

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 25, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the High Point Regional High School District was held on Monday, February 25, 2008 at 8:00 P.M. at the High Point Regional High School Cafeteria on Pigeon Hill Road, Wantage, New Jersey.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**                    Mr. Edward Vander Berg, President  
   Mr. Thomas Case  
   Mr. Joseph Hoffmann  
   Mr. Scott Mearkle  
   Mr. Charles Musilli, III  
   Mr. Robert Shevlin  
   Mr. Walter Stumpf Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**                    Mr. Joseph Luna and Mr. Harold Rowan III

**Also Present:** Dr. John W. Hannum, Superintendent; Mr. Steven A. Kepnes, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and members of the public and High Point staff members.

Mr. Vander Berg opened the meeting with the flag salute and the reading of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies, at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the Augusta, Branchville, Lafayette, and Sussex Post Offices and notice sent to the New Jersey Herald, the New Jersey Sunday Herald and the Clerk of the Boroughs of Branchville and Sussex and the Townships of Frankford, Lafayette and Wantage.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

High Point Regional High School, in partnership with faculty, family and community, is dedicated to the quest for individual excellence. By fostering high standards of achievement, we prepare students to become responsible and productive members of a diverse society.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Musilli, duly seconded by Mr. Case, that the Board approve the minutes of the following meetings of the Board of Education:

December 17, 2007 - Executive Session

The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Musilli, duly seconded by Mr. Case, that the Board approve the minutes of the following meetings of the Board of Education:

January 21, 2008 - Regular Meeting

January 21, 2008 - Executive Session

The motion carried by a voice vote, with Mr. Case and Mr. Mearkle abstaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None were heard at this time.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **HPEA Report**

Mrs. Debbie Anderson, HPEA President, updated the Board on HPEA items.

- Mrs. Anderson thanked the Board for bringing in John Sakala
- Mrs. Anderson expressed sorrow for the loss of Trooper Rohel, family member of two of our Board members

### **Principal's Report**

Mr. Gregory Youngman updated the Board on high school activities.

- Mr. Youngman spoke highly of Marilyn Pucillo
- Mr. Youngman updated the Board on the progress of midterm exams
- Mr. Youngman informed the Board of the recent video conference that took place

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

Mrs. Janice Mezier updated the Board on Curriculum and Instruction including:

- SAT Results from 2007 College Bound Seniors (Attachment VII-1)
- HSPA Report Card Results (Attachment VII-2)
- Joint Regional Boards of Education Curriculum Meeting Review
- She informed the Board of a local gym that will provide discount pricing to High Point Employees

### **Athletics**

Mr. Gib Carter updated the Board on athletic activities and including the winter sports season.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Dr. Hannum presented the following:

The Faculty Attendance rate for January 2008 was 96.1%. (Attachment A-1)

The Student Attendance rate for January 2008 was 97.0%. (Attachment A-2)

A copy of the suspension report for the month of January 2008 was disseminated. (Attachment A-3)

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that approve the High Point Regional High School Calendars for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years. (Attachments A-4a and A-4b)

The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

### **PERSONNEL**

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that, upon recommendation of the

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Superintendent, the Board accept, with regret, the retirement notification of Ms. Marilyn Pucillo, Teacher of English, effective July 1, 2008. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board accept, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Janell Kallimanis, Teacher of Music, to be effective no later than March 20, 2008. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the appointment of Ms. Ellen Laemers, as a part-time School Social Worker, at the hourly rate of \$36.77 (MA Step 4), five hours per day, five days per week, effective March 1, 2008, for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

Mr. Case inquired as to the need to hire on an emergent basis. Dr. Hannum explained that the State Certification is a very lengthy process, we would like to bring on the individuals sooner.

Mr. Case expressed concern regarding whether or not the required salary constraint will allow us to hire acceptable candidates. Dr. Hannum explained the hiring process and we will be cognizant of the concern.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Stanley Haney as a part-time Groundskeeper/ Custodian at the hourly rate of \$16.59 (Step 1 on the 2007-2008 Custodian Salary Guide) 25 hours per week, for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year, effective immediately pending receipt of criminal history review. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the appointment of Mr. William Panfile as a full-time one-on-one Special Education Student Assistor for Student JM at the hourly rate of \$13.04 (Step 4 on the 2007-2008 ParaProfessional Salary Guide) retroactive to February 6, 2008, for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the appointment of Tamela Hayes as a replacement long-term substitute for Jill Retz, Teacher of Mathematics, at the prorated annual salary of \$42,965, BA Step 1 on the 2007-2008 Salary Guide, effective February 29, 2008, or upon the commencement of Mrs. Retz's maternity/child care leave, through the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the appointment of Jenny VanLeuven as a student learner for the cooperative work study program in the Guidance Office for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year, effective immediately at the hourly salary rate of \$8. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the appointment of Ms. Lorri Kaufman as a substitute Secretary, substitute ParaProfessional Classroom Aide, and substitute Cafeteria Worker effective immediately pending receipt of criminal history review. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

**PERSONNEL, cont.**

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the submission of the following County Substitute Certificate Applications to the Sussex County Department of Education for issuance of County Substitute Certificates.

Sarah Costello

The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the appointment of the following substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year.

Sarah Costello (pending certification)

Matthew Fredericks (pending criminal history review)

Diane Paulson (pending criminal history review)

The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board authorize High Point Regional High School to apply for the emergent hiring of Ms. Mary Jean Fariello and Ms. Dorene Zacher. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the creation of a position entitled Director of District Technology as outlined in Job Description B-11. (Attachment B-1) The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR**

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the appointment of Carla Mancuso as Assistant Softball Coach at the salary rate of \$3,545, Step 1 on the Co-Curricular Salary Guide, for the 2007-2008 Softball season. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board accept, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Andrea Delmont as Assistant Field Hockey Coach, effective immediately. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the Wildcat Discovery Camp to take place April 24 and 25, 2008 and July 7, 2008 through August 8, 2008, at no cost to the Board. Proceeds will support the High Point Regional High School Science program. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board grant permission to the High Point Regional High School local chapter of the FBLA to compete in the New Jersey State FBLA competition on March 13 and 14, 2008, at the Edison Conference Center. Approximately 12 students will be chaperoned by Mr. Mark Wallace and Mrs. Melanie LiTrenta and will be housed at the Sheraton Edison Hotel for two nights, commencing March 12, 2008. The cost to the Board of Education will be \$2,622 plus the cost of transportation. Students will be responsible for their meals. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR, cont.**

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the following individuals as parent/staff volunteers for the spring musical, *Damn Yankees*.

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Joe Rutledge	Allen Brands
Bill McMaster	Harold Woods
Walter Krynicki	John Farah
Al Daeschler	Sheila Fedynich
James Lesch	Susan Lesch
Chuck Pakestein	

**Costumes**

Janell Kallimanis	Jeaninne Niehoff
Cheryl Brands	Linda Osborne
Donna Polagye	Karen Wire
Karen Gererald	

**Tickets**

Kim Hahn

**Program**

Steve Ernst

The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

**POLICY**

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve the second reading of the following new policies:

Policy 3411 Placement on Guide Step

Attachment D-1

Policy 3412 Placement on Guide Column

Attachment D-2

The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Shevlin, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that the Board approve the first reading of the following revised policies:

Policy 5512.01 Harassment, Intimidation  
and Bullying

Attachment D-3

The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

**NEGOTIATIONS**

Dr. Hannum updated the Board on Administrative and Supervisors negotiations in Executive Session.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

A motion was made by Mr. Musilli, duly seconded by Mr. Mearkle, that the Board reject all bids that were received on February 5, 2008, in reference to the sewer line repair project due to the fact that not all bids were in the requested format. Another bid date will be scheduled at a later point in time. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS, cont.**

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, duly seconded by Mr. Case, that the Board approve the proposal and accept the contract submitted by R.F.P. Solutions, Inc., State Contract No. A42293, for replacement of the existing intercom and telephone system at a total cost of \$113,665.00. The Board expressed concerns on training. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote.

**FINANCE AND INSURANCE**

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A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve the Report of the Board Secretary/Business Administrator for the month of January 2008. (Attachment G-1) The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve the Report of the Treasurer for the month of January 2008. (Attachment G-2) The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

**Secretary's Certification:**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11(c)3, I certify that, as of January 31, 2008, no budgetary line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11(a).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven A. Kepnes

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve the Report of Transfers for the month of January 2008. (Attachment G-3) The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A2.3(e)1, I certify that, as of January 31, 2008, no budgetary transfers exceed the statutory limits.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven A. Kepnes

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve for payment the attached schedule of audited bills, dated February 25, 2008. (Attachment G-4) The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

**FINANCE AND INSURANCE, cont.**

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board certified that, after review of the Secretary's financial report for the month of January 2008, and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, no major account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve the Student Account, Athletic Account and Cafeteria Account reconciliations for January 2008, (Attachment G-5). The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

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A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that the Board approve the following Agreement for Professional Legal Services between the High Point Regional High School Board of Education and Adams, Stern, Gutierrez and Lattibardere, LLC for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year. The motion unanimously carried with a voice vote, with the condition that this will be reviewed.

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve Ralph Nedo, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds to attend the New Jersey School Buildings and Grounds Association Annual Conference in Atlantic City on April 1 & 2, 2008 with the following associated costs:

Registration:	\$100.00
Lodging:	\$ 95.00
Mileage:	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total:	<u>\$345.00</u>

The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve a tuition contract between the High Point Regional High School Board of Education (sending), and the Devereux (receiving), for student M.V., from January 3, 2008 through June 30, 2008, for a total of \$16,335.00. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve the disposal of the attached list of computer items that are in disrepair or obsolete. (Attachment G-6) The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve the Annual School Election to be conducted on April 15, 2008, from 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., under the direction of the County Board of Elections and those persons designated by them for the High Point Regional High School District, by electronic voting. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board authorize the County Board of Elections to post a copy of the Notice of the Annual School Election on each school house within the district and at the following locations:

- Branchville Municipal Building, Branchville
- Frankford Municipal Building, Route 206, Frankford
- Lafayette Municipal Building, Morris Farm Road, Lafayette
- Sussex Municipal Building, Route 23, Sussex
- Wantage Municipal Building, Route 23, Wantage

The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

**FINANCE AND INSURANCE, cont.**

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Case, that the Board approve holding the Public Hearing on the proposed 2008-2009 School Budget at the Regular Meeting on March 24, 2008. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Hoffmann, duly seconded by Mr. Shevlin, that the Board approve the following resolution approving the preliminary 2008-2009 Budget for submission to the County Office as follows: The budget will be revised, if necessary, following the public hearing:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the 2008-2009 school district budget for submission to the voters as follows:

BUDGET

LOCAL TAX LEVY

General Fund	\$22,109,235	\$14,370,733
Special Revenue Fund	\$286,904	
Debt Service Fund	\$1,244,930	\$819,278
Total Base Budget	\$23,641,069	\$15,190,011

The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

## TRANSPORTATION

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that the Board approve the following Transfer Agreement:

DW Clark  
Bid 2006-2007-02  
Renewal Number 1  
Route HPS-75 - Lakeland Andover

It is agreed between High Point Board of Education and First Student, Lafayette (the purchaser) and DW Clark (the seller) that First Student will take over Route HPS-75 of Multi Contract #71.

DW Clark was unable to find a driver for this route after the regular driver became sick and was unable to drive the remainder of the year.

First Student will transport this route for the remainder of the year.

The motion carried by a voice vote, with Mr. Hoffmann abstaining.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that the Board approve the following Addendums:

Michael McGlew Transport  
Bid 20070804  
Route HPS-705

High Point moved a student off of a route with the Co-op and put him on Route HPS-705 to school in the AM. He is now on this route both ways. The additional 10.91 miles at \$2.75 per mile comes to an added \$30.00 a day. The per diem for this route is now \$233.00.

## TRANSPORTATION, cont.

First Student Lafayette  
Bid 2006-2007-02  
Route HPS-75  
Renewal #1  
Lakeland Andover

This was a DW Clark route which was transferred to First Student Lafayette. The negotiated increase was \$62.08 per day. The per diem is now \$196.22. This route transports 5 High Point students to and from Lakeland Andover. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that the Board approve the following Joint Agreements:

Host - High Point

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Joiner - Chester

High Point will transport one Chester student to Willow Glen Academy on a Vernon route at a per diem rate of \$44.38. This route began on Jan. 22, 2008 and will run the rest of the school year. The yearly cost will be \$4,216.10.

Host - High Point

Joiner - New Milford

High Point will transport one New Milford student to Willow Glen Academy on a Vernon route at a per diem rate of \$44.38. This route began on Sept. 1, 2007 and ran through Dec. 21, 2007. The route ran for 61 days. The cost of this route is \$2,707.18.

Host - High Point

Joiner - Paramus High School

High Point will transport one Paramus student to Willow Glen Academy on a Vernon route at a per diem rate of \$44.38. This route began on Jan. 2, 2008 and will run for the remainder of the school year. The total cost will be \$4,837.42.

The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that the Board reject all Transportation bids that were received Friday, February 8, 2008 in reference to Sussex County Technical School and Parochial Schools due to the fact that many bids were not in the requested format. Another bid date will be scheduled at a later point in time. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

## **LITIGATION/LEGAL**

The Board of Education was updated on legal matters in Executive Session.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Dr. Hannum reviewed the following:

- The Frankford Township School expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Lisa Frisbie for speaking to their students on various eighth grade health topics.
- Diane Mulford expressed her gratitude for an "awesome in-service day."
- Diane Sorchik expressed her appreciation to the Board of Education for its consistent and continued support of the arts at High Point.
- Ms. Kohle complimented our staff on the wonderful job done by all at the Eighth Grade Parent Open House held on January 31, 2008.
- Ms. Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency, expressed appreciation to the High Point Interact Club and the Peer Counseling group for their generosity during the holiday season.
- A thank you to the Board of Education was received from the Adult Soccer League for your support of the league.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- We were notified by the State of New Jersey Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs that High Point Regional High School "Meets the Requirements" with regard to our implementation of federal and state special education requirements.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Reverend Cryder addressed the Board regarding requested changes in content used in the Health Education of the Junior class.

Reverend Cryder doesn't feel that most parents want their children learning those things taught in school.

He doesn't like that Sex etc. is "written by teens for teens".

He would like to know how or where promiscuity is being taught in the school. He feels that sex etc. does not sufficiently address all issues related to the topic.

He would like to see the curriculum to be able to see what children are learning.

Reverend Cryder would like to see *A Teens Guide to Sexuality* be the primary text.

Kurt Walton asked to change what is used and no longer use sex etc. He stated most schools stopped using sex etc.

Marla Casbero reinforced what Reverend Cryder stated.

Mr. Vander Berg stated that representatives of the group will be given an opportunity to meet with the regional planning committee.

Ray Danbury inquired about how the Board approved curriculum.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT, cont.**

A student spoke in support of the existing curriculum.

John St. Clare asked members of the Board to look at the existing curriculum from many perspectives.

Denise Wilson inquired about the requirements of a District Tech Director. Dr. Hannum reviewed the job description.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Mearkle, duly seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that the Board enter into executive session to discuss matters at 10:00 pm. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Shevlin, duly seconded by Mr. Mearkle, that the Board adjourn from Executive Session and reconvene to regular session at 11:10 pm. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Shevlin, duly seconded by Mr. Mearkle, to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:12 pm. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Kepnes  
Board Secretary

SAK:fw