

The Organizational Meeting was called to order by Dr. Norman Christopher, President, at 7:00 P.M. and was held in the High School Media Center.

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

APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT PRO-TEM 10-01-(O)-1

Dr. Christopher appointed Mr. Houska as President Pro-Tem for this meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD PRESIDENT 10-01-(O)-2

Mr. Houska called for nominations for Board President.

Mr. Kelly placed the name of Dr. Norman Christopher in nomination for President. Dr. Wingenbach seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, it was moved by Mr. Petek and seconded by Dr. Wingenbach, that nominations be closed.

Mr. Petek, yes; Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Roll call on nomination for Dr. Christopher as Board President:

Mr. Petek, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

OATH OF OFFICE – PRESIDENT

Mr. Houska administered the Oath of Office to newly elected President, Dr. Christopher.

No action necessary.

At this point, Dr. Christopher presided over the remainder of the meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT 10-01-(O)-3

Dr. Christopher called for nominations for Board Vice-President.

Dr. Wingenbach placed the name of Mr. Houska in nomination for Vice-President. Mr. Kelly seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, it was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Petek, that nominations be closed.

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Petek, yes; Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Roll call on nomination for Mr. Houska as Vice-President:

Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Petek, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

OATH OF OFFICE – VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr. Christopher administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Vice-President, Mr. Houska.

No action necessary.

AGREEMENT TO SERVE AS OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON FOR 2010

Dr. Christopher agreed to serve as the OSBA Legislative Liaison for 2010

AGREEMENT TO SERVE AS OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON FOR 2010

Dr. Wingenbach agreed to serve as the OSBA Student Achievement Liaison for 2010

APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN OSBA FOR 2010 10-01-(O)-4

Dr. Wingenbach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board of Education approve membership in OSBA for 2010 in the amount of \$5,835.00.

Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Petek, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

TREASURER'S, PRESIDENT'S AND SUPERINTENDENT'S BOND 10-01-(O)-5

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petek, that the Board of Education that a performance bond be purchased in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the Treasurer, Board President and Superintendent.

Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Petek, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE ENSUING SCHOOL YEAR 10-01-(O)-6

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Houska, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of legal counsel for the ensuing school year, as follows:

Britton, Smith, Peters and Kalail Co., L.P.A.
McGown, Markling and Whalen Co.
Scott, Scriven and Wahoff, LLP
Squire, Sanders, and Dempsey

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Petek, yes; Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

ESTABLISH MEETING DATES/SITES 10-01-(O)-7

Mr. Petek made a motion, seconded by Dr. Wingenbach, that the Board of Education establish the following dates, time and place for its' regular monthly meetings, including specific variations for 2010:

Dates: Monday, January 25th; Tuesday, February 16th; Monday, March 15th; Monday, April 19th; Monday, May 17th; Monday, June 21st; Monday, July 19th; Monday, August 16th; Monday, September 20th; Monday, October 18th; Monday, November 15th; Monday, December 13th.

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: High School Media Center, except March – Sharon Elementary; October – Hinckley Elementary; and December - Granger Elementary.

Mr. Petek, yes; Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS 10-01-(O)-8

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board of Education resolves to participate in Federal Programs, Special Education, IDEA-Part B, Title V, Title IV-A, Early Childhood IDEA, Title II-A, and any other Federal Programs for FY2011. The Superintendent is to be the authorized representative for all federal programs and grants and is authorized to appoint designees to represent Highland for FY2011.

Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Petek, yes; Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

SERVICE FUND 10-01-(O)-9

Dr. Wingenbach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petek, that a Board of Education Service Fund be established in accordance with ORC 3315.15.

Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Mr. Petek, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER'S AGENDA

- Dr. Christopher asked for a moment of silence for the family of Victoria Jackson, a high school student who was killed in an automobile accident on December 30th.
- Dr. Christopher explained the decision the Board made regarding cancellation of the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip. The Board decided to reinstate the trip due to an unanticipated donation made specifically to pay for this trip.
- Dr. Christopher said this does not change the Board's position related to the budget and fiscal responsibility, however, this donation was remarkable and because of it, the Board agreed to reinstate the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip.

- Mrs. Aukerman, along with Dr. Deuber met with the 8th grade students to share with them the donation the District received for the trip, and said the students were very appreciative and pleased that the trip was reinstated. Mrs. Aukerman thanked the donors for their generous gifts.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND/OR DELEGATE REPRESENTATIVES

- Tim Snook, High School teacher, lamented the losses to the district and said Victoria Jackson was a student in his AP English class, who was the center of energy in this class, bright, outgoing, motivated young lady that will be dearly missed. This particular English class struggled with the loss of a student's parent earlier in the year, and his thoughts go out to the Jackson family, as well as his students.
- Mr. Snook spoke about the elimination of the OWE program and Paul Lushes, OWE teacher at the high school who deals with at-risk students. He questioned why the District added Mandarin Chinese and a strings program but decided to cut the OWE program.
- Patrick Sims, a senior said Mr. Lushes is the kind of teacher you feel comfortable with to help you with a problem day or night. He asked the Board why cuts were being made in the middle of the year and to this program.
- Amy Gray also a student in Mr. Lushes' class, said students have never received as much attention as they have from him, and since she has been in his class she now holds a job 5 days a week, along with being a straight "A" student and has successfully passed her OGT with an overachieving score. She said it will destroy those students' academic careers, along with the possibility of dropping out of school by cutting this program in the middle of the year.
- John Sims, Hinckley resident and father of Patrick Sims, said if the program is cut it will affect his son greatly, and in his opinion the OWE class is a core and essential program.
- Nick Foltz, a 1999 graduate and former OWE student said what a pleasure it was to have Mr. Lushes as a teacher. He believes everything he learned in OWE has enabled him to become a successful business owner.
- Betty Messer, parent of a student in the OWE program, wanted everyone to know this program is more than intervention, because it teaches the students how to cope with life, become productive and successful, and feel like they belong. She does not believe this is a good financial decision by eliminating the OWE program.
- Don and Erin Codeluppi have 2 sons in the OWE program, and they are concerned what will happen to their children, and that their children deserve to be at Highland along with everyone else.
- Christopher Karwowski gave an opening statement to educate and provide for the needs of all children. His son reported that the gifted and AP programs were being eliminated and asked the Board if that was the right decision to eliminate these very valuable programs. He said Board is punishing the people who support the schools, vote and campaign for the levy. He asked what the School Board has done to discuss with the Ohio Department of Education, the State Superintendent, and the State legislators to get the program fixed to change the way schools are funded.
- Dr. Christopher said the fact is the system is broken; the District has not had new money for the past 10 years; we have a lean district and because of that, every cut will be felt; and this process has been very difficult for the Board.
- Mr. Karwowski said he doesn't believe all decisions have been made yet and knows more work is needed. He suggested bringing senators and congressmen to Highland for a meeting, because we cannot continue to expect the community to pay higher taxes to support the schools without some

help coming for the State. The Board agreed, and Mr. Karkowski asked if the Board could put some type of program together he would be willing to help along with the Boards approval to work with Columbus to get this problem fixed.

- Dr. Christopher said the people in this District have always supported the schools and is confident they will continue to do so. The cuts that have been made were never intended to hurt anyone, however, the fact is we have a budget to work within, and this is only the start. He asked everyone to work together to let the State of Ohio know how they feel. The Board is working very hard to preserve what we have and this levy is for preservation.
- Mr. Karwowski said this message is what the entire district needs to hear, especially for the people who are not voting for the levy.
- John Horne, Hinckley resident, said he understands that the system is broken, and by putting a levy on the ballot is unconstitutional. He asked again why the Board is going to put a levy on the ballot in May.
- Dr. Christopher said Mr. Horne's questions have been answered for the last 3 or 4 Board meetings, the District lives within the boundary of the law. The board members are not legislators and are trying to take care of the District and our kids along with every one of our teachers. There are rules under which we live and govern the District, unfunded mandates and growth, and we are trying to fix it.
- Mr. Horne believes this is part of the problem, because the 10 years of Excellence with Distinction Award have encouraged 1,000 more students to come to our district unfunded. The residents of the district have been very generous over the years and provided earnings that offset the need for additional taxes, which has been spent.
- Dr. Christopher said we have a lean District and unfortunately every cut made will hurt, however, the District has been managed responsibly.
- Mr. Horne said in these difficult economic times the people do not have the money and suggested finding other means of funding. When Mr. Kelly asked us to approach our legislators as individuals they do not hear us, and only a canned response will be provided.
- Dr. Christopher suggested the election held in November would have been the time to vote the legislators out of office.
- Mr. Horne suggested the Board write their own position, collect individual signatures along with all school boards in the State, and collectively present the petition to the legislators. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Horne said he does not see the levy passing.
- Dave Galbincea, a parent who has 2 students taking AP courses asked since the levy failed what solutions are there to fix the problem.
- Dr. Christopher explained some of the items that could be made is adjusting bus routes, consolidating start times, combining classes, etc., and by doing all of this, will still not solve the budget problem looking forward.
- Dr. Bruce Hulme, Sharon Township resident and past high school principal, also spoke in support of the OWE program, saying the Board should make their decision based on the mission the District adopted that all students will reach their maximum potential, and he believes these students will not be able to without the program. The State Legislators will tell you they have fixed the problem with funding, because the legislators believe they have fixed it.
- Cheryl Sturgeon, elementary media specialist read a prepared statement in support of Betty Sepe, whose job was eliminated as the high school media specialist.
- Janet Hogue also addressed the reduction of the high school media specialist
- Mrs. Aukerman addressed the concerns from the students in the OWE program and said the District, along with Mr. Ulrich's help, will work with the students so they will graduate.

- Mr. Kelly said the decisions the Board made regarding the cuts have been very tough. Highland has a lot of great role models, but one of the finest is Mr. Lushes. The majority of people have no idea the enormity that is ahead of us. The Board agrees with all that has been said regarding the programs being cut, however if the levy does not pass, this will not be the Highland as we know it. We will continue to work on the legislators, but we are asking the community for their help to pass this levy.
- Dr. Bruce Hulme asked if the pay-to-participate program is for spring sports, and if a fee will not be assessed for sports that already are in session, then the OWE program should be treated the same way.
- Melissa Schreiner, Sharon Township, Service Unit Director for the Girl Scouts said she has over 30 troops between all buildings, and is quite frustrated because she has not received any answers to give to her leaders of the troops regarding how much outside organizations will be paying for building rental fees. Mrs. Aukerman addressed her questions that could be answered at this time and Dr. Christopher addressed the Districts regret to impose a fee on many organizations.
- Marsha Karwowski said she sent an email to address her concerns and did not receive a reply and this is frustrating to the community. She felt the Latchkey program should be charged the same amount as any outside group. Mrs. Aukerman stated this program is self funded by the tuition charged to the students. In her opinion, she said the rental fees being charged should be equal across the board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 10-01-(O)-10

Mr. Petek made a motion, seconded by Dr. Wingenbach, that the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters required to be kept confidential by Federal Law and Regulations, or State Statutes.

Mr. Petek, yes; Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:46 P.M.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:40 P.M.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA

RESOLUTION OF REDUCTION IN FORCE OF NON-CERTIFIED AND CERTIFIED CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT, ADDENDUM #1 10-01-(O)-11

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petek, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution of Reduction in force of Non-Certified and Certified Contracts of Employment, as presented in Addendum #1.

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Petek, yes; Dr. Wingenbach, no; Mr. Houska, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE PAY FREEZES FOR 2010/2011 10-01-(O)-12

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petek, that the Board of Education approve a pay freeze for all administrative personnel beginning with the 2010/2011 contract year.

Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Petek, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Dr. Wingenbach, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 P.M.

President

Treasurer

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