

May 15, 2007

The Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Tuesday evening, May 15, 2007, in the Board Room of the high school.

**Call to Order** Cheryl Witham called the organizational Board of Education meeting to order at 11:15 p. m. Present were Jacques A. Conway, Valerie Fisher, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and John P. Rigas. Also present were: Dr. Susan J. Bridge, Superintendent/Principal; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; Jack Lanenga, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Amy Hill, Director of Instruction; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Representative; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

**Visitors** Kay Foran, Director of Community Relations and Communications; Winnie Bowman, O.P. R.F.H.S. administrative assistant; Karen Dale and other community members, and Bridgette Kennedy of the Oak Leaves and Terry Dean of the Wednesday Journal.

**President** Mr. Rigas moved to nominate Jacques Conway for president pro  
**Protempore** tempore; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Secretary** Mr. Conway declared that nominations for Secretary Protempore  
**Protempore** were in order. Ms. Fisher moved to nominate Gail Kalmerton as Secretary Protempore; seconded by Dr. Millard. A voice call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Oaths of Office** At this point in the meeting, Mr. Conway administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board of Education members—Dr. Ralph H. Lee, John C. Allen, IV, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Each of the newly elected members then took the following Oath:

"I, name of newly-elected Board of Education member, do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Oak Park and River Forest High School, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

"I further affirm that:

"I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the school district's assets;  
"I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a hearing before the board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;  
"I shall recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public board meeting; and  
"I shall abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels."

**Election of** Mr. Conway then declared that the nomination of president of the

Officers Board of Education was in order. Mr. Rigas nominated Jacques Conway. Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Conway declared nominations closed.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked Mr. Conway why he wanted to serve as president. Mr. Conway responded that he was willing to serve and he would bring all of his talents and gifts to the table.

Mr. Rigas moved to cast a unanimous vote for Mr. Conway for President for the Board of Education for a one-year term; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Conway then declared that the nominations for Vice President of the Board of Education were in order. Mr. Rigas moved to nominate Dr. Dietra D. Millard. Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Conway declared nominations closed.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked why Dr. Millard wanted to be vice president. Dr. Millard responded that she was elected to serve on the Board of Education by the voters and she would serve when Mr. Conway was unavailable to serve.

Mr. Rigas moved to cast a unanimous vote for Dr. Millard for Vice President for the Board of Education for a one-year term; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Conway declared that nominations for Secretary of the Board of Education were in order. Dr. Millard nominated John Rigas for Secretary. Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Conway declared the nominations closed.

Ms. Patchak Layman asked why Mr. Rigas wanted to serve as secretary. Mr. Rigas also responded that he was willing to serve and had been asked to do so. Dr. Millard moved to cast a unanimous vote for John Rigas for Secretary of the Board of Education for a one-year term; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

2007-08 Board of Education Meeting Mr. Rigas moved to approve the 2007-08 regular Board of Education dates as follows:

Dates

Thursday, August 23, 2007  
Thursday, September 27, 2007  
Thursday, October 25, 2007  
Thursday, November 15, 2007 (Because of Thanksgiving)  
Thursday, December 20, 2007  
Thursday, January 24, 2008  
Thursday, February 28, 2008  
Thursday, March 20, 2008 (Because of Spring Break)  
Thursday, April 24, 2008  
Thursday, May 22, 2008  
Thursday, June 26, 2008

seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ms. Patchak-Layman interjected the idea of having two Board of Education meetings on the first and third Thursday that rather than one regular board meeting per month, dispensing with the two board meetings that follow the committee meetings during the day. She felt this would be an opportunity to have a set day for community members, students and faculty to come and listen to the conversation. She asked that the vote be on the dates presented be delayed until the Board of Education next met.

Mr. Rigas asked what the purpose would be to hold a second evening Board of Education meeting, as 95 percent of what happens at the Special Board meetings following committee meetings is solely for closed session. The public is not allowed to be involved with them. For the last six months, the Board of Education has been dealing with teacher contracts and the superintendent search. Two meetings per month would not work.

Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested that a committee of the whole could be added as a second meeting, i.e., Instruction.

Dr. Millard noted that holding one official board meeting of the month did not preclude or determine when committee meetings were held. Ms. Patchak-Layman stated the Board of Education did more than just hold executive sessions as suggested by Mr. Rigas. It also approved bill lists, etc. Meetings are scheduled through June and none in July. Her purpose was to get morning activities moved to an evening time.

Mr. Hunter said that he was now approaching a 17-1/2 hour workday and that morning meetings allowed people working the building to make their presentations in the mornings without having to return to school in the evenings. He felt that evening meetings would create problems getting people to participate. Ms. Patchak-Layman saw this request as balancing the need of the community to see the Board of Education at work. Mr. Hunter felt that the liaisons work well in this regard.

Mr. Lee did not favor having two regular Board of Education meetings per month as he too valued his own evening free time, but he asked that future discussion occur on holding committee meetings in the evenings.

Ms. Fisher stated that she had been chair of the Instruction Committee two years ago and she instituted holding dialogues with divisions in the evenings. Others have felt that such meetings in the evening would garner more community participation and that was the reason for scheduling these meetings in the evening. One meeting was actually scheduled for the next evening, May 16, at 6:30 p.m. She did not believe that a single community member had attended the meetings. If Ms. Patchak-Layman's goal were to get more parents involved, experience has shown that they do not avail themselves of this opportunity. Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that specific issues appear to be discussed at committee meetings during the daytime. That discussion is the part that the community needs to hear, not that the Board of Education approved a consent agenda. She wanted to make a concerted effort to make this

conversation available.

Mr. Allen suggested bringing this to vote that evening. As such, Ms. Patchak-Layman moved to include board meetings on the first and third Thursday of the month, provided they would not fall on a religious or national holiday. There was no second.

As such, a roll call vote on the approval of the dates as presented resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Board of Education     It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education  
Retreat Dates   members to delay this discussion until a later time. Mr. Lee noted that he was  
unavailable the week of July 12 through the 16, 2007.

Adjournment    At 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, Mr. Rigas moved to adjourn the Board of  
Education meeting; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Jacques A. Conway  
President

John P. Rigas  
Secretary