

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

March 15, 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 February 16, 2010 Regular Meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – No report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - **Mr. Corey Negley** presented findings of an independent study of various areas in Highlands High School and the presence and type of bacteria found at those locations, including the restrooms, office and doors in the building. View the presentation at www.goldenrams.com/schoolboard, under the School Board Meeting Highlights section, March 15, 2010 listing.

Corey also reported that students had concerns about the dust particles in the air during renovations. **Mr. Joe Capozzoli** stated that air quality testing can be conducted during construction.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – **Dr. Louis Baldassare**, Superintendent, congratulated Highlands High School students on a well-done performance of this year's musical, "Cinderella," held March 5 – 7, 2010. He notified the public and the board that Highlands Middle School will present "Getting to Know...Once Upon a Mattress" on March 26 and 27.

Dr. Baldassare and the Board also congratulated the following athletes:

- The **Boys and Girls Basketball Teams** made it to the WPIAL playoffs.
- **Conner Calarie** won the Gold 200 and the Silver 500 for swimming in the WPIAL's

In addition, he recognized the following students for being inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at Forbes Road CTC:

- **Kenneth Karl** – Electrical Technology
- **Skylar Lord** – Dental Careers
- **Arthur Napolitano** – Computer Networking and Security
- **Chad Penn** – HVAC
- **Hillary Pitkavish** – Advertising Design
- **Paige Reed** – Dental Careers
- **Joshua Tompkins** – Information Technology & Gaming
- **Dylan Townsend** – HVAC
- **John Yedlowski** – Electrical Technology

Heights and Fawn Elementary were approved for a **Highmark Healthy High 5 School Challenge Grant** to purchase climbing walls and fitness bands for strength and endurance/cardiovascular program. Each building was awarded \$9,849.00.

Grandview Elementary also previously was awarded one of these grants, and the **Highlands Community Education Foundation** awarded approximately \$1,500 additionally for purchasing televisions to accompany the fitness equipment there.

B-wing renovations at the High School are complex, yet moving along smoothly. Classrooms appear brighter, and the electronic thermostats are functioning properly.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – **Dr. Joseph Latess** reported that Title I policies are available at the board meetings for public to keep or review. The Accreditation for Growth committees continue to meet to discuss the High School self-evaluation and upcoming AFG reviews. PSSA testing will begin April 12, and parents will be notified of the importance of the test and preparations suggested to help students perform well.

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

The Board accepted the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for February 2010, as submitted.

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

To be paid **\$51,064.33**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – **Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wisner**

The Board approved the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for February 2010, as submitted.

INSTRUCTION – **Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Wantland**

The Board approved the 2010-2011 School Calendar, as submitted.

The Board approved the following Make-up Days for the 2009-2010 school year:

- January 18, 2010 – Make-up Day 1
- February 15, 2010 – Make-up Day 2
- March 18, 2010 – Make-up Day 3
- March 19, 2010 – Make-up Day 5
- April 5, 2010 – Make-up Day 4

The Board approved the Vision For Success – District Goals and Action Plans, as submitted.

TRANSPORTATION – **Mr. Heasley, Mr. Lang**

No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – **Mr. Heasley, Mrs. Fox**

The Board approved the bidding for the Middle School Library and Gymnasium Roof.

PERSONNEL – **Mrs. Fox, Mr. Miles**

- *Mrs. Wantland abstained from voting, based on absence during discussion of candidates.*

The Board approved the Behavior Specialist Agreement, with one alteration to the submitted copy: Number 9 of the agreements should state, "*payment for assigned instructional hours.*"

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 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 ratifying the 2009-2010 Substitute Secretary 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 following requests for a Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:

A. Michele Pacek

Kindergarten Teacher
Fawn Elementary
Family and Medical Leave of Absence
April 30, 2010 through August 2010

B. Kellie Coll - Ratify

Life Skills Elementary Teacher
Grandview Elementary
Family and Medical Leave of Absence
March 12, 2010 through June 4, 2010

The Board ratified the resignation of **Faith Foster** – 21st Century Program Director, effective March 12, 2010.

The Board accepted the resignation of **Rhonda Mazur**, Cafeteria Worker – Heights Elementary effective March 16, 2010.

The Board approved hiring the following Classified Employees. (In accordance with Board Policy #504 (Pre-employment Drug Test), #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check).

A. Caroline Supansic - Ratify

Transportation Aide
Effective: February 18, 2010
Salary as per Aide/Secretary Salary Schedule

B. Lynn Swartz

Cafeteria Alternate
Effective March 16, 2010
Salary as per Cafeteria Salary Schedule

C. Matthew Skurko

Painter/Custodian I

Effective as soon as possible

Salary as per the SEIU Agreement

The Board approved ratifying the hiring of **She'ri Smith** – 21st Century Program Director effective March 15, 2010.

The Board rejected Grievance 10-02.

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved accepting Treasurer's Report for January 2010, submitted and subject to audit.

The Board approved Tax Refunds for March 2010, as submitted.

March to be paid	\$1,565.08
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The Board approved payment of General Fund bills for March 2010, as submitted.

March to be ratified	\$ 513,497.50
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March to be paid	<u>\$ 275,544.51</u>
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TOTAL	\$ 789,042.01
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The Board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills for March 2010 in the amount of \$1,351,717.00, as submitted.

The Board approved the Bond Issue Report, as submitted.

The Board approved participating in the Clear Choice Electric Savings Program (\$30,000).

The Board approved submitting the application for Zero Coupon Bonds (no obligation).

The Board approved Solicitor/Tax Assessment Appeals Program.

The Board approved the proposed 2010-2011 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget, as submitted. The Budget totals \$3,871,800. There is not an increase in the total district allocation. The Highlands School District's expected contribution to the AIU Program of Services budget is \$21,849.13.

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

Mrs. Wantland reminded students that various scholarships are available through the Alle-Kiski Health Foundation through the generosity of several local sponsors. Students must apply by May 7, 2010. Information is available in the Guidance Office of the High School.

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Fox congratulated the Forbes Road National Honor Society students.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Wisner

Mrs. Thimons reported that she, **Mrs. Beale**, and **Mrs. Fox** attended a PSBA conference, where they discussed the benefits of a district or board presence on social networking sites and the importance of reiterating that faculty must take precautions when utilizing these sites. In addition, conference speakers discussed the impending budget crisis and options to defer from raising taxes. **Mrs. Wisner**, the PSBA liaison, will report back to the board any information regarding this topic. Mrs. Wisner reported that she will be attending meetings consisting of PSBA members and local legislators in efforts to launch a grassroots initiative to assist in solving the PSERS upcoming dilemma. **Mrs. Thimons** also reported that an Iowa-based research study stated that schools with Boards who cooperate amicably result in a 15 percent increase in student achievement.

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 2010, 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
Weissert, Jeffrey	Junior Varsity Boys Baseball Coach
Sobotka, Patrick	Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach
Kirin, Tyler	Varsity Boys Tennis Coach
Erdeljac, Jessica	Middle School Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach
Helgert, Dan	Volunteer Assistant Varsity Boys Baseball Coach

TECHNOLOGY – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Miles

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board scheduled a personnel meeting on Wednesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. at the Administrative Center. This is a meeting for board members *only*.

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