

# Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

## November 17, 2008 Regular School Board Meeting

NOTE: This Board Highlights document includes the approved 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 October 20, 2008 Regular School Board Meeting.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT** – **Courtney Kordes** reported that Senior **Jeff Sinclair** received the ESPN Radio 1250 and Army Athlete of the Week award at a pep rally at the High School earlier in the month. She also commended the Golden Rams on their historical 11-1 season. She reported that the fall play, "Much Ado About Coconuts," was well received and attended. Ms. Kordes reported that students enjoy the new a la carte line in the cafeteria. She also reminded attendants about the Gold Card Club Luncheon being held on November 26 at the High School.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – **Dr. Karol Galcik** recognized American Education Week. In her report, she said, "This year, the theme for American Education Week is 'Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.' While it may be the National Education Association's theme, it has been a way of life for our District's staff.

We at Highlands believe it takes a District to educate a child, and each sector of the staff takes great responsibility in the work they do because they know that their contribution makes a difference. Each person has a role that touches a child, a parent, a family. Every day, our staff goes above and beyond, knowing that performing their job to the best of their abilities can change a student's life and build foundations for the future.

Our District is recognized as one that excels in education, with award-winning teachers and principals who continue to create challenging curriculum, utilize today's technology and explore outside resources to better educate their students. We have secretaries and aides that bring clothes to needy students, and principals and administration who conceive ideas that excite children about learning when they are at risk of dropping out. We have nurses and guidance counselors who comfort students and listen to them in their times of need or sickness, and security staff who create a safe learning environment. Our buildings and grounds personnel maintain equipment and property aesthetics to ensure a comfortable and clean educational space. The Food Services Department provides nourishment to our students, keeping them fueled for the day ahead.

I would like to thank all of the staff and support staff at this time for their dedicated service to the students of this District. Together, we can build solid foundations for our community's future."

Dr. Galcik also reported that the Department of Public Education has honored each of the District's schools with Keystone Achievement Awards. The awards are given

to schools that, among other criteria, met AYP standards for two consecutive years. This is the second time the District as a whole has received the honor.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – Dr. Michael Bjalobok reported that Title I teachers now are using Palm Pilots for assessments and will be training kindergarten teachers how to use them for their class assessments as well.

**CAFETERIA** – Mrs. Wisner, Mrs. Fox

The Board approved the Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for October 2008, and approved payment of Cafeteria Fund bills in the amount of \$107,453.59, as submitted. *Unanimous vote.*

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES** – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Thimons

The Board approved the Student Activities Fund Financial Report for October 2008, as submitted. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the creation of a Leo Club, a service organization, in the Highlands School District.

**STUDENT DISCIPLINE** – Mr. Peck, J. Wisner, R. Lang

No report.

**INSTRUCTION** – Mrs. Thimons, Mrs. Wisner

No report.

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

No report.

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

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

The Board approved continuing with the Act 77 process and authorized the District to prepare a RFP using Trane as a consultant company. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved a bid for Grandview Elementary theatre, stage, equipment and curtain at a cost not to exceed \$81,400, as submitted, under the condition that the theater would be open for use by all of the elementary schools. *Unanimous vote.*

The Board approved the bid for the High School concrete stoop replacement at a cost not to exceed \$31,900, as submitted. *Karen Wantland voted "no".*

The Board heard a presentation by Simplex Co. regarding the fire alarm systems in the schools.

**PERSONNEL – Mrs. Wantland, Mr. Peck**

The Board ratified the hiring of **Pamela Mamros**, substitute confidential secretary – business office, effective Nov. 12, 2008.

The Board made a motion to declare the position of Superintendent open at the conclusion of the contract of **Dr. Karol Galcik** on June 30, 2009, and to consider other candidates for the position pursuant to Section 1073(b) of the Pennsylvania School Code. *Judy Wisner, Karen Wantland and William Heasley voted “no”.*

Karen Wantland made a motion to renew the Superintendent’s contract at the end of the term. *Ron Misejka, Ron Lang, Carrie Fox, Laura Thimons and Debbie Beale voted “no”.*

The Board approved a motion to authorize the Board Secretary to solicit a proposal from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for the conducting of a Superintendent’s search for the Highlands School District. *Judy Wisner, Karen Wantland and William Heasley voted “no”.*

The Board *voted unanimously* on the following motions regarding personnel:

The Board ratified the following request for Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/District Policies:

**A. Julie Wolfe**

Fourth Grade Teacher – Grandview  
Family and Medical Leave/Maternity Leave  
Effective Feb. 4, 2009 (tentative)

**B. Michelle Dickerson**

Social Studies Teacher – High School  
Child Rearing/Maternity Leave  
Effective Jan. 5, 2009

The Board ratified, with regret the retirement of **Dale Shehady** – Secretary – High School, effective October 24, 2008.

The Board accepted, with regret the retirement of **Paula Mushrush** – Secretary – Middle School, effective December 22, 2008.

The Board approved the hiring of the following Classified Employees, in accordance with Board Policy #504 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #515, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check:

**A. Lisa Grosholz - Ratify**

Personal Nurse Aide

Fairmount Elementary  
Effective November 5, 2008  
Salary as per/Aide/Secretary Salary Schedule

**B. Beth Kendra**

Principal's Secretary  
Highlands High School  
Effective November 18, 2008  
Salary as per/Aide/Secretary Salary Schedule

The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Charles Sypula** – Custodian, High School, effective Nov. 17, 2008.

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

The Board *voted unanimously* on the following motions:

The Board accepted the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2008, as submitted and subject to audit.

The Board approved Tax Refunds in the amount of \$6,483.73, as submitted.

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

To Be Ratified	\$2,931,877.41
To Be Paid	<u>\$ 268,055.33</u>
TOTAL	\$3,199,932.74

The Board approved payment of 2007 Bond Issue bills in the amount of \$333,854.48, as submitted. *Judy Wisner voted "no" on check #1127.*

The Board approved the District's participation in the AIU Joint Purchasing Consortium (resolution) as done in prior years.

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

**Mrs. Fox** reported that the Tarentum and Brackenridge Holiday Festivities would be held the following weekend.

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

No report.

**PSBA/NSBA – Mrs. Wisner**

**Mrs. Wisner** encouraged Board members and attendees to address their representatives about opposing GCAs.

The Board ratified three Board members attendance at a PSBA workshop on Nov. 16, 2008 and two Board members attendance on Nov. 17, 2008 at the Four Points Sheraton in Cranberry. *Ron Lang voted "no" on Judy Wisner's attendance.*

**POLICY – Mrs. Wisner, Mr. Heasley**

The Board *voted unanimously* to approve the first reading of the following policy:

- A. 249 – **Anti-Bullying Policy** (changes recommended by Solicitor's office)

**ATHLETICS – Mr. Heasley, Mr. Lang**

The Board *voted unanimously* to approve the following motions:

The Board approved a Girls Volleyball Team for the 2009-2010 School Year for an Exhibition Schedule Only. *Karen Wantland voted "no".*

The Board 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.)

**Basketball**

<b>Ryann Barr</b>	Girls JV Basketball Coach
<b>Adam Kostewicz</b>	Boys 9 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Basketball Asst. Coach (Volunteer)
<b>Nick Polcha</b>	Boys 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Coach
<b>Aaron Rea</b>	Girls Basketball Timekeeper
<b>Dennis Wray</b>	Boys Basketball Scorekeeper
<b>Mike Zendarski</b>	Boys Basketball Timekeeper
<b>Tom Stabile</b>	Boys Basketball Clock Operator, Middle School

**Swimming**

<b>Kathy Black</b>	Boys/Girls Swimming Coach
<b>Melinda Eckenrod</b>	Boys/Girls Swimming Asst. Coach (Volunteer)

**Winter Sports**

<b>Maria Helgert</b>	Substitute Ticket Taker/Seller
<b>Susie Johnson</b>	Substitute Ticket Taker/Seller
<b>Rose Thimons</b>	Substitute Ticket Taker/Seller

**TECHNOLOGY** – Mrs. Fox, Mr. Misejka

No report.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

The Board scheduled the December School Board Reorganizational/Planning/Agenda meeting for Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in the High School library.

*2008 Highlands School Board Members*

*Debbie Beale – President*

*Laura Thimons – Vice President*

*Carrie Fox      William Heasley*

*Ron Lang      Ron Misejka*

*Mark Peck      Karen Wantland*

*Judy Wisner*