

HIGHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2021
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
7:00 PM

The Regular Meeting was called to order and roll call taken by Mrs. Thomas, Board Vice President, at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Wolny, present; Mr. Houska, present; Mr. Kelly, present; Mrs. Thomas, present; Dr. Christopher, absent.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 17, 2021 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 21-04-39

Mr. Houska made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wolny, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 15, 2021, as presented.

Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS 21-04-40

Mr. Wolny made a motion, seconded by Mr. Houska, that the Board of Education approve the March 2021 Financial Reports, as presented.

Mr. Wolny, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2021 AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS 21-04-41

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wolny, that the Board of Education approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Amended Appropriations, as presented in Addendum # I

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes.

Motion carried.

HIGHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2021
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
7:00 PM

APPROVAL OF GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE AMENDMENTS 21-04-42

Mr. Wolny made a motion, seconded by Mr. Houska, that the Board of Education approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendments for Elementary Playgrounds and Middle School Roofing and Lighting, as presented.

Mr. Wolny, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT LEVY 21-04-43

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Houska, that the Board of Education approve the resolution determining to submit to the electors of the School District the question of a substitute tax levy pursuant to Section 5705.199 of the Revised Code, as presented.

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes.

Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

None

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND/OR DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Thomas summarized the guidelines and expectations for the public participation portion of the agenda.

Theresa Wright, Executive Director of the Highland Foundation, shared that the Foundation had recently approved two new grants, including the One District, One Book grant at the elementary level and an orchestra artist-in-residence program benefitting middle and high school students. Mrs. Wright also reminded the audience to submit their applications/nominations for the Highland Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. The induction for honorees will take place in October.

Amanda Foust, Sharon Township resident and representative for Highland Parents for Traditional Education, shared concerns with the Board regarding the current school environment and COVID related safety protocols. She said it's been a very difficult year, especially for the children, and change is needed. She implored the Board, as representatives for the community, to contact legislators, voice her group's concerns, and push for change. She did note that Highland has been great given the circumstances, but if the current conditions continue into the next school year, she cannot support the levy. She said that the state is ruining the children and that we must stop the spread of fear. She cited the states of Florida and Texas as examples of places where restrictions have been all but eliminated and that they have been successful in her

HIGHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2021
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
7:00 PM

opinion. In order for kids to thrive emotionally, mentally, and physically, she said change is needed now.

Mrs. Aukerman commented that there are still state mandates in place and that the District is still required to comply with those orders. She respects everyone's opinions, but ultimately the District is responsible for all 3,300 students enrolled at Highland as well as more than 400 staff members. She appreciates the community support and hopes that everyone can continue to work together. She stated that the District shares many of the same core beliefs that were expressed tonight, but is unable to override health orders. The ultimate goal continues to be a return to normalcy as soon as possible.

Mr. Wolny shared his thoughts noting that the District has worked hard to get kids back to in-person learning. Some schools have only just recently returned while Highland resumed in-person learning in September. He doesn't want to minimize any concerns expressed tonight, but at the end of the day, the District has to comply with state orders. He is not picking sides. He thanked everyone for coming to the Board meeting.

Mrs. Thomas told the audience that we hear your concerns. However, it is not possible for the Board to provide plans for the next school year without knowing what's coming next from the state. The Board's goal continues to be 5 days per week of in-person learning with no restrictions, but the District can't go against mandates. There could be severe consequences for doing so, including financial repercussions. She said that this school year has still been quite successful because of the community, staff, and students that we have. Also, on a brighter note, she did remind everyone that we have three beautiful new elementary buildings opening in the fall. These more spacious buildings could be helpful should distancing protocols continue.

Mr. Kelly urged people not to tie COVID related concerns to their decision on the upcoming substitute levy ballot issue. He said everyone has worked so hard to get back to in-person learning. While it hasn't been perfect and it has caused some hardships, the school year has been a relative success. He also said he appreciated everyone's attendance and that he hears their concerns.

Mrs. Aukerman concluded by noting that the District's scope of practice is education. Staff members do not possess medical licenses and cannot dictate public policy in the medical arena. She understands the group's position as advocates on this politically charged issue. She said Highland is such a great district, especially when we are all working together. She offered to meet with the group, but hoped they could understand the District's position. Our goal is the same as yours.

NEW BUSINESS

None

HIGHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2021
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
7:00 PM

OLD BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Mrs. Aukerman reminded everyone that the District is on the ballot with a substitute levy request on May 4. The levy will take the place of the emergency levy that was passed back in 2011. The levy request has nothing to do with the ongoing construction project. It is an absolute necessity as the revenue to be derived from the levy is approximately 15% of the operating budget. This is not a new tax and it will actually result in a small decrease in taxes as the initial tax rate for the substitute levy will be 4.7 mills (\$144 per \$100,000 of home value) compared to the current effective rate for the emergency levy of 5.1 mills (\$156 per \$100,000 of home value). The levy will be similar to a renewal and help the District avoid drastic budget cuts.

Mr. Barnes added that for Fiscal Year 2020, the District's total operating revenues essentially matched its operating expenditures. Failure to pass this levy would result in a ~\$4.6 million reduction in operating revenues. As a result, significant deficit spending would occur almost immediately. He also noted that Highland continues to be categorized by the state as a very high wealth district by any measure. Consequently, additional support from the state is highly unlikely. The District is heavily dependent upon the local community for support.

Mr. Kelly commented on the rationale for the Board deciding on a continuing period of time for the levy term. He noted that constantly being on the ballot with renewals takes away from critical administrative planning time that is necessary to continually improve as a District. It is evident that more growth is coming and these resources will absolutely be needed in the future.

Mrs. Aukerman also shared that the recent vaccination clinics at the high school were a great success with nearly 400 people being vaccinated. She also shared that the District has home COVID test kits as provided by the state that are now available for use.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE – GPD GROUP AND HAMMOND CONSTRUCTION

Aaron Rodebaugh, GPD Group, and Joe Swantek, Hammond Construction, provided an update of the project noting that everything is currently on schedule to open on time for the start of the new school year.

Mr. Kelly inquired about the flow of traffic at pick up and drop off times as it relates to emergency access.

The construction team described the extra width of the drives and additional reinforced ground outside of the paved areas that would allow for this sufficient access.

HIGHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2021
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
7:00 PM

Mrs. Thomas commented that the buildings look beautiful and that this is really something to look forward to.

Mrs. Aukerman noted that open house dates may need to be later than usual due to building moving efforts that will likely be taking place right up until opening day.

PROPOSALS FOR GRADUATION AND PROM 2021

High School Principal Carrie Knapp discussed plans for graduation and prom for the 2020-2021 school year. For prom, she shared that the students' input was taken into consideration. Ultimately, it was decided to defer prom to a later date of June 11 at Weymouth Country Club. After prom will be held at Highland High School as opposed to the Medina Rec Center. Graduation will also depart from the traditional venue of EJ Thomas in favor of the High School Stadium, which will allow for a much greater capacity. Other traditional end of year senior activities are also planned to move forward.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS 21-04-44

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

<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>ITEM/DESCRIPTION</u>
Hinckley Elementary	Coca-Cola Give	\$26.41
Highland Middle School	University of Michigan	\$1,000.00

Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF FACILITIES/WAIVER OF FEES 21-04-45

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 - 3/17/2021, 3/18/2021, 3/23/2021, 3/24/2021, 3/25/2021 - 6:15-8:00 PM - Youth Wrestling - Jim Scavuzzo

Aux Gym - 3/13/2021 - 10:30 AM-12:15 PM, Wednesdays 3/24/2021-4/28/2021 - 6:15-8:00 PM - Ciocca 10u Softball - Jason Ciocca

Aux Gym - 3/15/2021, Mondays 4/5/2021-4/26/2021 - 7:00-9:00 PM, 3/24/2021 - 8:00-9:00 PM - Martin 14u Softball - Rick Martin

HIGHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2021
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
7:00 PM

Aux Gym - 3/20/2021 - 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, 3/22/2021 - 7:00-8:45 PM - 14U Elite Team Practice
- Jeff Witschey

Aux Gym - Fridays 5/7/2021 - 5/28/2021 - 5:30-7:30 PM - RAH Youth Basketball - Jason
Robertson

Stadium/Field - 4/25/2021, 5/2/2021 - 12:00-7:30 PM - Highland Youth Soccer - Joey Clark

Middle School

East Gym - 4/7/2021, 4/14/2021, 4/21/2021 - 6:00-8:00 PM - Highland 13u Travel Baseball -
Keith Richnafsky

East Gym - 4/16/2021, 4/23/2021 - 6:00-8:00 PM - Hrics 12U Softball - Paul Hrics

Granger Elementary

Gym - 3/12/2021, 3/19/2021, 3/26/2021, 4/16/2021 - 5:30-7:00 PM - Youth Basketball - Jason
Robertson

Hinckley Elementary

Gym - 3/15/2021 - 7:15-9:00 PM - 14U Girls Softball Elite Team - Jeff Witschey

Fees Not Waived

High School

Stadium/North Gateway Tire Field - 3/21/2021 - 1:30-2:30 PM - Girls Rugby - Dave Sambor

Middle School

Track/Stadium - 4/25/2021 - 4:00-6:00 PM - Girls Rugby Match - Dave Sambor

Granger Elementary

Soccer Field - 5/26/2021 - 5:00-8:00 PM - HLC Game - Mark Przybycz

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes.

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS 21-04-46

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

- A. Goodwill Vocational Services Agreement
- B. Summit Educational Service Center Audiology Services Agreement for 2020-
2021

HIGHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2021
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
7:00 PM

- C. Southeast Security Technology Bid Package
- D. PSI Nursing Services Agreement for 2021-2022

Mr. Wolny, yes; Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes.

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL 21-04-47

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

- A. Employment Certified Substitutes/Home Tutors – Addendum # II

Adopted the attached list of certified substitutes/home tutors for use for the 2020-2021 school year, as submitted by the ESC of Medina County.
- B. Employment - Certified

Employed the following individuals, as Long Term Substitutes, for the 2020-2021 school year, as listed:
 - 1. Dixie Casal, VLA Long Term Substitute 3rd grade Teacher, effective 4/13/2021 through 6/18/2021
 - 2. Dimitri Georgiadis, High School Long Term Substitute Social Studies Teacher, effective 4/12/2021 through 4/16/2021
- C. Resignation - Classified

Accepted the resignation of Patrick Holstein, Granger Elementary Custodian, effective 4/6/2021.
- D. Unpaid Medical Leave - Classified

Approved the Unpaid Medical Leave request of Dave Evans, Bus Driver, for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
- E. Classified Substitutes – 2020-2021 School Year

Employed the following individuals on one-year limited contracts of employment, on an “as needed” basis for the 2020-2021 school year, as listed:

HIGHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2021
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
7:00 PM

Substitute Aide

Grace Bazan
Kristina Nemes

F. Employment – Co-curricular/Supplemental – 2020-2021

Employed the following individuals, on one-year limited supplemental contracts of employment, for the 2020-2021 school year, as listed:

1. Kevin Hussey	National Testing Proctor	\$25.00 per hour
2. Bryan Mravec	National Testing Proctor	\$25.00 per hour
3. Susan Schomer	National Testing Proctor	\$25.00 per hour

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

Mr. Kelly, yes; Mr. Houska, yes; Mr. Wolny, yes; Mrs. Thomas, yes.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.



Board President



Treasurer