

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

Schedule

**Special Board of Education Meeting
(Workshop – All Boards)
Thursday, May 30, 2013**

6:00 p.m.

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Minutes

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 30, 2013 at 6:14 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Absent: Members: Robert Davis, Jamille Edwards and John Holloway

A quorum was present

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

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 30, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., Highland Park Renaissance Academy, 15900 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 48203**

To discuss and receive information with the Emergency Manager with regard to Public Act 436 of 2012

- The Emergency Manager to give a financial and educational overview
- Year-end review and the next phase

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

Glenda McDonald

Glenda McDonald, Secretary
Board of Education

Posted: Friday, May 24, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.

Vice President Humphrey welcomed and introduced the Board of Directors from each Public School Academy that were invited to participate on the panel. The Board Members from **Northpointe Academy:** Ms. Tracee Moore (President) and Ms. Loretta Pye. **George Washington Carver Academy:** Mrs. Sylvia Brown (President), Mr. Robert Bryant, Mrs. Beverly Gray-Booth, and Dr. Donald Wright. **Highland Park Public School Academy System:** Dr. Archer Collins (President) and Mr. Andre Davis.

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IV. Workshop Facilitation

- A. Dr. Stephanie Burrage, Executive Director of School Achievement Services, Wayne RESA presented, "The Year in Review 2013 and the Next Steps." Dr. Burrage talked about the statewide system of support from last fall. Dr. Burrage indicated to become a priority school you must be on the bottom five percent. To be a focus school the achievement gap of 30 percent must be between the highest and lowest performing students. The reward schools are those schools that are making large gains that are either highly achieving or highly improving. Dr. Burrage explained that currently there is a top to bottom list in the State of Michigan that is determined on the achievement data by subjects; ELA, Math Science and Social Studies. All priority schools must submit a plan to the State of Michigan. In August there is a new list of schools on the priority list. Each school must implement their plan. Once you are placed on the priority list you stay on the list for four years. Wayne RESA will provide a School Improvement Facilitator to assist your district.
- B. Mr. Joel Wortley, Governmental Financial Manager, presented a brief synopsis of the School District of the City of Highland Park's finances. The tax rate for the City of Highland Park's Non Homestead is \$17 Mills. The Sinking Fund which is used for building repairs is 4.8 Mills. The City of Highland Park Millage Rate Point is 97.4 Mills. The bond debt is due next year on May 1st in the amount of \$120,000. The Sinking Fund has been transferred to the General Fund over the past few years with a balance owed from the General Fund in the amount of \$2,100,913. The school taxes have declined. The State Aid is the largest share of revenue coming to the District.
- C. Updates to George Washington Carver and Northpointe**
Dr. Donald Weatherspoon, Emergency Manager, stated it his intention to renew the contracts with George Washington Carver and Northpointe Academies. The contracts are in the final stages and will be reviewed by the attorneys and the elected board. The contract will be submitted to the State of Michigan for approval. In the contracts there is a condition that there will be three board members, the same as the PSA Academy. The cycle of approval will be every five years. If you are not a priority or focused school you have three years to achieve at the state level of achievement. If you are in a priority or focused school status and if the academy fails to reach the intended objective, the contract will be terminated by the emergency manager. The changes in the legislation can happen at any time. If after three years of operation under the new re-chartered contract and you do not achieve at the state level of achievement by the third year, the contract is terminated. If you do achieve at the state level, your contract is automatically extended an additional year. Each Board has been asked to devise a Matriculation Agreement. An Adult Education contract has been signed with Southgate Public Schools.

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Southgate Public Schools has a GED and an Adult Education Program. In collaboration with the Highland Park Renaissance Academy's Board, Superintendent and staff an Urban Garden has been created.

Dr. Weatherspoon expounded on Public Act 436. Dr. Weatherspoon explained that the purpose of this meeting is to move towards the new legal requirements that the emergency manager must achieve. On Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. there will be public forum as required by law to discuss what has transpired in this meeting and to note any questions or issues. Dr. Weatherspoon voiced that the questions would not be answered this evening, but at the meeting on June 25, 2013.

The meeting was referred to Dr. Burrage. The audience was set up in groups of three to compile their questions or issues to be addressed at the public forum.

Listed Below are the Questions or Issues:

1. Why not use other alternative education sites that are closer such as Oak Park, Ferndale, or Royal Oak as opposed to Southgate School District.
2. What is the difference between the state standards and what is being requested now from Dr. Weatherspoon?
3. How many urban schools are currently meeting state standards from what Dr. Weatherspoon is requesting?
4. The Harvey C. Jackson Scholarship Fund Resolution.
5. The grade level for vocational education, will it be for middle school students only?
6. Has there been movement on the 21st Century Learning Grant through the Leona Group?
7. How can the Urban Gardens project be extended to George Washington Carver and Northpointe Academies?
8. What incentives will be put in place for eighth grade students coming to the high school to attend four year universities instead of attending community colleges?
9. Will future legislature allow future contracts to be amended?
10. How can the schools go about getting community and parental involvement?
11. When there is an issue that has worked its way from the building level to the superintendent and there is no resolution, what is the next step for the parent?
12. What is a clear understanding of the Title I Grant?
13. Why is the ROTC Program being discontinued and was it a requirement?
14. Why did the ACLU sue the Leona Group?
15. Why are special education students not receiving services?
16. When can special education student services start for students currently in the District?
17. What is the Leona Group's intention in regards to the high school building?
18. How is this information going to be provided in advance before the meeting?
19. Can the information be provided in advance before the meeting?

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20. Can a plan be presented to use the high school building effectively for education and community purposes?
21. Can students be assisted to meet them where they are academically, but to help build them up if there is a deficiency academically and to help build them up from third grade?
22. Is there anything beyond the list that has been provided for lunch services, special education services, professional development, and high school recruitment?
23. When will the answers be provided to this group prior to the meeting?
24. How can the schools work together to establish better lesson plans above the basic level at rigorous standards?
25. How can we add additional counselors to all buildings?
26. Who is monitoring the graduation requirements?
27. What is the Board's legal rights and responsibility?
28. How can we collaborate to extend and expand our curriculum offerings?
Examples: Real Men Read and a District Wide Spelling Bee.
29. What will the Leona Group offer high school students for electives?
30. Will there be expansions of electives for the 2013-2014 school year?
31. Will the library in the high school be used in the coming school year?
32. What recruitment efforts will be made this year to entice students to attend Highland Park Renaissance Academy High School?
33. What is the population of the City of Highland Park students that attend George Washington Carver and Northpointe Academies?

Dr. Burrage provided history pertaining to the programs in the past when the high school received School Improvement Grant funds. The funds were used to provide extra programs. When the high school lost the SIG grant, the district lost funds. Dr. Burrage fought on the District's behalf to support the high school.

V. Community Participation

- A. Mrs. Alma Greer, Legacy of Literacy Inc., invited persons to attend the "Literacy in the Park Kids Zone, Saturday, July 20, 2013, 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the McGregor Library Grounds.
- B. Mrs. Eleanor Blackwell, Reggie McKenzie Foundation, invited persons to the Reggie McKenzie 40th Anniversary Celebration, "On the 40...and Moving Forward," *Saluting the All-Pro Football Clinic*, Friday, June 14, 2013, 5:30 p.m. at the Detroit Yacht Club.

VI. 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 7:46 p.m.

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Ms. Glenda McDonald, Secretary
Board of Education

Minutes Adopted: **June 11, 2013**