

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

October 19, 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 – Seven members present, two absent. Absentee members: **Mr. Mark Peck, Mrs. Laura Thimons.**

Mrs. Beale requested a moment of silence for **Mr. Benjamin Swantner**, a 2007 graduate of Highlands High School, who died on Friday, October 16, 2009.

The Board unanimously approved the following items:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- The Board approved the Minutes of the September 21, 2009 Regular Meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – No report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – **Corey Negley**, the student representative from Highlands High School, invited the School Board and meeting attendees to "Fall Follies," the annual High School talent show, being held on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, beginning at 7 p.m. He also reported that Friday is Senior Night at the Highlands Rams v. Knoch football game. Corey will be announcing half-time and third-quarter reports for KDKA.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – **Superintendent Dr. Louis J. Baldassare** reported the following: The High School swimming pool is open and operational. It will be available for our swimming team to practice and compete in. Also, an evening swim program is planned. Track hours and availability are posted on the www.goldenrams.com website. The posting will be updated as more times become available and sports seasons/practice use change. There was a Citizens Advisory Committee held on October 5. Topics discussed included the district website and the teacher's web pages, moving ahead with examining plans for district reorganization and renovations needed at the high school. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. The security vestibule at the High School is near completion. The district saved a considerable amount of money – nearly \$70,000 from bid price – by completing the bulk of the work in-house.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – **Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joseph Latess** reported that the D.A.R.E. program will still be presented to students, despite a lack of state funding. Each elementary school will work with local police to continue the program. Also, the AFG studies (formerly Middle States) are continuing at the High School. Committees are being performed and

the School Board will receive a report soon. This evening, for our educational spotlight, **Mr. Michael Santucci** and **Mr. Matthew Stiff** will present information about the Technology Education program at the High School.

CAFETERIA – Mrs. Wantland, Mrs. Wisner

The Board approved the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for August and September 2009, as submitted.

No Cafeteria Bill Report this month.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Wantland

No Report.

The Board approved **Mrs. Renee Yoder** as the High School Art Club Sponsor for the 2009-2010 School Year.

The Board approved the 2009-2010 Cheerleading Competitions, as submitted.

INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Wantland

The Board approved the purchase of the Ed Insight Data Windows & Curriculum Management Program to replace the CDA program. Initial cost \$23,076 prorated for this year, as submitted. Portion to be paid with IDEA Stimulus Funds.

Mr. Michael Santucci and **Mr. Matthew Stiff**, High School Teachers, presented information and samples of student work from the Technology Education Program. *(The PowerPoint is included with the e-version of this Board Highlights on www.goldenrams.com.)* The teachers discussed different areas of technology education offered through the department, including graphic design, architecture, silk-screening, the Technology Student Association program and robotics. The teachers also displayed student work and projects, including a student-designed and constructed robot. The Tech Ed department presented two wooden plaques, engraved with the Highlands insignia and the RAMS motto, for the Administrative Center and the Community Center.

Mr. Heasley noted that the **emergency responder course students** at the High School, in coordination with HESA and instructor **Mr. Michael Krzeminski**, performed an outstanding educational service for the students of Our Lady of Most Blessed Sacrament school during Fire Prevention Week.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Heasley, Mr. Misejka

No Report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Misejka, Mr. Heasley

The Board approved the use of facilities, as submitted.

The Board authorized administration to prepare specs and seek bids for the High School Lockers.

The Board authorized the district to send a letter of intent to Trane to enter into an Act 77 Agreement for energy savings work to begin at the High School immediately as outlined herein. And ratify said agreement at their next meeting or as soon as possible. Building automation, occupancy sensors, retrofit bladder boxes and diffusers, reconnect hot water, new grid and tile ceilings, electrical power and voltage, replace gym air unit, pool cover and install instantaneous hot water system.

- ***Mrs. Wantland voted "NO".***

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons

The Board ratified the resignation of **Alissa Klugh**, Classroom Aide Middle School Partial Program, effective April 2, 2009.

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

A. Mrs. Carolyn Kremer

Special Education Teacher

Highlands High School

Family and Medical Leave of Absence

Effective October 21, 2009 – January 4, 2010

B. Mrs. Louise Harvilla

Art Teacher

Highlands Middle School

Medical Sabbatical

January 2010 – June 2010

The Board ratified the Security Guard Hourly Rates effective July 1, 2009, as submitted.

The Board ratified 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 ratified 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 ratified the resignation of **Mrs. Cassandra Doggrell** – 21st Century Program Director, effective October 5, 2009.

The Board ratified the hiring of **Mrs. Faith Foster** – 21st Century Program Director, effective October 5, 2009.

The Board approved the hiring of the following individuals for the 2009-2010 Evening Swim Recreation Program:

A. Ms. Catherine McCue

Supervisor
\$11.00 per hour

B. Mrs. Robin Davis

Security Guard
\$8.00 per hour

C. Cory Negley

Lifeguard
\$7.25 per hour

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary/Aide Union to create an 11 month position. Administration will recommend ratification once a candidate is obtained.

The Board approved the Elimination of Program Facilitators, Curriculum Managers, and Team Leaders and prorate stipends.

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Teachers Union to create Department Chairs and bid positions. Administration will recommend ratification once candidates are obtained.

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

A. Mrs. Danice Strickengloss

Cafeteria Alternate

B. Mrs. Leslie Klingensmith

Cafeteria Alternate

FINANCE/TAX – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wantland

No Treasurer's Report this month.

The Board approved the Tax Refunds for October 2009 in the amount of **\$132,848.41**, as submitted.

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

To be Ratified	\$ 1,171,842.99
To be Paid	<u>\$ 730,401.52</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,902,244.51

The Board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills for October in the amount of \$202,550.02, as submitted.

- ***Mrs. Wisner voted "NO" on Checks # 1194 and 1196.***

The Board approved the renewal of the lease with Natrona Heights Baseball/Softball Association Inc., for the use of the fields adjacent to California Avenue.

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

Mrs. Fox reported that two Highlands groups, the **Grandview Elementary Cafeteria Ladies** and the **High School Art Club**, participated in the Tarentum Recreation Board Scarecrow Contest. The scarecrows, with photos posted on the www.goldenrams.com website, illustrate the school spirit Highlands has along Sixth Avenue in Tarentum.

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Beale

No Report.

PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Thimons

Mrs. Beale reported that the School Board had the opportunity to attend the Pennsylvania School Board Association annual conference in Hershey, PA, in the past week and received valuable information from a variety of sources, including Dr. Crystal Coopendale, a motivational speaker and author of "Merchants of Hope," a book about the expectations of excellent teachers. In addition, the students and instructors from the emergency responders course at the High School presented the unique program in an outstanding presentation at a booth in the conference area. The Board received extremely positive feedback about the program and the people involved at Highlands. Mrs. Beale reported that she

believed this would become a state-wide resource program and that the Board should be proud of the progression of the district.

Mrs. Wisner suggested that the Board re-establish the practice of electing student representatives to attend the student portion of the annual conference.

POLICY – Mr. Heasley, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved the first reading of the following School Board Policy:

- 815 – Acceptable Use of Internet and Computer Resources.
- 815.1 – Website Development

The Board approved the second reading of the following School Board Policy:

- 916 – School Volunteer
- 916.1 – Volunteer Coaches

ATHLETICS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Heasley

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

The Board approved the Evening Recreation Swim Program beginning October 26, 2009 through April 29, 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
Barr, Ryann	Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Coach
Black, Kathy	Head Swim Teach Coach
Bushman, Don	Volunteer Boys Varsity Basketball Coach
Celko, Bill	9 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Falter, Richard	Volunteer Boys Varsity Basketball Coach
Foster, Michael	8 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Glaister, Stephanie	Substitute Ticket Taker/Seller
Heasley Jr., William	Substitute Ticket Taker/Seller
Helgert, Josh	Ticket Seller – Boys Basketball
Helgert, Maria	Substitute Ticket Taker/Seller
Johnson, Susan	Substitute Ticket Taker/Seller
Kordes, Kerry	Scorekeeper – Girls Basketball
Mosovsky, Rita	Substitute Ticket Taker

Pollick, Jeff	Ticket Seller – Varsity Wrestling
Pollick, Luke	Head Wrestling Coach
Rea, Aaron	7 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Schaltenbrand, William	Assistant Wrestling Coach
Stabile, Tom	Timekeeper – Middle School Basketball
Stawinski, Pam	Ticket Taker – Boys & Girls Basketball
Thimons, Rose	Substitute Ticket Taker/Seller
Witt, Gene	Assistant Swim Team Coach
Zendarski, Mike	Clock Operator – Wrestling Timekeeper – Boys Basketball

TECHNOLOGY – Mrs. Wantland, Mr. Wisner

No Report.

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