Coach
Grove, Phil	Assistant Track Coach – Middle School

** Mr. Heasley abstained.*

TECHNOLOGY – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board approved nominating **Mrs. Laura Thimons** as Trustee for the Eastern Region of the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium.

The Board approved a revised start time of 7:30 p.m. for the Agenda Meeting being held on Monday, February 8 at the Administrative Center.

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