

Highland Local School District - Regular Meeting

Highland Local School District Board of Education

Middle School Robotics Room

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Present: Nate Huffman, Superintendent; John Messmer, Board President; Bill Short, Board Vice President; Eric Thacker, Board Member; Burgess Castle, Board Member; Kathy Belcher, Board Member; Jessika Roberts, Assistant Treasurer; Jason Fleming, Board Member, Board Member

1 Call to Order

President

Minutes:

Mr. Messmer called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

Attachments:

2 Pledge of Allegiance

President

Minutes:

Mr. Messmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attachments:

3 Roll Call

President

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Minutes:

Mr. Messmer called roll. Mr. Castle and Mr. Short were absent but Mr. Short arrived at 6:08 pm. All other members present.

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President		X	
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member		X	
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

4 Approve Minutes

Resolution to approve the minutes for the March 13, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting as presented.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-061 Approve Minutes

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[00.03 Regular Meeting 03.13.2024.pdf](#)

5 Approve Financial Statements

Mr. Fleming

Resolution to approve the March 2024 Financial Statements as presented.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-062 Approve Financial Statements

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

6 Superintendent's Report

Mr. Huffman

Minutes:

Lifewise updated the Board on the program and how it's going.

Attachments:

7 Public Participation

Community

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient manner, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting.

Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes has elapsed. During that period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity. Persons desiring more time should follow procedure of the Board to be placed on the regular agenda. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board present and voting.

Minutes:

None

Attachments:

8 Accept Resignation Letters From Personnel

Resolution to approve the following letters of resignation

Scott Jones Bus Driver (Effective 4-5-24)

Eric Leprotti Aide (Effective 3-14-2024)

Larquis Sowell NJROTC (Effective 8-31-2024)

Bryan Gochenourer ES Custodian (Effective 4-4-2024)

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-063 Accept Resignation Letters From Personnel

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Eric Thacker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

9 Rescind Resignation Letter

Resolution to rescind the following retirement letter and void the retirement for Mr. Shipley noted in resolution number 24-01-018. Current employment contract to remain intact.

Master Chief Aaron Shipley NJROTC Instructor

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-064 Rescind Resignation Letter

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

10 Approve Leave of Absence

Resolution to approve the following leave of absence

Kayla Chatterton HS Teacher

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-065 Approve Leave of Absence

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Bill Short

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

11 Approve Classified Contract

Resolution to approve the following classified contracts

Brittany Matthews EA2 Pre-School 1 Year Experience (effective upon receipt of appropriate licensure)

Amy Ciballi EA2 High School 4 Years Experience (effective 4-18-2024)

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-066 Approve Classified Contract

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

12 Approve EA3 Stipends

Resolution to approve the following EA3 stipends

Brittany Matthews Pre-School Aide

Amy Ciballi High School Aide

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-067 Approve EA3 Stipends

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

13 Resident Educator Teacher Mentor Stipends

Resolution to authorize payment of \$300 per teacher mentored for resident educator teacher mentors for the 2023-2024 school year.

Allison Hearlihy 3 teachers

Amy Fleming 2 teachers

Kelley Hutchins 3 teachers

Lisa Reely 1 teacher

Mary Davis 1 teacher

Sasha Kent 1 teacher

Syanne Palmer 1 teacher
Tasha Terrill 2 teachers
Tom Johnson 1 teacher
Tarren Woodruff 1 teacher
Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-068 Resident Educator Teacher Mentor Stipends

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: Bill Short

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member			X
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

14 Approve Additional Aide Hours - Paid as EA2

Resolution to approve additional aide hours

Amber Billings Marching Band Aide (step 12 on the EA2 salary schedule)

Lainey Schmidt Marching Band Aide Backup (step 1 on the EA2 salary schedule)

Tina Griffith Marching Band Aide Backup (step 8 on the EA2 salary schedule)

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-069 Approve Additional Aide Hours - Paid as EA2

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Bill Short

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

15 Approve First Reading of Board Policy Changes

Resolution to approve the first reading of the following board policy changes

PO2623 Student assessment and academic intervention services
PO2623.02 Revised Third Grade Reading Guarantee
PO3120.04 Employment of Substitutes
PO3140 Termination and Resignation
PO3432 Copy of Sick Leave
PO4124 Employment Contract
PO4140 Termination and Resignation
PO4432 Copy of Sick Leave
PO5310 Copy of Health Services
PO8600 Revised Transportation
PO8600.04 Revised Bus Driver Certification
PO8640 Transportation For Non-Routine Trips
PO8650 Transportation By Vehicles Other Than School Buses
PO8660 Revised Incidental Transportation Of Students By Private Vehicle

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-070 Approve First Reading of Board Policy Changes

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Bill Short

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[April 2024 Board Policy Update.docx](#)

16 Approve 2024-2025 Pre-School Calendar

Resolution to approve the 2024-2025 Pre-School calendar.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-071 Approve 2024-2025 Pre-School Calendar

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

17 College Credit Plus MOU - Columbus State CC

Resolution to approve entering into an MOU with Columbus State CC for college credit plus tuition and fees/school district book processes.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-072 College Credit Plus MOU - Columbus State CC

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: Eric Thacker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

18 Approve Reimbursement to Bus Drivers for Electricity

Resolution to approve a one-time reimbursement of \$100.00 to the following bus drivers for electricity used to plug their buses in at home during the 2023-2024 school year.

Toni Stepp

Trina Ratliff

Christy Carson

Danielle Rehm

Jody Keller

Kendra Albanese

Brad Duncan

Sandy Beckel

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-073 Approve Reimbursement to Bus Drivers for Electricity

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Bill Short

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

19 Bus Purchase

Resolution to approve the purchase of a 2024 IC Diesel School Bus with a wheel chair lift from Rush Truck Centers at a cost of \$129,639 through META Solutions stock bus bid contract which includes warranty.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-074 Bus Purchase

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

20 Donation to Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Resolution to approve a donation in the amount of \$498.53 derived from a fundraiser for the purpose of donation.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-075 Donation to Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Eric Thacker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

21 Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator

Resolution to approve Sedgwick to serve as the District's Third Party Administrator for Workers' Compensation claims and approve the Group Retro Rating Plan for the policy year beginning January 1, 2025.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-076 Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: Eric Thacker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

22 Move from Regular to Executive Session

WHEREAS, as a public board of education may hold an executive session only after a majority of a quorum of this board determines by a roll call vote to hold such a session and only at a regular or special meeting for the sole purpose of the consideration of any of the following matters:

1. To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual.
 2. To consider the purchase of property for public purposes or for the sale of property at competitive bidding.
 3. Conferences with an attorney for the board of education concerning disputes involving the board of education that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.
 4. Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.
 5. Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes.
 6. Specialized details of security arrangements where disclosure of the matters discussed might reveal information that could be used for the purpose of committing or avoiding prosecution for a violation of the law.
- Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland Local Board of Education, by a majority of the quorum present at this meeting, does hereby declare its intention to hold an executive session on item(s) as listed above.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Minutes:

The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:49 pm for items number 1 and 2 above.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-077 Executive Session

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

23 Regular Session Reconvened

Minutes:

Regular Session Reconvened at 7:23 pm.

Attachments:

24 Adjourn this Meeting and Confirm Next Meeting Date

Resolution to adjourn this meeting and schedule the next meeting of the Highland Local School District Board of Education to be held Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the middle school robotics room.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Minutes:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-04-078 Adjournment

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		

Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments: