

**APPROVED MINUTES  
HOLLAND PATENT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015  
ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM –6:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Holland Patent Central School District was held in the annex conference room, located in the village of Holland Patent, New York on Tuesday, March 24, 2015. Board President, Anne McGahey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Anne McGahey, President  
Karen Evans, Vice President  
Richard Allen  
Everett Stalker  
Traci Boris  
Matthew Milone (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)  
Kathleen M. Davis, Superintendent of Schools  
Cheryl Venettozzi, Assistant Superintendent  
Nancy Nowicki, Assistant Superintendent  
Marie Perry, District Clerk

**ALSO PRESENT**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**VISITORS**

Approximately 65 students/parents/community members attended.

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**ADOPTION OF 2015-16 BUDGET**

The budget discussion was continued from the March 11, 2015 board meeting.

Mrs. McGahey informed the audience about the budget process and previous discussions specifically with staff attrition and programming. The board had not come to a consensus at the last meeting with regard to the music and arts staffing and had reconvened until this meeting. The board has received additional information from Dr. Davis and Dr. Venettozzi to help in decision-making. Modifications were made from the initial proposal keeping the spending and levy limit in place.

Mrs. Evans reviewed the changes and inquired about the equipment freeze and has Mr. Geer approved the plan. Dr. Davis responded that we have logged every piece of equipment with a purchase/replacement date and condition. We have reviewed the plan and Mr. Geer is currently in agreement on the freeze. Mrs. McGahey added that this replacement plan mirrors the bus replacement plan. Mrs. Evans also asked about the cuts in supplies and needs. Dr. Davis stated we would cut the budget of every department.

Mr. Allen stated that he supported full time teacher replacements and was not in agreement with a half time person. Mrs. McGahey agreed. Dr. Stalker spoke of his experience with the arts in his life and is very supportive of the art and music program. He also commented that he attended the All-County performance this past weekend and what a wonderful event it was. The conductors are All-County spoke and reiterated that, in general, there appears to be a decline in the interest for music and hope we all can do what we can to promote participation.

Mrs. Boris thanked Dr. Davis for putting out a new budget proposal. She appreciates that this is being brought back in. She also agreed with Mr. Allen that a full time teacher is preferred.

All board members supported a motion to adopt the budget with a full time teacher replacement for the retiring art and music teachers.

The board took comments from visitors.

Bonnie Milone Read a statement in support of music and art and provided the board with a packet of backup information. Mrs. Milone also added later that she supports adding 2 music teachers.

Mr. Milone Read a letter from Cody Engstrom in support of art and music in education.

Ryan Johnson Grade 9. Music is a safe haven for him. "Music is a language everyone understands." Music helps you work as a team.

Vicki Stockton Teaches music and Latin at the NYS School for the Deaf. You can't decimate a program by Guidance telling students you can take one course, not two. STEM will get you in the job you want, music will keep you in the job.

Miranda Dornburg She remembers there being two bands in each building. Wants to see music education strive and grow in Holland Patent.

Jacob Stein This year there has been a loss of interest in band.

Bethany Nichols Grade 12. Was home schooled and is now a student at Holland Patent and is President of Chorus.

Valerie Doolittle People who don't have children in music may not know that you have to start young and continue with music.

Isabel VanPatten Read a poem. Isabel is going to Ithaca and majoring in music.

Carol Garrett There are a lot of students who can read and art helped her pass and graduate from high school. Colleges are looking for well rounded students.

Wendy Gregory 1969 graduate. Art and music have been around since the dawn of education. On School Bus Driver Appreciation Day, the children bring their art work to the drivers. A child cried when a driver didn't show up. Music satisfies our deepest needs.

Ann Tolpa Our district is being marketed by real estate agents because we offer a strong program. Mrs. Tolpa later added that students got turned away from pottery. Her son goes down during lunch and hangs out.

Kaitlynn Woodward Grade 12. Read a speech regarding the value of art and music. She came from Poland CSD and is thriving right now.

- Jim Allen Degree from Yale in Industrial Engineering. He supports arts and music program. Engineering is strict and rigorous; the creative side comes from art and music.
- Lori Yager Read a letter from Katie Weiss and provided a letter to the board.
- Andrew Way Grew up in Wisconsin. Once you atrophy, you don't grow programs back. He understands the struggle.
- Dr. Kate Kocyba 1998 graduate. Has taught students at college. Art and music give qualitative visuals on education.
- Mike Garrett Very appreciative with what the board has done. He hasn't seen us note the great things we have done in the budget. He wants to increase the program in the arts with more teachers.
- Mrs. Handson The new nano-tech business is moving in to the district and we want to draw people to the area.
- Vincent Vannicola His children and grandchildren participated in music and was in support of the arts.
- Carol Beasley Asked about extra-curricular activities and she was assured all were in the budget.
- Gordon Felt We are losing extraordinary educators and it's critical that the district demonstrate a full time commitment.
- Kelly Lanckton Thank you to the board for debating and thinking. Her son performed in the Cabaret. Her daughter's have played instruments and have participated in art. Scheduling is very difficult. The numbers are there.
- Brandon Johnson Outlet and career path. Brandon recently joined chorus and enjoys it.
- Rachel Grower Art teacher. Extended a thank you to everyone for coming in support of the arts. Mrs. Grower welcomes the opportunity to help building and program and make it all it can be.
- Student Board Member Milone  
Inquired about increasing the frequency of art and music in the elementary day schedule and wanted to know where to find information on curriculum requirements. Dr. Davis referred him to New York State Education Law Part 100.3.

Mr. Allen commented that we will be reviewing the PIC sheets and course loads in the summer.

Mrs. McGahey thanked the audience for coming out. We appreciate your input and insight. The Arts are on our radar, not under it.

Following the discussion, the board made the following motion:

Karen Evans made the motion, seconded by Richard Allen to adopt the 2015-16 budget in the amount of \$30,697,826.

Yes – 5  
No - 0 Motion carried

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**SEQRA RESOLUTION – CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT**

Karen Evans made the motion, seconded by Richard Allen to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION REGARDING  
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW  
TYPE II ACTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Holland Patent Central School District (the “District”) Board of Education (the “Board”) has considered the impacts to the environment of following Scope of Work to be completed at the High School Building as part of its 2015/2016 Capital Outlay Project: removal of interior walls, expanding the weight room into the art room, and upgrades to the existing finishes, lighting and HVAC.

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the collective Scope of Work as one Proposed Action, and has further consulted with its Architects with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c) and concludes that the project involves the maintenance and repair of existing facilities involving no substantial changes in an existing structure, and replacement, rehabilitation and reconstruction of structures in kind, now therefore:

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Holland Patent Central School District as follows:

1. The Proposed Action does not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617, of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, (SEQRA).
2. The Board hereby determines the Proposed Action is a Type II action in accordance with the SEQRA regulations.
3. No further review of the Proposed Action is required under SEQRA.
4. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

Yes – 5  
No – 0 Motion Carried

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:45 p.m., Karen Evans made the motion, seconded by Richard Allen, to take a short recess and to return in executive session to discuss:

1. Employment History of a Particular Person

Yes – 5

No – 0 Motion Carried

At 7:55 p.m. the Board entered executive session.

At 8:29 p.m. the Board returned to open session.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss at this time, Karen Evans made the motion, seconded by Richard Allen to adjourn the meeting.

Yes – 5

No – 0 Motion Carried

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

*The next regular meeting will take place on TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015 in the annex conference room at 7:00 p.m.*

Marie E. Perry  
District Clerk