

School District of the City of Highland Park
Highland Park Renaissance Academy - Commons
15900 Woodward Avenue
Highland Park, Michigan 48203

Schedule

Revised

Special Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2013

6:00 p.m.

School District of the City of Highland Park
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
Highland Park Renaissance Academy - Commons
15900 Woodward Avenue
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I. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Highland Park was called to order by Vice President Humphrey in the Highland Park Renaissance Academy, 15900 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 48203, on Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 6:14 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Members: John Holloway, Glenda McDonald, Soyini Williams, and Debra Humphrey

Absent: Members: Robert Davis and Jamille Edwards

A quorum was present

Also present were: Dr. Donald Weatherspoon, Emergency Manager; Vickie Gray, Executive Secretary, Staff and Citizens

Member Alma Greer arrived at 6:17 p.m.

III. Reading of the Special Meeting Notice

By the action of the Board President, The Board of Education of the School District of the City of Highland Park will hold a **Special Meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., at the Highland Park Renaissance Academy, 15900 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 48203**

To discuss and/or take action on the following items:

- To adopt a resolution which names the party who is designated to cast ballots for the ISD seats on the Wayne RESA Board of Education.
- To adopt a resolution expressing the Board's support or disapproval of the proposed Wayne RESA Budget.
- To discuss any matter that goes before the Board.

This notice is given in compliance with ACT 267 of the 1976 Public Act of the State of Michigan.

Glenda McDonald
p.p. Glenda McDonald, Secretary
Board of Education
Posted Monday, May 20, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.

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IV. Administrative Information

- A.** An adoption of a resolution which names the party who is designated to cast ballots for the ISD seats on the Wayne RESA Board of Education

**The School District of the City of Highland Park
Resolution Designating Local District's
Wayne RESA Election Representative**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Highland Park, Michigan was held at the Highland Park Renaissance Academy, 15900 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 48203 on the 23rd day of May, 2013 at 6 o'clock in the evening.

The meeting was called to order by Debra Humphrey, Vice President.

Present: Members: Alma Greer, John Holloway, Glenda McDonald, Soyini Williams, and Debra Humphrey

Absent: Members: Robert Davis and Jamille Edwards

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member John Holloway and supported by Member Alma Greer

WHEREAS:

The biennial election of the Board of The Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency ("WRESA") will be held on Monday, June 3, 2013; and

The members of the WRESA Board will be elected by an electoral body composed of one (1) person designated by the Board of each of the constituent school districts; and

In accordance with Section 380.614(2) of the Revised School Code, this Board must now adopt a resolution which designates its representative to the electoral body and directs said representative to vote on behalf of this school Board for the specific candidate this Board supports for each position to be filed on the WRESA Board, at least on the first ballot taken by the electoral body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

This Board does hereby approve the designation of John Holloway as the representative of this Board for the electoral body, and Alma Greer as an alternate in the event the designated representative is unable to attend which body will elect two (2) candidates to the vacancies on the WRESA Board on Monday, June 3, 2013.

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The designated representative is further directed to cast a vote on the first ballot on behalf of the Board for candidate James Beri and for candidate Lynda Jackson.

All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of the resolution are and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members: Alma Greer, John H. Holloway, Glenda McDonald, Soyini Williams, and Debra Humphrey

Nays: Members: None

Motion declared adopted.

Glenda McDonald
Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Highland Park, Michigan hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a Special Meeting held on Thursday, May 23, 2013, the original of which the resolution is part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA267, as amended.

Glenda McDonald
Secretary, Board of Education

Moved by: Secretary McDonald

Supported by Vice President Humphrey

Suggested Motion

That the Board of Education approves the resolution designating local District's Wayne RESA Election Representative in accordance with Section 380.614(2) of the Revised School Code.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Members Greer, Holloway, McDonald, Williams and Humphrey

Nays: None

Absent: Members Davis and Edwards

Motion Carried

- B. An adoption of a resolution expressing the Board's support or disapproval of the proposed Wayne RESA Budget.

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A Special Meeting of the Board of Education for the School District of the City of Highland Park was held at the Highland Park Renaissance Academy, 15900 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 48203 on Thursday, May 23, 2013, at 6 o'clock in the evening.

Members present were: Alma L. Greer, John H. Holloway, Glenda McDonald, Soyini Williams, and Debra J. Humphrey.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member John Holloway and seconded by Secretary Glenda McDonald

WHEREAS:

This Board received the Wayne RESA General Fund Operating Budget on or before May 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS:

In accordance with Section 380.624 of the Revised School Code, this Board must now adopt a resolution expressing its support or disapproval of the proposed Wayne RESA budget, and must submit to the Wayne RESA Board any specific objections and/or proposed changes the Board may have to the budget prior to June 1, 2013.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Please check one of the following options:

The Wayne RESA General Fund Operating budget for the 2013-2014 school year be supported, and that the Secretary of the Board is hereby directed to submit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Wayne RESA Board of Education, along with comments.

OR

The Wayne RESA General Fund Operating budget for the 2013-2014 school year be disapproved (for reasons attached hereto), and that the Secretary of the Board is hereby directed to submit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Wayne RESA Board of Education, along with any specific objections or proposed changes to the budget.

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The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Highland Park, Michigan hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a Special Meeting held on Thursday, May 23, 2013, the original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.

Signed:

Glenda McDonald
Secretary, Board of Education

Moved by: Member Holloway

Supported by Secretary McDonald

Suggested Motion

That the Board of Education approve the Wayne RESA General Fund Operating Budget for the 2013-2014.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Members: Greer, Holloway, McDonald, Williams and Humphrey

Nays: None

Absent: Members Davis and Edwards

Motion Carried

V. Board of Education Affairs

- A. Secretary McDonald received correspondence from Doris Harris, a parent, regarding a letter addressed to Mr. Hall, School Leader, of the Highland Park Renaissance Academy. Secretary McDonald inquired if the correspondence falls under the jurisdiction of the Highland Park School District. Dr. Weatherspoon replied that the letter is under the purview of the Public School Academy Board and Pamela Williams, Superintendent, of the Highland Park Renaissance Academy.
- B. Member Holloway requested that the letter be read to the Board to determine the responsibility of the Board of Education. Secretary McDonald read the letter and Dr. Weatherspoon recommended that the Board does not need to respond to the letter with regard for the following reasons: There is no resolution that will be satisfactory to the students and parents. The funds are gone and are not accounted and time has lapsed. There will be a meeting on May 30, 2013 regarding issues that have surfaced from the activation of the Charter Academies.
- C. Member Greer asked if it is possible to contact the parent to give a response to the letter. Superintendent Williams will be asked to respond to the parent's concern. Member Greer shared her support of the Charter Academy Boards coming together.

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Member Greer and Vice President Humphrey agree that the focus should be on what is best for the children.

- D. Member Greer asked if the Board will receive a log of activities at the beginning of each month as indicated in the FOIA Order as designated by the Emergency Manager. Dr. Weatherspoon responded that in the beginning that was the plan, but due to the number of lawsuits and the District has no less than six legal actions; the ACLU Lawsuit, the Civil Rights Complaint, the Federal Civil Rights Complaint, the Freedom of Information Lawsuits and the Challenge to the authority of the Emergency Manager PA 36 Lawsuit. Dr. Weatherspoon cited examples of why the logs do not exist.
- E. Vice President Humphrey asked if the loans have to be applied for to offset the lawsuits. Does the money come from the sale of the surplus items? Dr. Weatherspoon explained the draw down request from the State of Michigan. Vice President Humphrey is requesting receipts from the sale of the surplus items. Dr. Weatherspoon invited Vice President Humphrey into the District office to review the surplus items receipts.
- F. Vice President Humphrey asked about the documents that were not given to Alan Young and Associates regarding the 2011-2012 Audit. Various Items could not be addressed because documents could not be found. Dr. Weatherspoon is having two staff members to address this issue.
- G. Treasurer Williams asked about the status of the ACLU lawsuit. Dr. Weatherspoon explained that the judge has not made a ruling and expert witnesses have to come together with a common agreement of what has to be done.
- H. Member Holloway stated just for the record is the suit pure and simple and is it about education. Dr. Weatherspoon asked the question is the suit about the child's ability to read only. He voiced the answer is no, due to the issues raised in court. Dr. Weatherspoon suggested that when legal counsel is present that the Board enter into a closed session to discuss litigation in order to have their questions answered.
- I. Secretary McDonald disagreed with Dr. Weatherspoon that the District was dead when the lawsuit was filed by the ACLU. The lawsuit was filed before Ms. Joyce Parker and the State of Michigan decided that the District would no longer exist as a school district.
- J. Vice President Humphrey stated that she read there were 18 students that attended Highland Park Community High School that should not have received diplomas. Vice President Humphrey asked if the District has a responsibility to those students. Dr. Weatherspoon voiced that there is no mechanism in place to help them, but discussion is underway to assist those individuals.
- K. Member Holloway asked about the origin of the information regarding the 18 students receiving invalid diplomas. Member Holloway was informed the article was on the website MLive.

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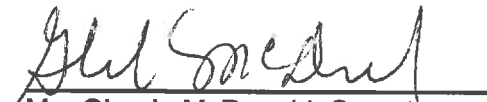
- L. Member Holloway asked about reimbursement of mileage for his upcoming trip to Wayne RESA. Member Holloway will not be reimbursed, because the District has no money.

VI. Citizen Participation

- A. Ms. Sarah Midds, citizen, voiced a concern pertaining to the 18 students receiving invalid diplomas. Ms. Midds asked about what happened to the \$4,000 for each student to transfer to other school districts.
- B. Ms. Doris Harris, parent, inquired about the following:
- The \$10,000 to \$15,000 that is being paid each month for the ACLU lawsuit.
 - Ms. Harris asked about the renewal of the Sinking Fund. The Sinking Fund renewal will appear on the ballot in 2016.
 - Ms. Harris is concerned about the number of students graduating from the Highland Park Renaissance Academy.
 - Ms. Harris is concerned about the Highland Park Board of Education participating in the Highland Park Renaissance Academy graduation ceremony. Invitations will be given to the Highland Park Board of Education.
 - Ms. Harris was concerned about the number of students afforded the opportunity to participate in the Honor Society ritual. Dr. Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Harris for being an advocate for students. Superintendent Williams will be consulted regarding the Highland Park Board of Education inclusion at the Highland Park Renaissance Academy graduation ceremony.
 - Ms. Harris complimented Mr. Flinnoia Hall as School Leader for the Highland Park Renaissance Academy. Ms. Harris commented on the possibility of Mr. Hall's exiting the position of school leader at the end of this school year.
- C. Member Greer suggested Focus Hope, SOL, and several other programs for students to receive credits to obtain their GED.

VII. Adjournment

Moved by Member Greer and supported by Treasurer Williams to adjourn the Board of Education Meeting. Following proper procedure, Vice President Humphrey adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.



Ms. Glenda McDonald, Secretary
Board of Education

Minutes Adopted: **June 11, 2013**