

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Dan Petek, President at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Mrs. Thomas, present; Dr. Christopher, present; Mr. Kelly, present; Mr. Houska, present; Mr. Petek, present.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on March 21, 2011 at Sharon Elementary at 7:00 P.M.

ADDITION(S), CORRECTION(S) AND/OR DELETION(S) TO THE AGENDA

Consent Agenda – Personnel – Co-Curricular/Supplemental
Item J – Number 8 - Deletion – Charles Franchetti – MS Head Track Coach – Boys –
6 years – \$4,303.00
Item J – Number 11 - Correction – MS Boys Head Track Coach - 6 years – \$4,303.00

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 11-02-27

Dr. Christopher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Houska, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on January 10, 2011; Organizational Meeting held on January 10, 2011; Regular Meeting held on January 24, 2011; and Special Meeting held on January 31, 2011, as presented.

Dr. Christopher, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Petek, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS 11-02-28

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, that the Board of Education approve the January 2011 Financial Reports, as presented.

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Petek, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 APPROPRIATIONS – ADDENDUM #I 11-02-29

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Houska, that the Board of Education amend the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations, as presented in Addendum # I.

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes; Mr. Petek, yes.

Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBERS' AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Petek read a Resolution to the audience stating that the Sales and Use Tax was approved by the voters of Medina County on May 8, 2007, and its purpose is to provide additional revenue for permanent improvements for school districts.

The Board of County Commissioners of Medina County expressed concern regarding the ongoing difficulties of school districts to meet operating expenses. They surveyed all school districts to gauge their interest in having the option of using Sales and Use Tax proceeds for operating expenses.

The Highland Board of Education's response was, "while they appreciate the concerns of the Board of County Commissioners, we firmly believe that the current ½% Sales and Use Tax exclusively for Public School District Capital Improvements should not be altered."

Also in the Resolution, "We further resolve with conviction that the proposal submitted before Medina County electors on May 8, 2007, was clear, specific and significant and that their decision on that date should not be challenged or their clear intent questioned in any way."

APPROVE THE SALES TAX RESOLUTION – ADDENDUM #II 11-02-30

Dr. Christopher made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, that the Board of Education approve the Sales Tax Resolution, as presented in Addendum #II.

Dr. Christopher, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Petek, yes.

Motion carried.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND/OR DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVES

- Mrs. Burtoft, along with many members from the Speech and Debate Team, spoke about the team's successes and displayed the various trophies they earned this year. The team had 2 State and National qualifiers, and 7 State qualifiers. Jennifer Delozier and Ellen Wiencek will compete at the National level which will be held in June in Dallas, Texas. Superintendent Catherine Aukerman offered congratulations to the winners.
- Heidi Kaufman, Kuder Road resident, Hinckley resident and parent of 2 children in the District, expressed a safety concern about the dangerous roadways in our district and her neighborhood. She strongly believes that it is unsafe for children to walk to designated bus stops without street lights, sidewalks or berms.
- David Barna, brother to Ms. Kaufman, also expressed his concern regarding the bus stop area in question and does not want to see another tragedy in our District occur. He notified the Board that the District will be held liable if injuries occur as a result of the current bus routes and stops. Mr. Barna suggested as a potential solution that the bus stop be changed to have everyone meet in the middle as opposed to Bellus Road. Mrs. Aukerman noted that is what the District is currently doing.
- Mrs. Aukerman said this particular bus stop is under review, and that all concerns are taken very seriously and into consideration.
- Jim Mandera, Ridgeline Drive resident, stated that he moved to the area a couple of years ago because of the Highland Local School District. He stated he wants to do whatever he can for Highland to maintain its Excellent rating, and does not want to be part of the problem, but part of the solution. He challenged the Board to identify the root causes of the financial problems, develop a corrective action plan, and implement it. He is not in favor of the levy and asked the Board to make the hard choices now, so future generations will be better off than this generation is. He encouraged the audience to vote "No" on the upcoming levy.
- Mr. Petek responded by saying Highland is not unique when it comes to these funding issues; however, Highland is unique because we have not asked for a new levy in eleven years. Many districts are on the ballot every 2 to 3 years. He believes Highland has been very frugal with taxpayer dollars. Highland has enrolled an additional 1,000 students (since 1999) yet still operates on the same money (i.e. tax levies) from eleven years ago.
- Mr. Kelly said the Board truly recognizes the economic hardships faced by all community members. He has been a Board member for 14 years, and said they have been on top of the District's finances, and cited Highland's per pupil cost. Highland has the lowest per pupil cost in the surrounding area, some by as much as \$2,000 per student. The Board has continually made hard decisions, this being one. We have worked very hard to attract the best qualified teaching staff, and on average, receive approximately 200-300 applications for a position. The Board will continue to be prudent with taxpayer's dollars, but in order to keep what we have and not see the District change severely, we are asking again for the community to vote in favor of the levy, with every dollar going into the classroom.
- Meg Vandenberg, 156 Bath Road resident, offered a unique perspective as a Highland employee and parent, who has students in the system. She believes that high achievers and struggling students will suffer the most as a result of the cost cutting measures and, in many cases, already have. She fears these students will get lost in the shuffle. She invited the community to see for themselves what a difference their taxpayer dollars make in the classroom and stressed the importance of passing this levy.
- Greg Delozier, Ridgewood Road resident, parent, and community member for the past 20 years, stated his children have all received a high quality education from Highland with the most reasonable expenses possible. He stated his parents and grandparents paid taxes that they were not comfortable with because we have believed in the history of this country in the quality of public education; believed we have a legacy to pass on to our children and an obligation to create an educated population by educating the children around us. He said when he is older, he will still be enthusiastic about this mission. He expressed his dismay with the negative sentiment he had heard earlier in the meeting.
- Steve Sage, Ridgeline Drive resident and parent, said he believes some of the comments that are being made of people not supporting the teachers or the School Board, are false. He said we are all here because we support and care about the schools. He believes it is time to "buck-up" and take part in our American duty and kick-in where we have to. With the state we are in today in this world, we all need to tighten our belts. He said we have great schools and teachers, and while we need to keep our teachers, the Board has gone to the unions 3 times and asked for concessions, with the union rejecting it each time. He offered some suggestions to trim costs including a spousal carve out when it comes to health insurance coverage. He implored the Board to find alternative ways, besides additional levies. He questioned whether the District was really looking under every

stone. He questioned the seemingly high salaries of administrators in comparison to the State average.

- DeVon Griffin, Forest Drive resident with his youngest child graduating last year, offered what the root problem is: It is not the School Board, or Mrs. Aukerman, but the straight jacket they must wear that is placed on them by Columbus. If you are upset about how schools are funded in Ohio, get in touch with the State Legislature or Governor, because there is not a lot our District can do. Already, class sizes have gone way up with the failure of the levy, and the high school library has been closed because we cannot afford to keep it open after the school day. Already our community is starting to erode – we are educating 1,000 more students every day than the last time we received new operating money from the passage of a new levy 11 years ago; the student per pupil cost is 20% less than the State average; we receive far less money from the State because of being considered a “wealthier” district; the teachers have given up \$2 million dollars in health insurance; absorbed \$2 million dollars in the classroom in cuts (cutting 40 staff members). He emphasized the dire need to pass this levy.
- Mr. Kelly noted that Highland also has few administrators per student than many districts in the State.
- Mr. Petek said we are all in this boat together. It’s in our hands as a community, teacher, administrator, Board member, parents – it is up to us, and we need to act and act quickly and not leave it up to Columbus. We are in this situation because of Columbus and how schools are funded.
- Chris Dellacorte, parent in the District, gave his perspective on how he makes the decision whether or not this tax issue is worth voting for. He pointed to the fact that Highland is spending \$2,000 less per pupil compared to other districts in our surrounding areas and not wasting money; he noted that you cannot make a cost comparison to a district that is 50 miles away and is not a comparable from a socioeconomic standpoint. He suggested that based on the additional taxes that we would pay if this levy passes, make some personal adjustments at home by making less trips to save on gasoline, or get rid of cable TV, internet access (library has it). So the question is, do I want to support the schools and economize at home until the economy or my salary improves, or come to a Board meeting and beat down the administrators or teachers to save money here?
- Dr. Christopher said we all have choices to make based on our personal budgets. He said his thinking has changed in the past 2 or 3 years, and will make as many personal purchases within our County, because those tax dollars stay in the community and he will continue to support the District.
- Mr. Barnes said based on the FY’09 CUPP report, the number of students per administrator at Highland was 212, with the State average being 159. This speaks to the fact that we are doing more with less. This is not just an expenditure issue. We are being faced with decreasing revenues, such as interest earnings, huge State funding cuts, along with other phase-outs.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT’S AGENDA

BUS DRIVER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Aukerman recognized and thanked 34 bus drivers on February 14th, by celebrating its’ first “Love the Bus Day”. The students wrote notes to the drivers and said they are very impressed with their safety record – They drive 78 square miles every day, transport 2,300 students, for a total of approximately 475,000 miles each year and they do it safely, efficiently, and very professionally. Mrs. Aukerman made special mention of 10 drivers who have worked for Highland for over 15 years, along with Jim Reusch, Director of Operations/ Transportation Supervisor who has over 28 years.

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RECOGNITION OF HIGHLAND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT’S EXCELLENT RATING ON THE 2009/2010 LOCAL REPORT CARD

The Ohio House of Representatives recognized the District’s excellent rating for the 2009/10 local report card. This rating is given by the Ohio Department of Education. Mrs. Aukerman presented each Principal a certificate signed by Speaker Batchelder.

Mrs. Aukerman travelled to Columbus last week with all Superintendents from Medina County, for a long standing appointment with Speaker Bill Batchelder from Medina County to share with many offices best practices employed by districts in Medina County that make us unique, in

particular, being the only County with every District being rated Excellent on 2 different occasions and cost savings/sharing measures between School Boards/Districts.

APPROVE BODY MASS INDEX SCREENING PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT – ADDENDUM #II
11-02-31

Dr. Christopher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Houska, that the Board of Education approve the Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening Program Affidavit seeking to a delay in the requirement to offer BMI screenings for students in kindergarten, third grade, fifth grade and ninth grade for the 2011/2012 school year.

[Ohio Senate Bill 210, known as the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Act, was signed into law on June 18, 2010. This law is aimed at reducing childhood obesity by ensuring that students have access to healthy meals and beverages at school and by providing students and parents with information about student health. One of the requirements of the law is that school districts conduct Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings for all students in grades K, 3, 5, and 9 beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, unless the district files an affidavit with the Ohio Department of Education. The decision to participate in the BMI screening program should be determined before the start of each school year.]

Dr. Christopher, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Petek, yes.

Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS 11-02-32

Dr. Christopher made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, that the Board of Education accept the following donations, as listed:

<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>ITEM/VALUE</u>
HMS Class of 2015	Laura Ehrbar DePiero	\$500.00/ DC Trip
HMS Class of 2015	Anonymous	\$300.00/ DC Trip
Hinckley Elementary	Muzyczka Family	\$125.00/Framing of Hinckley Township Poster
Hinckley Elementary	Hinckley PTO	\$240.00/ZooMobile Program
Hinckley Elementary	Hinckley PTO	\$239.80/Classroom Supplies
Hinckley Elementary	Hinckley PTO	\$75.83/Art Supplies

Dr. Christopher, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Petek, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF FACILITIES/WAIVER OF FEES
11-02-33

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board of Education approve the following requests for use of facilities and waive associated fees, **with the noted exception**, as listed:

HIGH SCHOOL

- HS Main & Auxiliary Gyms – Monday – Friday – 6/20/11 – 6/24/11 – 8:00 A.M. 5:00 P.M. – Volleyball – Jeffrey McDivitt
- HS Cafeteria & Auditorium – Friday – 4/29/11 – 2:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – HHS Speech & Debate Banquet – Suzette Burtoft
- HS Auditorium – Saturday – 2/26/11 – 4:00 P.M. – 10:30 P.M. – Charity Concert – Rock for Hunger – Mrs. Fisher
- HS Auditorium – Friday – 3/11/11 – 6:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. – Mr. Hornet Dress Rehearsal & Saturday – 3/12/11 – 6:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. - Mr. Hornet Competition – Tanya Dolata
- HS Cafeteria – Wednesday – 3/30/11 – 2:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. – HMS Rube Goldberg Club Machine Contest – Shar Crutchley

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- MS West Gym & Cafeteria – Wednesday – 5/4/11 – 5:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – 5th Grade DARE Graduation – Deputy Centner

GRANGER ELEMENTARY

- GE Library – Monday – 3/7/11 – 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Parenting Skills Course – Karen Heichel
- GE Library – Friday – 3/25/11 – 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Kindergarten Information Night – Karen Heichel
- GE Library – Mondays – 4/18/11 – 5/23/11– 6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – Parent Skills Course – Karen Heichel
- GE Gym – Tuesdays – 1/25/11 – 3/31/11 (excluding 2/17/11 & 3/24/11) – 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – RAH Travel Girls Softball Team U10 – Eric Catron
- GE Gym – Mondays – 2/28/11 – 4/1/11 – 6:00 PM – 8:00 P.M. – RAH U9 Baseball Practice – John Marrone

HINCKLEY ELEMENTARY

- HE Gym – Thursdays – 1/25/11 – 3/31/11(excluding 2/17/11 & 3/24/11) – 6:00 P.M. 7:30 P.M. – RAH Travel Girls Softball Team U10 – Eric Catron
- HE Computer Lab & Library – Fridays – 2/18/11 – 3/25/11 – 3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. – Robotics Club – Julie Boggs
- HE Cafeteria – Wednesday – 2/16/11 – 7:00 P.M. – 5th Grade Parent Meeting – Hinckley PTO

Fees Not Waived

- HS Cafeteria – Wednesday – 2/23/11 – 5:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Highland Youth Wrestling Banquet – Lissa Carrino

Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes; Mr. Petek, yes.

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS 11-02-34

Mrs. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts and/or agreements for the 2011/2012 school year, items A through C, as presented:

- Highland Community Education Agreement – 2011 Winter Session
- Amended Agreement with the Medina Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Medina County ESC Agreement for 2011/2012

Mrs. Thomas, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Petek, yes.

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL 11-02-35

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items A through J, as presented.

EMPLOYMENT CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES/HOME TUTORS – ADDENDUM # IV

Adopted the attached list of certified substitutes/home tutors for use for the 2011/2012 school year, as submitted by the MCEC.

MATERNITY/FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE - CERTIFIED

Approved the Maternity/ Family Medical Leave for Jeremie Pesek, MS Intervention Specialist, effective with the birth of her child, (anticipated due date of 4/19/11), followed by Family Medical Leave for the remainder of the 2010/2011 school year.

MATERNITY/PARENTAL LEAVE – CLASSIFIED

Approved the Maternity/Parental Leave for Jessica Pierce, SE Student Specific Special Education Aide, effective with the birth of her child, (anticipated due date of 4/25/11), followed by Parental Leave for the remainder of the 2010/2011 school year and the 2011/2012 school year.

RETIREMENT - CERTIFIED

Accepted the retirement of Katherine Fisher, HS English Teacher, effective 5/31/11.

RETIREMENT – CLASSIFIED

Accepted the retirement of Edward Ewolski, SE Building Manager, effective 6/30/11.

REINSTATEMENT OF CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE FROM RIF LIST

Reinstated Ann Marie Platten from the RIF List into the district vacancy of Aide, Step 2/2 yrs, \$13.54 per hour, 7 hours per day, effective 2/3/11.

UNPAID MEDICAL LEAVE – CLASSIFIED

Approved the unpaid Medical Leave of Bethany Faught, effective 1/12/11.

EMPLOYMENT– CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTE

Employed Raymond Kornokovich, as a Substitute Bus Driver, \$14.50 per hour, on a one-year limited contract of employment, on an “as needed basis” for the 2010/2011 school year.

EMPLOYMENT – CO-CURRICULAR/SUPPLEMENTAL

Employed Bob Sefcik as the HS Head Boys Soccer Coach, 2 years experience, \$4,763.00, on a one-year limited supplemental contract of employment, for the 2011/2012 school year.

EMPLOYMENT – CO-CURRICULAR/SUPPLEMENTAL

Employed the following on one-year limited supplemental contracts of employment for the 2010/2011 school year, as listed:

1. Jim Addington – HS Asst Track Coach Boys – 16 yrs – \$5,402.00
2. Bob Berry – HS Asst Track Coach Boys – 21 yrs – \$5,402.00
3. Rebecca Bixby – HS Asst Volleyball Coach – 0 yrs – \$3,937.00
4. Jenny Brothers – HS Asst Track Coach Girls – 2 yrs – \$3,937.00
5. Frank Calarco – HS Asst Wrestling Coach – 0 yrs – \$4,303.00
6. Ty Damon – HS Asst Tennis Coach Boys – 9 yrs – \$4,303.00
7. Brigitte Ford – HS Rugby Coach Girls – 0 yrs – \$1,739.00
8. Andy Gopp – HS Asst Basketball Coach Girls – 4 yrs – \$3,845.06
9. Elizabeth Hadler – MS Head Track Coach Girls – 1 yr – \$3,204.00
10. Nate Howard – MS Asst Track Coach Girls – 6 yrs – \$4,303.00
11. Bruce Hulme – HS Asst Wrestling Coach – 18 yrs - \$5,768.00
12. Sarah Justik – HS Asst Softball Coach Volunteer – 1 yr - \$0
13. Jim Kenney – MS Asst Track Coach Girls & Boys – 5 yrs – \$3,571.00
14. Bill Kubinski – HS Asst Track Coach Girls & Boys – 18 yrs – \$5,402.00
15. Larry Lawson – MS Head Basketball Coach Boys 8th – 1yr – \$3,204.00
16. Devan Lippincott – HS Asst Track Coach Girls – 12 yrs – \$5,402.00
17. Mike McMullen – MS Head Basketball Coach Boys 7th – 21 yrs - \$4,669
18. Amber Richards – HS Asst Freshman Cheerleading Coach – 0 yrs – \$1,739.00
19. Andy Richards – HS Asst Freshman Cheerleading Coach – 0 yrs – \$1,739.00
20. Tim Snook – MS Asst Track Coach Boys – 1 yr – \$2,472.00
21. Fred Warmbrodt – HS Rugby Coach Boys – 0 yrs – \$1,739.00

ALL EMPLOYMENT ITEMS ARE CONTINGENT ON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS AND PROPER CERTIFICATION WHEN APPLICABLE.

Mr. Houska, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Petek, yes.

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 11-02-36

Dr. Christopher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Houska, that the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters which are required to kept confidential by Federal Law or Regulations or State Statutes.

Dr. Christopher, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Petek, yes.

Motion carried.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:15 P.M.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:07 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

President

Treasurer

(A RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE IN THE TREASURER'S OFFICE)