

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Dan Petek, President at 7:02 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 April 18, 2011 in the High School Media Center at 7:00 P.M.

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

None

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 11-03-39

Mrs. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 28, 2011, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS 11-03-40

Dr. Christopher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board of Education approve the February 2011 Financial Reports, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

APPROVAL TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 APPROPRIATIONS –
ADDENDUM #I 11-03-41

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

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

Motion carried.

APPROVE RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS
DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE
NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR –
ADDENDUM #II 11-03-42

Dr. Christopher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board of Education approve the "Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor", as presented in Addendum #II.

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

Motion carried.

UPDATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Treasurer Neil Barnes provided the Board of Education with an update of the highlights of Governor Kasich's Executive Budget proposal and the financial impact this proposal is expected to have on the Highland Local School District.

On Tuesday, March 15, 2011, Governor Kasich unveiled his proposal for the upcoming biennial budget. Under the proposed budget, the State of Ohio Department of Education's budget would be reduced by 11.5% for Fiscal Year 2012 and an additional

4.9% for Fiscal Year 2013. This amounts to more than \$3 billion for the two year budget period. The total specific impact on individual school districts is not yet known. Simulations are expected to be made available to school districts in the next week or so.

The Governor's proposal includes, but is not limited to:

- The repeal of the Evidence Based Model and a return to a per pupil school funding formula.
- Accelerated phase outs of property tax loss reimbursements related to tangible personal property and public utilities.
- The elimination of specific gifted education funding for school districts.
- The removal of caps on community school and e-school startups.
- An increase in the number of available Educational Choice scholarships.
- A 2% increase in the employee contribution amount to the five public employee pension systems.
- A 2% decrease in the employer contribution amount to the five public employee pension systems.
- A provision to permit reductions in force to be done on the basis of evaluations rather than the current first-in, last-out method.

As noted above, the full impact of the Governor's budget on the Highland Local School District is not yet known. Of particular interest will be the fate of the transitional aid guarantee provided to school districts under current law. Highland currently receives over \$3.1 million from the State through this school funding formula override. The "guarantee" has helped Highland avoid significant reductions in State funding that would have resulted from tremendous growth in its property tax base. Basically, the State's school funding formula provides more funding to schools that have less assessed property valuation per pupil. Highland is considered high wealth because its assessed property valuation per pupil is relatively high. The transitional aid guarantee has ensured that Highland receives an amount from the State that is roughly equivalent to prior years.

For the Highland Local School District, the Governor's proposed budget has the following known consequences:

- The acceleration of the tangible personal property tax loss reimbursement phase out will result in the loss of roughly \$460,000 in Fiscal Year 2012 and over \$920,000 in Fiscal Year 2013. Under current law, these phase outs were not set to begin until Fiscal Year 2014. This accelerated phase out has a cumulative negative impact on the current Five Year Forecast through Fiscal Year 2015 of over \$2,500,000.
- The acceleration of the public utility property tax loss reimbursement phase out will result in the loss of roughly \$160,000 annually in Fiscal Years 2012 through 2015. This accelerated phase out has a cumulative negative impact on the current Five Year Forecast through Fiscal Year 2015 of nearly \$640,000.
- Beginning in Fiscal Year 2012, the District will lose approximately \$303,000 in State Fiscal Stabilization Funding (Federal Stimulus money) currently being used to support day to day operations.
- Beginning in Fiscal Year 2012, the District will lose approximately \$313,000 in other Federal Stimulus dollars currently being used to support the Special Education program. Some of these costs, which are currently being paid out of Special Revenue Funds, will be shifted to the District's operating budget.

The current budget proposal certainly has a negative impact on the District's financial condition. It fuels the accelerated depletion of the District's cash reserves. The need for a new operating levy is significant. The District is committed to continuing its ongoing cost containment efforts and actively seeking additional, responsible budget reductions, but simply cannot cut its way out of this budget situation without impacting the quality of education.

BOARD MEMBERS' AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Petek reminded the audience that Board members receive their meeting agendas and related supporting documentation well in advance of the meeting and have sufficient time to review the material prior to the meeting.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND/OR DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVES

- Marcy Hughes, Sharon Elementary Intervention/Enrichment Tutor, along with two Sharon Elementary students described and presented their recent writing projects. There was also student art work and writing samples on display from a separate project for which there were no student presenters. The primary objective of the projects was to raise awareness of middle school (and beyond) preparation techniques employed by the school. Another objective was to demonstrate how the school incorporates art and technology in their projects to engage/motivate all types of learners. Project one involved students sharing humorous accounts of "The Worst Hair Day Ever". Their stories included 3-D creations to illustrate. Project two involved students researching topics from their current science unit, writing a rough draft, editing, and typing a final copy of their report on a selected topic. The project also included an illustration and creating a wordle (online site that allows students to create a colorful design using key vocabulary words from the report).
- Tom Mundell, Sharon Elementary Music Teacher, and the 5th grade choir performed several vocal and instrumental selections including:
 - We Rock by Paul Riggio and Teresa Jennings
 - Dance Piece #1 from Two Pieces for Dancing by Carl Orff
 - Syncopated Fun by Konnie Saliba
 - Peace Unto You by Carl Orff

Mr. Mundell thanked the Highland Foundation and Sharon Elementary PTO for their ongoing support of their efforts.

- David Peterlin, 1675 Meadow Drive, spoke in support of Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Cassie Seth. Mr. Peterlin noted that he and his family have had a positive experience with the program. He feels that the program is on the right track. He does not feel that Coach Seth has been given a sufficient amount of time to build the program and that she needs more time to implement her five year plan. He reviewed Coach Seth's accomplishment and progress. He appreciates that Coach Seth is not only a good coach, but also understands that the process is about more than just wins and loss. She is teaching the kids life lessons about being good citizens and giving back to the community. He concluded by stating that the non-renewal of Coach Seth would be a huge step backwards for the program.
- Laura Szekely, 4034 Beachler Road, spoke in support of Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Cassie Seth. Mrs. Szekely would like to know the specifics of why Coach Seth was non-renewed. She feels that the parents and players should also have some input into this decision. She appreciates Coach Seth's zero tolerance approach. She believes Coach Seth has helped improve her player's self-concept and has been receptive to parental input. She stated that Coach Seth has made beneficial changes in her approach. Mrs. Szekely feels that Coach Seth is dedicated and passionate about the program. She wants to continue what was promised when Coach Seth was hired. In conclusion, she reminded the Board that every vote counts in reference to the May levy.
- Jeff Stroup, 6641 Ridge Road, who coaches girls basketball at the Middle School level spoke in support of Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Cassie Seth. He stated that she has proven herself to him to be a good coach. He appreciates her love and passion for the game. He noted that she has been involved and present at the lower grade levels in an effort to build a solid program. He believes that she can right the ship. He also noted that the players really enjoy playing for her.

- Middle School Principal John Deuber spoke about the recent success enjoyed by the Highland Middle School Power of the Pen team at a regional competition at Lexington Schools. The combined 7th and 8th grade team took 5th place overall. The team will now compete at the State level.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

BUS STOP UPDATE/DISCUSSION

Superintendent Catherine Aukerman provided an update on a recent bus stop complaint made by Hinckley resident Heidi Kaufman. The District did perform additional analysis, observation, and review of the bus stop to ensure that the safety of students was not at risk. As a result of this study, the District concluded that the bus stop should remain unchanged. Ms. Kaufman expressed her displeasure and exited the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA

AUTHORIZATION TO BID ROOF REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT AT HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL 11-03-43

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Thomas that the Board of Education approve the specifications and authorize advertising for bids for the Highland Middle School Roof Repair and Replacement to be completed during Summer 2011. (This project will be funded entirely through Sales Tax.)

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

Motion carried.

APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE TRIP 11-03-44

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Dr. Christopher, that the Board of Education approve a High School Marching Band Trip to perform at the Florida Gator Bowl, leaving December 30, 2011 and returning January 3, 2012, as presented. (This trip is paid for by Highland Students and Band Boosters.)

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

Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS 11-03-45

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

<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>ITEM/VALUE</u>
Sharon Elementary	Sharon PTO	\$160.00/3 rd Grade Classroom Support
Sharon Elementary	Sharon PTO	\$362.14/2 nd Grade Classroom Support
Sharon Elementary	Sharon PTO	\$579.00/Technology Primary Classrooms
Sharon Elementary	Sharon PTO	\$139.98/5 th Grade Classroom Support
Sharon Elementary	Sharon PTO	\$216.40/Reading Incentive Items
Sharon Elementary	Buehler's Fresh Foods	\$217.60/Library Books
Sharon Elementary	Artsonia	\$162.71/Spring Art Show
Highland Middle School	Neil W. Barnes	Elliptical Machine for Weight Room

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

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF FACILITIES/WAIVER OF FEES
11-03-46

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, that the Board of Education approve the following requests for use of facilities and waive associated fees, as listed:

HIGH SCHOOL

- HS Auditorium, Make-Up Room, Black Box & Dressing Room – Thursday through Saturday – 3/17/11 – 3/26/11 – 2:30 P.M. – 11:00 P.M. – Spring Play – Kathy Fisher
- HS Cafeteria – Saturday – 3/19/11 – 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. – Spring Dance – Andrew Lynden
- HS Main & Auxiliary Gym – Fridays – 6/10/11 – 7/22/11 (excluding 7/1/11) – 8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. – MS Girls Basketball Summer League – Curt Johansen
- HS Track – Mondays & Thursdays – 3/21/11 – 6/30/11 – 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – Special Olympics Track Practice – Ruth Glas
- HS Black Box – Monday through Wednesday – 3/28/11 – 3/30/11 & Friday & Monday – 4/15/11 & 4/25/11 – 6:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M. – Drama Club Talent Show Fundraiser – Kathy Fisher

GRANGER ELEMENTARY

- GE Gym, Library, Cafeteria & 1st Floor Classrooms – Monday through Friday – 6/13/11 – 6/24/11 – 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. - Highland Safety Week – Barb Killeen

HINCKLEY ELEMENTARY

- HE Gym – Mondays & Wednesdays – 4/11/11 – 4/27/11 – 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – RAH Girls 10U Travel Softball – Eric Catron
- HE Gym – Mondays – 3/8/11 – 4/25/11 – 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – RAH U8 Travel Team Baseball Practice – Russ Sposit

SHARON ELEMENTARY

- SE Gym – Mondays – 3/5/11 – 4/30/11 (excluding 4/4/11 & 4/11/11) – 6:00 P.M. -8:00 P.M. – Highland Heat Softball Practice – Eric Mizner

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

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS 11-03-47

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

- Community School Builder – Webhosting Service Level Agreement
- Saf-T-Net, Inc. – AlertNow Service Agreement
- MSB Consulting Group, LLC – Medicaid Billing Solution

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

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL 11-03-48

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Dr. Christopher, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items A through I, as presented.

EMPLOYMENT CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES/HOME TUTORS – ADDENDUM # III

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

MATERNITY LEAVE – CERTIFIED

Approved Maternity Leave for Natalie Sesler, SE 5th Grade Teacher, effective with the birth of her child, (anticipated due date of 5/25/11), for the remainder of the 2010/2011 school year.

REVISION OF PARENTAL LEAVE – CERTIFIED

Approved a revision in the Parental Leave Request for Stephanie Itzoe, HS Spanish Teacher, resulting in an extension of Parental Leave through 5/2/11.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT

Approved new contracts of employment for the following Administrators, beginning with the 2011/2012 school year:

1. Laurie Boedicker – Director of Curriculum – 3 years
2. Ray Braunscheidel – High School Assistant Principal – 3 years
3. Linda Collins – Elementary Principal – 1 year
4. Evelyn Makarek – Director of Food Services – 3 years
5. Jim Reusch – Director of Operations – 3 years
6. Roger Saffle – Director of Technology – 3 years

RETIREMENT – CERTIFIED

Accepted the retirement of Dale Root, HS Intervention Specialist, effective July 1, 2011.

RETIREMENT – CLASSIFIED

Accepted the retirement of Louis J. Cisar, High School Custodian, effective 4/1/11.

RESIGNATION - CLASSIFIED

Accepted the resignation of Sharon C. Walter, High School Cook, effective 3/11/11.

EMPLOYMENT – CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES

Employed the following classified individuals, on one-year limited contracts of employment, on an “as needed basis”, for the remainder of the 2010/2011 school year.

1. Danny Dodson – Sub Bus Driver – \$14.50 per hour
2. Douglas Lowe – Sub Bus Driver – \$14.50 per hour
3. Douglas Lowe – Sub Custodian – \$8.00 per hour – effective 3/14/11
4. Jennifer Settembrini – Sub Aide – \$8.00 per hour

EMPLOYMENT – CO-CURRICULAR/SUPPLEMENTAL

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

1. Robert Haas – MS Asst Wrestling Coach – 0 yrs - \$2,472.00
2. Barbara Ott – Key Club Advisor – 6 yrs - \$1,373.00
3. Brenda Skinner – Home Tutor - \$25.00 per hour – effective 3/7/11

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

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

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 11-03-49

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 be 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 8:06 P.M.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:45 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 P.M.

President

Treasurer