Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

**March 23, 2009 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -The Board approved the minutes of the February 9, 2009 Special Meeting and February 16, 2009 Regular School Board Meeting with corrections as noted.

**SECRETARY CORRESPONDENCE –** No report.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT** – **Courtney Kordes**, High School Senior, reported that the High School Winter Sports were very successful. The Boys and Girls Basketball Teams made it to the WPIAL and state playoffs and this had been the first time in 30 years that the Boys made it to the PIAA finals. She also reported that the High School Spring Musical was a success and that the Prom will be held at Laube Hall in Freeport and fundraising is underway.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Louis Baldassare**, substitute superintendent, asked the Board and the audience to recognize the following students for their outstanding achievements:

**Colleen Friel** – National Merit Scholarship Finalist

**Alexis Vesnesky** – National Honor Society Inductee – Art Program – Forbes Road CTC

**Carl Garrett** – National Honor Society Inductee – HVAC Program – Forbes Road CTC

**Conner Calarie** – 1st Place WPIAL - 500 Yard Freestyle, 1st Place WPIAL - 200 Yard Freestyle, and 3rd Place – PIAA Swimming Competition

**Varsity Boys Basketball Team**

**Mike Henderson** – Section 3 AA Champion and WPIAL Runner Up, Regional Qualifier – Wrestling

**Highlands Varsity Cheerleaders**

1st Place – IUP City of Champions – February 14, 2009

2nd Place – Elizabeth Forward’s Warrior Cheer Classic – February 21, 2009

1st Place – Serra Spring Classic – March 7, 2009

1st Place and Overall Grand Champion (highest score overall cheer divisions) – Ameri-Cheer Competition – Hampton High School – March 14, 2009

**Highlands Middle School Cheerleaders**

2nd Place – Elizabeth Forward’s Warrior Cheer Classic – February 21, 2009

1st Place – Serra Spring Classic – March 7, 2009

1st Place – Ameri-Cheer Competition – Hampton High School – March 14, 2009

Please get online and vote for **Nathan Doverspike**, Highlands High School Sophomore artist and finalist in the Heinz Creativity Contest! Nathan is the only 10th grader from Pennsylvania.

The **Citizens Advisory Committee** Meetings will be implemented and the first meeting will be on April 15, 2009 at 7 PM in the Community Center.

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

The Board *unanimously* approved the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for February 2009, as submitted.

The Board *unanimously* approved payment of Cafeteria Fund bills as follows:

To be paid **$76,654.70**

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Wantland**

The Board *unanimously*  approved Student Activities Fund Financial Report for February 2009, as submitted.

The Board *unanimously* approved the implementation of a Highlands Chapter of SADD (Student’s Against Destructive Decisions). Formerly the ABI (A Better Idea) Club. Any funds in the ABI Club Fund balance will be transferred to SADD.

**STUDENT DISCIPLINE** – Mr. Peck, Mrs. Wisner, Mr. Lang

Mr. Peck reported that 202 offenses have been reported for the month of January and that no serious incidences have occurred lately.

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

The Board *unanimously* approved the 2009-2010 school calendar, as submitted. The school year will begin Aug. 26, 2009 and end June 4, 2010.

**TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Heasley, Mr. Misejka**

No report.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Misejka, Mr. Heasley**

The Board *unanimously* approved the use of facilities, as submitted.

In accordance with the District's RFP for an energy savings project, the Board *unanimously* approved the appointment of Trane as the Act 77 consultant and ESCO (Energy Service Co) to prepare a proposal for an energy savings contract in compliance with the guaranteed energy savings requirements in Acts 57/77, including any letter of intent, if needed. The District reserves the right to modify any necessary changes in the scope of project and or fees IF ANY at their full discretion.

The Board *unanimously* approved the grass services with the same companies as in the past year with no increase in cost:

1. Grass Cutting, Trimming & Leaf Removal

JP Custom Lawn Care $18,600.00

Highlands Golden Rams Diamond Club $ 706.00

(baseball field only)

1. Lawn Chemical Treatment

JML Landscape Mgmt. $5,828.00

Highlands Golden Rams Diamond Club $2,275.00

(baseball field only)

1. Sports Field Preparation

Pollick’s Custom Lawn Care $3,765.00

Highland Golden Rams Diamond Club $1,200.00

(baseball field only)

**PERSONNEL – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons**

*The Board unanimously approved the following:*

The Board approved the following requests for Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/District policies:

1. **Terry Lynn Fox**

4th and 5th Grade Music Teacher

Sabbatical Leave for Educational Purposes

1st Semester 2009-2010 School Year

*(Contingent upon administration’s receipt of acceptance letter from an Accredited University)*

The Board accepted the resignation of **Kelly Patterson** from the position of 21st Century Afterschool Program Director – Middle School, effective March 13, 2009.

The Board approved the 2008-2009 Substitute Teacher Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check.

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:

1. **Geralyn Misejka**

Secretary – Grandview Elementary

Effective March 24, 2009

Salary as per Secretary/Aide Salary Schedule

*\*Mr. Misejka abstained from this vote.*

1. **Leonard Mehal**

Part-time Custodian II – Fairmount Elementary

Effective March 30, 2009

Salary as per Custodial Salary Schedule

*(Pending Renewed Clearances)*

1. **Heather Loughlin**

Part-time Custodian II – High School

Effective March 30, 2009

Salary as per Custodial Salary Schedule

1. **Danielle Baughman - Ratify**

In School Suspension Aide – Middle School

Effective October 22, 2008

Salary as per Secretary/Aide Schedule

**FINANCE/TAX – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wantland**

The Board *unanimously*  approved the Treasurer’s Report for the month of January 2009, as submitted.

The Board *unanimously*  approved Tax Refunds for March 2009 in the amount of $1,067.69, as submitted.

The Board *unanimously* approved payment of General Fund bills for March 2009, as submitted.

To Be Ratified $1,156,940.25

To Be Paid $ 693,579.00

**TOTAL $1,850,519.25**

The Board *unanimously*  approved the payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills for March 2009 in the amount of $199,194.24, as submitted.

The Board *unanimously*  approved the proposed 2009-2010 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget as presented. The Budget totals $3,807,900. There is no increase in the total district allocation from 2008-2010.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Peck**

Mrs. Wantland reported that over 300 people attended the Heroin: Lives Forever Changed presentation by the Allegheny-Kiski Health Foundation on February 23, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Audion. DVD’s of this presentation are available to purchase by contacting the Foundation.

She also reported that Trooper Markey, PA State Police is available to assist the district in whatever they need to help educate the community on safety.

Mrs. Fox added that she would like to commend all who helped with the High School Musical this year. It was a phenomenal production and from Elementary to the High School level, all the students did a wonderful job.

**FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale**

Mrs. Fox reported that she attended the National Technology Honor Society Ceremony at Forbes Road on March 10, 2009 and two of our students that were recognized earlier tonight should be commended for their outstanding achievements. **Mr. Tom Shirey** and **Ms. Marilyn Ingoldsby** were in attendance and the program was great.

**PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Thimons**

Mrs. Thimons reported that PSBA will have a six minute presentation for the Board and community for each board meeting beginning tonight, detailing school mandates that are required, but not funded.

**POLICY – Mr. Heasley, Mrs. Thimons**

Mr. Heasley reported that the revised policies were in the Board Update Packet and should be added to the Board Policy Manual.

**ATHLETICS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Heasley**

The Board *unanimously* approved the Athletic Fund Report February 2009, as submitted.

The Board *unanimously* approved the hiring of the following athletic personnel for the 2008-2009 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)

**Tennis**

**Catherine McCue** – Ratify Boys Head Coach

**Baseball**

**Christian Necheff** – Ratify Volunteer Assistant

Boys Coach

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Mrs. Beale reminded the public that the Planning Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on April 8, 2009 (Wednesday) at the Administrative Center and the Regular Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on April 20, 2009 at the Community Center.

**2009 Highlands School Board Members**

**Debbie Beale – President**

**Carrie Fox – Vice President**

**Laura Thimons William Heasley**

**Ron Lang Ron Misejka**

**Mark Peck Karen Wantland**

**Judy Wisner**