

May 08, 2007

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Tuesday, May 08, 2007, in the Board Room of the high school.

**Call to Order**

President Greenwald called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m. A roll call vote indicated the following members were present: Barbara P. Fernandez, Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Barry S. Greenwald (departed at 11:15 a.m.), Dr. Dietra D. Millard (departed at 9:55 a.m.), Yasmin A. Ranney, and John P. Rigas. Also present was Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board of Education.

**Visitors**

Kay Foran, Director of Community Relations and Communications; Dr. Ralph H. Lee and Sharon Patchak Layman, community members; and Terry Burke, community member.

**Visitor Comments**

Terry Burke, parent and resident of 1180 Clinton, Oak Park, Illinois, addressed the Board of Education members. Ms. Burke reported that she has spoken to many African-American families about their choices of communities. When looking at public schools in a suburban setting, their options are limited. O.P.R.F.H.S. is failing African-American males. It has not made progress in reducing the achievement gap. Bright African-American students are not in honors classes, are not graduating from college, and are not getting post-graduate degrees. The O.P.R.F.H.S. Board made reducing the achievement gap its number one goal. She related the experience of one young African-American male who was being failed.

The Board's legacy is that O.P.R.F.H.S. did not make progress in reducing the achievement gap and she feared that O.P.R.F.H.S. would hire someone from an all white suburban community who would perpetuate that same legacy. It is criminal that he does not have the experience. This is the highest paid job in the Village of Oak Park. She knew the Board of Education was poised to hire this man and it made her very sad.

**Approval of  
Check  
Disbursements  
Dated  
May 08, 2007**

Mr. Rigas moved to approve the check disbursements dated May 08, 2007 (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Closed Session**

Ms. Ranney moved to enter closed session at 9:40 a.m. on Tuesday, May 08, 2007, for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); and student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); seconded by Ms. Fernandez. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 11:13 a.m.

**Student Discipline**

Mr. Rigas moved to expel Student, EXP 05/08/07-29, as of May 08, 2007, for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year and through the 2007-08 school year, but to hold the expulsion in abeyance contingent upon completion of enrollment and regular attendance at an alternative educational placement as determined by the administration for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year and the 2007-08 school year, ongoing counseling for substance abuse and verification and maintenance of residency in the District; seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard and Dr. Greenwald were absent from this vote.

Mr. Rigas moved to charge tuition accrued for student RES 05/08/06-14 and student RES 05/08/07-15, due to non-residency and move to drop student RES 05/08/07-15, from the rolls of O.P.R.F.H.S. due to nonresidency, for \$26,669.11 per child; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in five Ayes. Dr. Millard and Dr. Greenwald were absent from this vote.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Ranney moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 11:25 a.m. on Tuesday, May 08, 2007, seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in five Ayes. Dr. Millard and Dr. Greenwald were absent from this vote.

Dr. Barry S. Greenwald  
President

Barbara P. Fernandez  
Secretary