

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

November 16, 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.

ROLL CALL – Eight members present, one absent. Absentee members: **Mr. Mark Peck**.

The Board unanimously approved the following items:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The Board approved the minutes of the October 19, 2009 Regular Meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – No report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - **Corey Negley** reported the following: The SADD chapter of HHS will be attending a conference at Seven Springs to learn more ways to illustrate and prevent destructive behaviors by the student body. Winter sports training and events are underway. Motivational tutoring is being offered at the High School for students who want to improve grades. The Christmas Semi-Formal dance will be held December 12. The Marching Band will participate in the Tarentum-Brackenridge Holiday Parade being held Saturday, November 21 beginning at 1 p.m. The librarian **Mrs. Sandra Reidmiller** and the World Cultures classes at the High School will be participating jointly in a Christmas Around the World event, which will study and explore various cultures and manners of celebrating the holiday season across the globe. The fall play last week, directed by **Mr. Tom Abbott** at the High School and featuring the Highlands Players, was a success. Also on Saturday, November 21 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., the HHS Swim Team will host a swim-a-thon fundraiser to raise money for the Watts family and their 7-year-old son Matthew's battle against cancer. Anyone who wishes to sponsor a swimmer per lap or with a flat donation should contact swim team coach **Mrs. Kathy Black** at kblack@goldenrams.com or Boosters president **Mrs. Christine Masarik** at masarik@comcast.net.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - **Superintendent Dr. Louis J. Baldassare** reported the following: This month, two past board members died. Mrs. Beale requested a moment of silence for **Mr. Spence Barch** (served 1984-1991) and **Mr. Angelo Ravigoni** (served 1988-1995). The Board recalled Mr. Barch as always having students' rights at heart, and Mr. Ravigoni for always defending the rights of senior citizens in the community. In addition, the Board also recognized the passing of **Mr. Alfred Falise**, who was instrumental in the HESA organization and long involved in the Highlands community. The School Board will be purchasing and dedicating two books in the former school board

members' names for the High School library. Dr. Baldassare also reported that the **Highlands Community Education Foundation** met last week and agreed to contribute \$3,000 to funding the DARE program, along with a \$1,500 commitment from the elementary PTOs. HCEF has contributed to several projects across the district since its founding in 1990, as well as supporting faculty through mini-grants of up to \$300 and offering three separate scholarships to Highlands students. Find out more about HCEF here: <http://www.goldenrams.com/135310915102845920/site/default.asp>. On November 11, all schools hosted Parent-Teacher Conferences, which were well attended. Also, **Mr. Mike Krzeminski** (High School) held a Veterans Day recognition, inviting five veterans to share experiences with students and enjoy a luncheon in their honor. Last month, Fawn Elementary School received a Title I Academic Achievement Award of \$5,000 for showing a 25 percent or more improvement in PSSA testing scores in 2008-09 in reading and math. Fawn was one of 114 schools selected across the state. It is now in the running for a national Title I Distinguished School award. Principal **Mrs. Kathleen Shirey** will accept and present Fawn's progress at the statewide conference in January.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – No report.

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for October 2009, as submitted.

The Board approved payment of Cafeteria Fund bills, as follows:

To be Ratified	\$44,575.00
November 2009 to be Paid	<u>\$ 82,641.37</u>
TOTAL	\$127,216.37

The Board approved the \$20,000 Coca Cola contribution to the Cafeteria.

The Board approved the Cafeteria Budget for the 2009-2010 school year, as submitted.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Wantland

The Board approved the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for September 2009, as submitted.

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

The Board approved permanent expulsion of case 10-01.

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Wantland

The Board approved adopting The Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers, Storytown 2009 Reading Textbook Series for grades K-5, at a cost of \$99,954.00, as submitted.

The Board experienced the Digitalis Planetarium, as presented by **Mrs. Carol Fraser** and **Mrs. Jenifer Kosior**, Fairmount Elementary School teachers. For more information about the planetarium, view the Planetarium FastFacts listed beneath the Board Highlights on www.goldenrams.com.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Heasley, Mr. Misejka

No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Misejka, Mr. Heasley

The Board approved the use of facilities, as submitted.

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons

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

Mary Parmer-Taube

Elementary Teacher
Grandview Elementary
Child Rearing and Family and Medical Leave of Absence
Effective December 1, 2009 through June 4, 2010

Amy Yeckel

Title 1 Reading Teacher
Fawn Elementary
Effective March 22, 2010 – May 17, 2010

The Board approved ratifying the Unpaid Leave of Absence of **Annie Mack** – Cook, Fairmount Elementary effective October 26, 2009 through January 26, 2010.

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 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 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 hiring of the following substitutes for the 2009-2010 Evening Swim Recreation Program, as submitted.

The Board approved the hiring of the following Professional Staff, in accordance with Board Policy #404 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check:

Cynthia Barnhart – Replacement

Reading Specialist – High School
Master's Degree, Step 5

The Board approved the 2009-2010 Department Chairs, as submitted.

The Board approved the stipend of \$3,000 to the following individuals for the additional duties as described below:

Misty Chybrzynski

Human Resources Coordinator
Effective December 1, 2009

Jennifer Goldberg

District Website Development
Effective December 1, 2009

The Board approved the hiring of the following Classified Employee, in accordance with Board Policy #404 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check:

Ronald Ehrlich

Custodian
Step II
Effective November 17, 2009
Salary according to union agreement

FINANCE/TAX – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wantland

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

The Board approved Tax Refunds for November 2009 in the amount of \$1,578.22, as submitted.

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills for November 2009, as submitted.

November to be Ratified	\$ 2,955,967.17
November to be Paid	<u>\$ 600,488.34</u>
TOTAL	\$3,556,455.51

**Mrs. Wisner voted "NO" on Checks #1203 and #1204.*

The Board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills for November 2009 in the amount of \$61,360.28, as submitted.

The Board approved the Bond Issue Report, as submitted.

**Mrs. Wantland voted "NO".*

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

The Administration met with the HCEF on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 and will establish a meeting with the local police to organize the DARE Program.

Mrs. Thimons reported that Fairmount Elementary will be conducting two fundraisers for the Watts family, including a hoagie sale and a Breakfast with Santa. Contact Fairmount Elementary at 724-224-5880 for more information.

Mrs. Fox reported that the Tarentum/Brackenridge Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, November 21 beginning at 1 p.m. in Tarentum.

The Grandview Craft Show will be held on Saturday, November 21 at Grandview from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

Mrs. Fox reported that **Corey King** from the High School represented Highlands at the Skills Leadership Conference held at Seven Springs.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Thimons

No report.

Mrs. Fox congratulated Mrs. Beale and Mr. Lang for their re-elections.

Dr. Baldassare noted that the newly elected board members, **Mr. Eric Miles** (Region 1) and **Mr. William Krzton** (Region 3) had an orientation meeting.

POLICY – Mr. Heasley, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved the second reading of the following School Board Policy:
815 – Acceptable Use of Internet and Computer Resources.
815.1 – Website Development

Ms. Misty Chybrzynski reported about the District’s Volunteer Program and demonstrated the database available for administrators on the district website. The Volunteer Registration Form is available on the www.goldenrams.com website and is listed below the Board Highlights.

ATHLETICS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Heasley

The Board approved the Athletic Fund Report for October 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
Olszewski, Ray	Varsity Boys Baseball Coach
Mosovsky, Rita	Ticket Taker/Seller – Winter Sports
Broadbent, Daniel	Middle School Wrestling Coach
Foster, Chet	Ticket Taker – Boys and Girls Basketball
Miller, Ian	Middle School Girls Soccer Coach
Zendarski, Mike	Timekeeper – Girls Basketball
DeJidas, Ron	Volunteer Assistant Coach – 9 th Grade Basketball

TECHNOLOGY – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Wisner

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board approved the date of Reorganization/Planning and Agenda Meeting to Monday, December 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

The Board commended and recognized board member **Mr. Ron Misejka** for his service.

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