

HIGHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2022
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
6:00 PM

The regular meeting was called to order and roll call taken by Dr. Christopher, Board President, at 6:16 P.M.

Mrs. Schreiner, present; Mr. Wolny, present; Mr. Houska, present; Mr. Kelly, present; Dr. Christopher, present.

The next regular meeting will be held on February 28, 2022 at the High School Media Center at 7:00 P.M.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 22-01-10

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wolny, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 13, 2021, as presented.

Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Schreiner, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS 22-01-11

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Schreiner, that the Board of Education approve the December 2021 Financial Reports, as presented.

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Schreiner, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TAX BUDGET 22-01-12

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Schreiner, that the Board of Education approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Alternative Tax Budget, as presented.

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Schreiner, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

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BOARD MEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Christopher again welcomed new Board member Missy Schreiner and said he looks forward to working together.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND/OR DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVES

Amanda Foust, Sharon Township resident, spoke to the Board about the sport of cheerleading. She feels that Highland cheerleading is not held to the same level of expectation as other programs at the District. With the recent change in leadership, Mrs. Foust feels that there is a real opportunity to revamp the program. She feels that a better feeder program needs to be established at the youth level and a different approach implemented at the middle school level where she feels more challenging skills should be introduced and developed.

Austin Nichols, Montville Township resident, shared his research on masks. He feels that they are harmful for a number of reasons including carbon dioxide impacts. He said that children need to see faces in the learning environment. He said masks, especially cloth masks, are ineffective and don't work. He stated that the children are being used as political pawns and the Board needs to stand up against all unconstitutional mandates.

Dr. Christopher appreciated the comments. He said the District is doing everything possible to stay in person. He is also sympathetic to parents who want nothing but what they feel is best for their children.

Diana Palinski-Roberts, Hinckley Township resident, expressed her frustration and inquired as to whether there were plans to extend the mask mandate beyond January 14. She feels cloth masks do not work.

Dr. Christopher noted that professionals like him are not as scared of the virus as they were a year ago, but the District continues to make every effort to keep students in person. He said if that can be accomplished without masks, then that is what the District will do.

Wendy Sefcik, Hinckley Township resident, said that her family was caught offguard by the mask requirement as they returned to school from winter break. Her family is vaccinated and she requested that masks be made optional. She's worried about the mental health of kids. She doesn't want to homeschool again and may explore private school options for her children if nothing changes.

Austin Nichols, Montville Township resident, asked if the mask requirement was a recommendation or mandate from the State.

Superintendent Aukerman responded that the mask requirement was communicated by the Health Department.

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Dr. Christopher said he supports activism, but at the same time he wants to do everything possible to keep kids in school, which currently includes masking. He shared that he chooses to mask for personal reasons including an elderly mother and new grandchild.

Mr. Kelly said that the Board isn't taking a political position on this. The Board doesn't take this lightly and he acknowledged that there are also so many residents in the District that want masks to be required.

Mr. Wolny commented that this is all about mitigation and avoiding excessive absenteeism. The District could potentially be unable to have in person learning if there aren't enough staff available, for example.

Valerie McPherson, Montville Township resident, asked who advises the District on these matters. She was informed that the District works closely with the Medina County Health Commissioner. She then inquired about the Commissioner's credentials.

Anthony Foutz, Montville Township resident, said that he refused to live in fear. He believes natural immunity provides sufficient protection. He wants more accountability and leaders who will uphold the constitution. He cited various legal references and shared that he plans to sue.

Dr. Christopher responded that Mr. Foutz has every right to legal recourse if he so chooses.

Mr. Kelly questioned Mr. Foutz's accusation of wrongdoing by the Board. Mr. Kelly said that the Board is trying to make the best decisions that take into account all of its constituents.

Mr. Wolny commented that the District and Board are not picking sides. He reiterated that the measures being taken are meant to help keep kids in school.

Dr. Christopher expressed confidence in the decisions that have been made to date.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

COVID UPDATE

Mrs. Aukerman provided the latest COVID update. She shared District statistics on new positive cases and the corresponding close contacts since last month's update. She also

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updated the Board regarding updated isolation and exposure guidance from the Ohio Department of Health. It was noted that the Medina County Health Department would no longer require school districts to conduct school-related contact tracing. Masks and vaccines are still strongly encouraged. Beginning January 18, the mask requirement will be lifted.

Dr. Christopher noted that it is within Mrs. Aukerman's authority to make these recommendations and he thanked her and the staff for their tireless efforts.

Mr. Kelly acknowledged how difficult this has all been and asked people to thank a teacher the next time they see one.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Mrs. Aukerman noted that January is School Board recognition month. She thanked the Board for their service and said the work that they do is appreciated, especially during such a difficult time. She said that the Board has had such a positive impact on the District through their thoughtful decision-making and that Highland is excellent because of their contributions. Each Board member was given a certificate of appreciation.

APPROVAL OF HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES FOR 2022-2023 22-01-13

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wolny, that the Board of Education approve the changes to the 2022-2023 High School Program of Studies, as presented.

High School Principal Carrie Knapp presented the program of studies and highlighted changes.

Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Schreiner, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF HIGH SCHOOL OUT-OF-STATE TRIP 22-01-14

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Schreiner, that the Board of Education approve the High School Out-of-State Trip to the Greater Pittsburgh Regional Robotics Competition, leaving on March 17, 2022 and returning on March 19, 2022.

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Schreiner, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS 22-01-15

Mr. Wolny made a motion, seconded by Mr. Houska, that the Board of Education accept the following donations:

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<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>ITEM/DESCRIPTION</u>
Highland Middle School	Coca-Cola	\$25.80

Mr. Wolny, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Schreiner, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF FACILITIES/WAIVER OF FEES 22-01-16

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

High School

Wrestling Room - 12/28/2021, 12/30/2021 - 9:30 AM-1:00 PM - Highland Youth Wrestling Practice - Jim Scavuzzo

Cafeteria - 1/13/2022 - 6:30-9:00 PM - Highland Rugby Spring Parents Meeting - Christopher Wheaton

Cafeteria - 2/1/2022 - 5:15-7:15 PM - Travel Basketball Pictures RAH - Adam Cestaro

Sharon Elementary

Cafeteria - Every other Wednesday from 1/12/2022 - 4/20/2022 - 5:45-7:15 PM - Girl Scout Daisy Troop 91455 - Maranda Benner

Fees Not Waived

High School

Classroom B117 - 12/6/2021 - 12/9/2021, 12/13/2021 - 12/16/2021, 3/14/2022 - 3/17/2022 - 2:45-5:45 PM - Drivers Ed - Nancy, Town and Country Driving School

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mrs. Schreiner, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS 22-01-17

Mr. Wolny made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Schreiner, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts and/or agreements A through B, as presented:

- A. Lorain County Community College - College Credit Plus and MyUniversity Guarantee Memorandum of Understanding
- B. Ohio School Boards Association Legal Assistance Fund Agreement

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Mr. Wolny, yes; Mrs. Schreiner, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL 22-01-18

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items A through H, as presented:

A. Employment Certified Substitutes/Home Tutors - Addendum # I

Adopted the attached list of certified substitutes/home tutors for use for the 2021-2022 school year, as submitted by the ESC of Medina County.

B. Change of Status - Certified

Approved the extension of the contract for Owen Rath, High School Long-Term Substitute English Teacher, through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

C. Employment - Classified

Employed Gwen Stawicki, Sharon Elementary Special Education Aide, on a one-year limited contract of employment for the 2021-2022 school year.

D. Classified Substitutes - 2021-2022 School Year

Employed the following individuals on one-year limited contracts of employment, on an "as needed" basis for the 2021-2022 school year, as listed:

Substitute Bus Drivers

Bethany Webber

E. Employment - Consulting Services

Employed James Reusch on a one-year limited contract of employment for consulting services to the Highland Local School District, on an hourly basis, for the 2021-2022 school year.

F. Employment - Co-curricular/Supplemental 2021-2022

Employed the following individuals, on one-year limited supplemental contracts of employment, for the 2021-2022 school year, as listed:

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1. Makayla Grecenuk	National Test Administrator	\$ 25.00 per hour
2. Brogan Scott	MS Head Basketball Coach Boys 8 th – 0 yrs ½ time	\$1,968.00

G. Employment - Co-curricular/Supplemental 2022-2023

Employed the following individuals, on one-year limited supplemental contracts of employment, for the 2022-2023 school year, as listed:

1. Chris Schaefer	HS Head Soccer Coach Boys - 2 yrs	\$5,736.00
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H. Resignation - Supplemental

Accepted the resignation of Jacob Brown, Middle School Head Boys 8th Grade Basketball Coach, effective 1/7/2022.

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

Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mrs. Schreiner, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 22-01-19

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wolny, that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session to discuss the sale of real property and the employment of a public employee.

Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Schreiner, yes; Dr. Christopher, yes.

Motion carried.

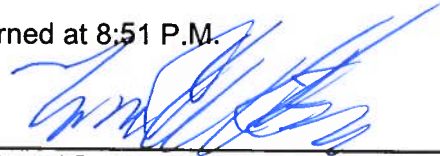
The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:49 P.M.

The Board exited executive session at 8:50 P.M.

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ADJOURNMENT

With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 P.M.



Board President



Treasurer