

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL  
201 North Scoville Ave.  
Oak Park, IL 60302

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, December 12, 2006

A Finance Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2006. Chair John P. Rigas called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. in the Board Room. Committee members present were: Jacques A. Conway, Barbara P. Fernandez (arrived at 7:43 a.m.), Valerie J. Fisher (arrived at 7:42 a.m.), Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Yasmin A. Ranney (arrived at 7:40 a.m.), and John P. Rigas. Also present were Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; Jack Lanenga, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors included: Kay Foran, Director of Community Relations and Communications; James Paul Hunter, F.S.E.C. Chair; Ralph Lee, community member.

### **Acceptance of the November Finance Committee Minutes**

The Finance Committee members accepted the November Finance Committee minutes, noting that Ms. Fisher was present and Dr. Millard was absent.

### **Skyward Report**

Mr. Lanenga reported that there was nothing of significance to report on Skyward. Family access for sophomores continues to roll out smoothly and the District is planning to allow parents of juniors to access their children's records early February.

### **Construction Update**

Mr. Lanenga reported the following:

- The installation of windows was complete with the exception of some blind repair work in Rooms 300-305.
- The air handler rebuilding and replacement is complete, except for the unit under the west pool. That unit will be removed and replaced during winter break.
- The new basketball floor and track striping in the field house will be completed over winter break.
- Four of the six new boilers are in and all three old boilers have been removed. The sequencing of the boilers went well.

A coil burst in Room 128, resulting in a small amount of water flowing into the room. There is no expectation of additional expense due to this problem.

Mr. Lanenga reported that he was working with Wight on the ten-year life safety inspection of the building. Mr. Lanenga would like to combine it with a new five- to ten-year construction plan. The current direction would be to include faculty, staff, and administration as well as the Board of Education members in the development of a plan that could be used as a roadmap for summer and winter work for the next five to ten years. He hopes to present this proposal at the January Finance Committee meeting. The new superintendent would be included in this process as well.

He also noted that Wight's fee was \$.07 per square foot. IASBO architects quoted \$.12 to \$.15 cents per sq. foot. This is a very specific report and includes such things from doorknobs to the attic. Wight is willing to also meet with any stakeholders to talk about future construction. This report will be completed using I.S.B.E. prescribed procedures.

**Preliminary Levy**

Ms. Witham stated that the Preliminary Levy has been on display since November 16, 2006. The Board of Education will adopt the 2006 Levy at its regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting, December 21, 2006. There will also be an opportunity for public comment at that time.

In Ms. Witham's written information to the Committee, she stated: "With the passage of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL or "Tax cap") in 1995, the Levy is limited to the lesser of 5 percent or the previous year Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus new property. The total tax received will not exceed the "tax cap" limitation. The value of the new property is unknown to the District at this time and is therefore an estimate. Regardless of how much the District requests, no more than the maximum allowable under the law will be received.

"For the 2006 Levy the CPI used is 3.4 percent and EAV for new property is estimated at \$25,000,000. The estimate of the 2006 aggregate tax Levy is 104.23 percent of the 2005 levy.

"The Truth in Taxation Act (35ILCS 200/18-60) requires a public hearing if the estimate of the aggregate tax levy exceeds 105 percent of the amount extended the previous year. Although a Truth in Taxation hearing is not required, on December 21, the District will give the community an opportunity for public comment concerning the levy."

Ms. Witham again provided the Committee members with the timeline as follows:

October 17	Finance Committee Meeting	Preliminary Levy
November 9	Financial Committee Meeting	Preliminary Levy
December 21	Board of Education Meeting	Public Hearing
December 21	Board of Education Meeting	Final Adoption of Levy

Ms. Witham also presented copies of the resolutions, certifications, etc., that will be presented to the Board of Education at the December 21 meeting. Once the Board of

Education has approved the Levy, Ms. Witham will hand deliver it to Cook County the next morning. She noted that no one had asked to review the Preliminary Levy.

### **Township Treasurer Update**

Ms. Witham reported that O.P.R.F.H.S. had focused on consolidating its transactions with the Treasurer's Office through the O.P.R.F.H.S. account at Harris Bank, thereby increasing the independence of the District. In cooperation with District 97, O.P.R.F.H.S. has also concentrated on strategies for dissolution of the Cicero Treasurer's office by ballot or legislative remedies to allow withdrawal from the Township Treasurer's Office.

Ms. Witham also included the language of SB 380, which was co-sponsored by Senator Harmon, and whose purpose is to allow District 200 and 97 to withdraw from the jurisdiction and authority of the Trustees of Schools. This bill awaits the Governor's signature. It had been passed by both the Illinois House and the Senate.

Ms. Witham also reported on a Special Meeting of the Cicero Trustees of Schools held on Wednesday, November 29. The agenda items were as follows:

- Fact-finding and decision of the Trustees of Schools relating to the release of Martin J. O'Connor
- Treasurer's Report
- Township Investment Policy
- Deputy Treasurer
- Closed session regarding Litigation

A more detailed report of the meeting is attached and made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Ranney and Ms. Witham will meet with Bill Sullivan to talk about the future of the office. Ms. Witham also included a letter from Dr. Collins, superintendent of District 97, regarding getting a referendum on the ballot.

Ms. Witham continued that the Blue Book's unidentified difference of \$1.1 million is not yet resolved. Auditor Tim Cole is not confident that all bank and investment accounts have been identified at this time. There are only paper copies of the Blue Books available. She was unsure if criminal action would be pursued by The Township Treasurer's Office against Mr. O'Connor.

Ms. Witham affirmed Dr. Greenwald's statement that District 97 was more dependent upon this office. After Peggy Wilson, District 97's former business manager left, the new business manager allowed The Township Treasurer's Office to do most of the work. In Ms. Witham's first year, she and Ms. Wilson worked hard to recover \$500,000 that The Township Treasurer's Office had misapplied to another account. She noted that District 97's last balance sheet was off by \$16 million.

It was the consensus of the Board of Education to withdraw from The Township Treasurer's Office if the opportunity were to arise. As deputy treasurer, Ms. Witham has the ability to sign checks. O.P.R.F.H.S. is bonded. New bank accounts would have to be opened and O.P.R.F.H.S. would have to remove itself from The Township Treasurer's Office, which would take time.

Instruction Committee members asked Ms. Witham to inquire about the computer that Mr. O'Connor had for his work at the meeting that day, as he had not turned it over to the Township.

### **Salary Averages**

It was the consensus of the Committee members to table the discussion of the averages of faculty members until the next meeting.

### **Monthly Financial Statements**

The monthly Financial Statements were presented. No discussion ensued.

### **Adjournment**

The Finance Committee adjourned at 8:05 a.m.