

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 President Dr. Barry S. Greenwald called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. A roll call indicated that the following members were present: Barbara P. Fernandez, Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Yasmin A. Ranney 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; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Closed Session At 5:41 p.m., on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, Ms. Fisher moved to go into closed session 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)(1), as amended by PA.93—57; Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education reconvened its open session at 6:55 p.m., on Tuesday, May 15, 2007.

Call to Order President Dr. Barry S. Greenwald called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in the third floor library. A roll call vote indicated that the following members were present: Barbara P. Fernandez, Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Yasmin A. Ranney 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 of Operations; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Amy Hill, Director of Instruction; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; Loie Davis, Student Council Representative; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: Kay Foran, Director of Community Relations and Communications; Linda Cada,

Director of Special Education; Deborah Bluminberg, Therese Brennock, Linda Cada, John Costopoulos, Steve Goldberg, Catherine McNary, O.P.R.F.H.S. faculty members; Lisa Allen, Linda Belpedio, Mary Jaros, Linda Levine, Jane Bullen, Doug Hunt retired O.P.R.F.H.S. faculty members; Scott Berman, Terry Burke, Wyanetta Johnson, Pat Nassano, Richard Miller; Kim & Eric Miller, Kimberly Werner, Linda McNary, Robert Williams, Mike Watson, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Peggy Ebersole, Barbara Duffy, Rich McCall, Mike Gibbs, Kris Costopoulos, Karen Doty, Patty Reilly-Murphy, Leah Marcus, Yvonne, Brittany, and Bridgette Wooten, John Bradley, David Pope, Morris Seeskin, Eileen Fein, Bobbie Raymond, Jennifer Weis, Paul Wolfman, R. Murphy, Rosalind Lee, James Brady, Gerry and Mark Langguth, Karen Dale, Bob Simpson, Estelle Carol, Nate Mabel, Kevin Kountze, Carl Washburn, Tim Kelly, David Hilbert, Niall Collins, William Loraag, J. R. Demu, Nancy Leavy, Rick Dale, Suzanne and Pete Hostrawser, Ann Bolan, Ann Courter, Marge Greenwald, Mary Kate O'Mara, Karen Kofsky, Vicki Bielanski, Linda Schrage, Susanne O'Connell, Judy Erickson, Linda Lucchesi, Deborah Mojonnier, Sue Foran, Ray, Chruetsz, Galen Gockel, Liz Keys, John and Peg Piccini, Donna Barrows, Gene Armstrong, Charles C. Allen, , Donna Cotton Cornelius, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John C. Allen, IV; Nicole Gibson, Chuck Gerick, and other community members; representatives from *Trapeze*; Sheila Flattery of the League of Women Voters; Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal* and Bridget Kennedy of the *Oak Leaves*.

**Superintendent's
Comments**

Dr. Bridge reported that 150 freshman and sophomore students were celebrated at the Freshman/Sophomore Honors Convocation on Tuesday, May 15 at 7:15 a.m.

Dr. Bridge reported that the Junior/Senior Prom would be held on Saturday, May 19, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Dr. Bridge reported that the Junior/Senior Honors Convocation would be held on Tuesday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

Dr. Bridge reported that the Memorial Day Assembly would be held Thursday, May 24 at 9:40 a.m.—rain date will be Friday, May 25, at the same time; Commencement will be Sunday, June 10 at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Bridge reported that O.P.R.F.H.S. has eighteen (18) valedictorians this year.

Dr. Bridge reported that students Mary Gregg and Jonathan Libgober qualified to compete in the 37th Tournament of Champions for debaters, a national competition at the University of Kentucky in May.

Dr. Bridge reported that Mary Gregg, Joseph Muriello, Claire Elizabeth Saxe and Daniel Turcza received the National Forensics League Academic All-American Award.

Dr. Bridge reported that the mathematics teams would be honored for achievements at the Instruction Committee on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Bridge reported that twenty (20) O.P.R.F.H.S. students participated successfully in the CTEC Video Festival in Chicago with their sponsor, John Condne.

Visitor Comments

Dr. Greenwald invited the community to make comments. Speakers were asked to abide by a three-minute rule.

Barb Nelson, representing the Supported Education Association (S.E.A.), reported that earlier that evening a ceremony was held to recognize those District 200 staff members who had made a positive affect on Special Education students with learning challenges. The following staff members were honored with the SEAstar Award:

Mr. Peter Hostrawser, Teacher, Business Division, who had a key influence on the schools and courses of study to which some students choose to pursue;

Bonnie Marks, Teacher/Case Manager, Special Education, who advocates for students;

Catherine McNary, Teacher, English Division, for her insight, motivation and continual recognition of each student as an individual learner;

Denise O'Brien, Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf, LADSE, for her understanding of learning needs and willingness to do what is necessary to meet those needs;

Carolyn Ojikutu, Dean Counselor, who wrote recommendations and helped students apply for scholarships; and

Amy Stanis, Teacher/Case Manager, Special Education Division, who was nominated by a student for helping that student study for tests, projects, and essays.

Tim Kelly of 810 Wenonah Avenue, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Mr. Kelly was thankful for the opportunity to express his thanks to the retiring Board of Education members and to Dr. Bridge for their hard work. While Dr. Greenwald, Ms. Fernandez, and Ms. Ranney may be retiring from O.P.R.F.H.S., they were not retiring personalities. The Villages of Oak Park and River Forest benefited from their service and he wished them the best.

Mr. Kelly welcomed Dr. Weninger and the Board of Education members-elect. He was not sure whether to offer his congratulations or his condolences on their appointment. The job of either is so overwhelming he did not know whether to offer high fives or Hail Marys. He stated that he and his wife, Janet, have found the community to be a wonderful place to live, work and watch the children “empty the refrigerator.”

He also wanted to add something to the *Wednesday Journal* article regarding the May meeting. A few years ago, Cook County changed the canvassing rules. The new rules certified the vote totals for each of the precincts and delayed the seating of the new board until a month later. All boards do this. It is not good or bad, just the law. He thanked everyone for listening.

David Hilbert, resident of 304 N. Elmwood, Oak Park, read a statement from Regina Kwan Peterson, a former member of the Board of Education.

“I am appalled by the viciousness of a flyer distributed by a group calling themselves “Faculty and Parents for Excellence at OPRFHS.” I am appalled that a few individuals are attempting to hide behind this moniker in order to personally attack a single board member. I ask that those responsible for the flyer have the guts to identify themselves this evening and receive these remarks directly.

“The flyer contains both factually and legally wrong information, and those who disseminated it should be embarrassed, if not ashamed, since it appears the flyer was tactically designed to incite a fracas at this board meeting. What’s worse is that this flyer is a hate-filled attack on a single board member, Barry Greenwald, as he prepares to step down after four years of dedicated service to our school community. I have known Barry for over 20 years, and the accusation that he has engineered the selection of the new superintendent for his own purposes is as ignorant as it is ridiculous. Not only would such an agenda never have occurred to Barry, but I can also tell you from personal experience that it would be impossible.

“As one of the co-chairs of the last superintendent search, I can tell you that it would be impossible for a single board member to commandeer the search process and “ram through” his or her choice for superintendent. The selection of the superintendent is one of the most important decisions a school board faces, and you can be sure that every single board member is fully engaged in the process and that any decision emanating from the board on this matter is the product of a full-throttled negotiation amongst the board members. The perceived smoothness or rockiness of the selection process, the timing of announcements and of voting, all occur for many reasons, some of which are confidential. To lay blame for any dissatisfaction about the process at the feet of one board member, even the president, is simply wrong.

“I denounce the fire-throwing tactics of you who have circulated the flyer. This sort of behavior harms all of us who want to engage in responsible public discourse. Tonight should be one of giving thanks to our outgoing board members, Barbara Fernandez, Barry Greenwald and Yasmin Ranney, as well as bidding welcome to new board members, John Allen, Ralph Lee and Sharon Patchak-Layman. I apologize that I could not be at this board meeting in person to express my heartfelt thanks to Barbara, Barry and Yasmin, who have dedicated four years of their lives to serving our community, and to wish all the best and God’s speed to John, Ralph and Sharon.

Regina Kwan Peterson
Former District 200 Board Member and President

Marcia Hurt, O.P.R.F.H.S. Division Head for Physical Education and Drivers’ Education, read the following statement:

“Good evening. My name is Marcia Hurt and I am the Division Head for Physical Education and Driver Education here at O.P.R.F.H.S. I have had the opportunity to serve the district for the past 26 years and have served under many different superintendents. I’d like first to thank Dr. Bridge for all of the tremendous support, both personal and professional that she has given me over the last 8 years, and if I could, just take a couple of minutes of the Board’s time tonight to share some thoughts about Dr. Attila J. Weninger.

“This past spring, I had the privilege of serving on the Superintendent Site Visit Team with members of the Faculty Senate, Administration and Board of Education during our superintendent search. We made two site visits, one of which was to Lyons Township where Dr. Attila Weninger currently serves as their Human Resource Director.

“During that site visit, we met with over 60 different people. They included secretaries, buildings and grounds staff, teacher aides, brand new teachers, veteran teachers, administrators, and Board members. To a person, they spoke highly of Dr. Weninger in respect to his unbelievable work ethic, high standards and expectations, incredible communication skills – this was something that we heard repeatedly. We also heard frequently that he is a man that exhibits fairness in the workplace, and someone who has the highest of character and integrity. You could tell that Dr. Weninger was someone they were very proud to have as one of their administrators.

“You know, oftentimes when an administrator begins to interview elsewhere and the word is out that they are looking to leave, you seldom hear what we heard during our daylong visit at Lyons Township about Dr. Weninger. I do not think a single group came through the interview process where someone in the group or several people in the group did not say something like:

“I don’t want him to go.”

“We will really miss him.”

“He will be impossible to replace.”

“I personally will really miss not having Attila here with us.”

“Even though Lyons Township has a smaller minority community than we do here at O.P.R.F.H.S., Dr. Weninger created the new roles of Hispanic and African American liaisons within the faculty. He has these programs up and running and considers the outreach to minority student and families a very high priority.

“Many people commented about his personal touch on their professional lives and the fact that he would always make time for them, regardless of their role in the district. I found it refreshing that the people he has worked with for the last several years were so open in their remarks, willing to share their personal stories about their daily encounters with him, and thought so highly of the job he did, but even more of the person he is.

“All of these conversations continued to confirm in my mind that he was a unique find and that he would serve our district with distinction and integrity.

“I know that he is excited about coming to Oak Park and River Forest High School and I believe we will flourish under his leadership. I look forward to working with Dr. Attila Weninger. Dr. Greenwald, and members of the Board of Education, thanks you for listening.”

She thanked Dr. Greenwald and Board of Education for their time.

Nancy Leavy, resident of 155 N. Ridgeland, Oak Park, and former Board of Education member for eight years, addressed the Board of Education.

She affirmed that it was customary for the newly elected Board of Education members to be sworn in after the business of the old Board of Education had been concluded. That had been the tradition. The current board would adjourn and the newly elected Board of Education members could be sworn in at a shorter, organizational meeting.

Next, she spoke about the Board of Education's most important work—the selection of a superintendent. She was thankful that Dr. Bridge had presented herself when she did. For over a year, the current board has been fully engaged in the process of making a selection. A superintendent is chosen not necessarily with unanimity. Unanimity has never been a given. The selection by the Board of Education is always an element, discussion, compromise, etc. However, it is the clear responsibility of the current Board of Education to conduct its current business, including the ratification of the teachers' contract and the appointment of the superintendent.

It was depressing for her to see all the misinformation and insinuations. The Board of Education gives their full attention to these issues, they sacrifice their family time and they deserve much better from the community. She thanked the outgoing members for their service. She wished Ralph Lee, John Allen, and Sharon Patchak Layman a productive time on the Board of Education. To those who were associated with the flyer, she hoped they would find ways to articulate with Dr. Weninger and to abandon these inflammatory tactics.

James Brady of 317 Franklin Avenue, River Forest, addressed the Board of Education.

Mr. Brady wanted to offer his thanks and to make a request. Being a parent of an O.P.R.F.H.S. student and having campaigned for some of the retiring Board of Education members, he stated that many people were impressed with their integrity and dedication. While O.P.R.F.H.S. still struggles with a widening African-American gap, the high school has been stabilized. No one says thanks for that; the Board of Education does not get credit for its achievement on these things. He did not want that to go unnoticed. With the passing of the referendum, the high school will be in good financial stead for another 10 years, which will ensure the quality of things going forward. The high school

is the reason people hear about the communities of Oak Park and River Forest. His plea was to those who speak ill about the high school to look at the consequences. He did not think that the attacks and the campaign against the superintendent would help attract future O.P.R.F.H.S. teachers. When the State Senator starts distancing himself from this campaign, caution should be heeded. He thanked the Board and urged them to do what was best going forward.

John Vicars, III, student and resident of 1172 S. Scoville Avenue, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

His brother, Dan, and he would graduate from O.P.R.F.H.S. this June. He noted that he had worked with Linda Cada from his first year at O.P.R.F.H.S. and he did not want her to lose her job.

Peggy Vicars, parent and resident of 1172 S. Scoville, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Ms. Vicars also stated that her sons, John and Dan, would graduate in June. One son, a T.E.A.M. student for seven years, has aged out of the T.E.A.M. program. She felt that he had grown, learned, had job opportunities, had been well treated by staff, and would be graduating with the goal of completing college. Each time challenges presented themselves, the staff kept him moving toward the goal of graduation by making adjustments and having greater sensitivity. Since Dan had been a freshman in Special Education, the staff has worked with him. She is forever grateful for the support she and her sons have received.

Mary Kate O'Mara, parent and resident of 715 S. Ridgeland, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Ms. O'Mara too was very happy with the Special Education department. She originally was an Illinois resident but moved to the state of Florida for two years. The shift from one state to another was dramatic. She was grateful to be back. Illinois does much for the children with Special Education needs. In Illinois, students are guaranteed to be in a class that has one teacher and an aide and no more than 12 students. In Florida, the ratio is one teacher and 24 students. For her son Brian who is now a sophomore, the services dropped dramatically. She attested to the excellent IEP meetings and the serious enthusiasm with which they are held and the quality of suggestions made. She specifically thanked Linda Cada, Colleen Biggins, and Linda Malinow. She congratulated them on their work. Homework assignments are sent home when children were absent. She also thanked Marcia Hurt and other PE teachers and coaches for supporting and encouraging her children to compete in sports. Brian was encouraged to try out for track and by

hard work and encouragement he won his first 200-meter competition. The fans poured out of the stands as he passed the finish line. He never had that feeling of self-esteem in sports previously. She was very thankful.

Gene Armstrong, resident of 1113 North Elmwood, Oak Park, Illinois addressed the Board of Education.

Mr. Armstrong wanted to express her thanks to Dr. Greenwald, Ms. Ranney, and Ms. Fernandez. He noted her agreement with both the earlier comments of Ms. Leavy and Ms. Peterson. He thanked these retiring Board of Education members for the exemplary service that they provided to the community while on this board. He thanked them for their thoughtful insights and their conscious efforts to create a consensus on the Board of Education and in the community. He thanked them for their dedication and accomplishments. No one could count the hours the Board of Education members devote to the Board's work. The high school has achieved AYP, an achievement that not all schools can claim, in fact, many cannot. It requires being successful in all elements and for all students, a rare feat. This Board of Education put the high school on a solid financial base; it provided the necessary funding. This was essential, even though it was not a popular decision. Finally, this Board of Education selected, Dr. Weninger as the next superintendent. He knew people who have worked with him and for him and he trusted their opinions and evaluations. Everyone gives him high grades. To Dr. Greenwald who has been under attack in a most unfortunate way in recent days, he said that for 20 years, no one in the Oak Park and River Forest community had done more for the high school to make sure that people elected to this board were intelligent, had the highest standards of integrity and were able to proceed and pursue what is in the best efforts of these communities.

Donna Barrows, parent and resident of 525 N. East Avenue, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

As a parent of one graduate, one who will graduate, and a freshman, she agreed with everything Ms. Peterson said. She recognized the nearly yearlong effort of this Board to select a new superintendent. This Board of Education has chosen an excellent candidate. While not all citizens have the same opinion, it is important that all respect the decision. It is this Board of Education's decision to make as it was elected to do so. The last time she appeared before the Board of Education, she expressed her disagreement with this Board of Education about the lights. She was unhappy with the Board of Education's decision, but it was this Board of Education's decision to make. She did not expect the new Board members to go to the Village of Oak Park and bounce it

back here so that maybe those who disagreed would get their way. That would not be the thing to do. She welcomed Dr. Weninger and let him know that many of the citizens of the community respect him and want him to do a good job. Those with differences of opinion will work with him.

Paul Wolfman, former vice president of the Board of Education, parent of three O.P.R.F.H.S. graduates, and resident of 719 Franklin, River Forest, addressed the Board of Education.

Mr. Wolfman stated that he stood with Ms. Peterson and Ms. Leavy and their remarks condemning the flyer and to tell the Board of Education that the ignorance and the prejudice in that flyer have been dismissed. He thanked the outgoing Board members to whom he served with and understands community service. They have handled their service courageously. They have been open-minded, nonjudgmental and he thanked them on behalf of Oak Park and River Forest community.

He also thanked Dr. Bridge. They had the opportunity to grow together. She made the high school better for both communities and for the children.

He expressed his thanks to Dr. Weninger for coming to this community. Although he knew there would be challenges and that there are high expectations, he felt that Dr. Weninger would represent the communities well.

He welcomed the new Board members. He stated that the Board of Education was left under good financial footing, and he asked them to care for the children and to spend the money well.

Scott Berman, parent and resident of 1180 Clinton, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Turning his back to the seated Board of Education members, Mr. Berman made his remarks to the Board of Education members-elect sitting in the audience. He told the three members-elect that they were sitting in the wrong chairs and that the public had voted overwhelming to remove two members of the seated Board members. The Board of Education members-elect were being denied their rights. The current Board of Education wants to hire a superintendent on the two issues that are wrecking the school, i.e., the achievement gap and the poor administration of Special Education. He stated that it would be the new Board of Education members that would face the fallout of every African-American and Special Education student in the school. He said "Welcome to O.P.R.F.H.S."

He continued that “Ex-President” Greenwald had sent out an email asking supporters to pack this meeting and express “gentleness.” He stated that over 60 percent of the African-Americans failed to meet the state standards in reading and 72 percent failed to meet the state standards in science. He challenged Dr. Greenwald for not showing “gentleness” when during summer school, some Special Education students spent six weeks without a teacher because of the incompetence of Ms. Cada. He stated that the new Board of Education members would spend more time socializing with faculty and administrators; they will be asked to join a corrupt culture. He asked them to break with that culture and be a part of the culture of those families who are struggling because they do not have influence, etc., and for the new Board of Education members to be more involved with the serious problems. He concluded by saying that if they choose to stand for justice, they should not be swayed.

Terry Burke, parent and resident of 1180 S. Clinton, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Ms. Burked noted that she had been an outspoken advocate of children in order to get better treatment. She attended most board meetings, including the committee meetings and IEP meetings with administrators and teachers. She spoke to African-American families and Special Education families about their experiences at O.P.R.F.H.S. O.P.R.F.H.S. is a great school. Obviously there are some great experiences with the Special Education Department. However, that does not negate the negative experiences of others. The actions of administrators, Special Education administrators, and the discipline team can ruin lives. Her family experienced retaliation. A lawyer, hired by the school, appeared at their child’s six-hour IEP meeting. The parents never brought a lawyer. She understood why more O.P.R.F.H.S. parents do not want to talk about criticism because they are also concerned about retaliation.

District 97 and the Village Board had brief retiring Board of Education meetings, nothing remotely close to this agenda’s length. Regarding the selection of Dr. Weninger, it shows incredible arrogance and ignorance. This Board of Education chose a candidate with no experience in the Board of Education’s number one goal—the achievement gap. O.P.R.F.H.S. has many outstanding teachers students and parents, but this Board of Education will negatively affect this high school in the future if this candidate is appointed.

Pat Nassano, parent and resident of 507 Edgewood, River Forest, addressed the Board of Education.

Ms. Nassano, the parent of three children, talked about the experiences of her children at O.P.R.F.H.S. She stated that she is lucky that she can afford to provide a parallel education for her daughter outside of the school. While it is great to hear all of the positive experiences, she questioned the criteria, because it was not true or a truth for her daughter. As far as hiring Dr. Weninger was concerned, she did not understand how a nationwide search resulted in six mediocre applicants with no superintendent experience. O.P.R.F.H.S. needs someone who knows what he/she needs to do. She did not expect a new superintendent to learn on the job. She stated that it was the ethical responsibility of the old Board of Education members to remove themselves from voting that evening and let the new Board of Education be seated and take ownership of its decisions.

Paul Washburn, resident of 29 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest, addressed the Board of Education.

Mr. Washburn stated that it was the O.P.R.F.H.S. that brought him to move to this community 27 years ago. His own daughter graduated about six years ago. He stated that this was a world-class community and he thanked the Board of Education and the superintendent for their efforts in this regard. However, he was distressed by some of the comments made at this meeting. The superintendent-elect may be someone who is wonderful, but the voters chose to bring in a different Board. Mr. Washburn was lobbied effectively so he split his vote between the five candidates and he felt like he was cutting the baby into two. He felt that if the current Board of Education took action on this appointment, it would be cutting the baby in two also. If the superintendent-elect were everything he was purported to be, there must be a way for everyone to agree. He asked that the Board of Education not to tear this community apart.

Ray Johnson, resident of 344 N. Austin, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Mr. Johnson noted that although he was speaking as a resident, his role as a Village Trustee shaped what he says as an individual. Speaking as a non-parent, it is important for the community to welcome the new superintendent, as it sends a message of support. He has witnessed first hand that it is very important to set the very best example for young people. He read the high school's Mission Statement:

“Oak Park and River Forest High School exists to provide all students a superior education so that they may achieve their full human potential.”

That mission statement can apply to everyone. Everyone must provide support to Dr. Weninger so that he too may provide superior leadership. He thanked him for the important journeys he would be making. He thanked the outgoing and the incoming Board of Education members for their time and energy to the children of these communities.

Wyannetta Johnson, resident of 729 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Ms. Johnson received a copy of an email today that Dr. Greenwald had sent out asking for support at that meeting, mostly from the block on which he lives. She refuted the fact that she said Senator Harmon had said anything to her. She told Dr. Greenwald that he needed to leave this Board of Education and be happy and get along with the people who put him in this position. She accused him of mistreatment and lies when “our” students are thrown into after school programs. She has been a resident for 34 years and had been promised that things were going to change. She stated that Dr. Weninger had no knowledge as to how to close the gap or about Special Education. The decision to oppose his appointment was not because he was not liked, it was because he did not have the necessary experience. Everyone at the forum said he made the worst presentation, yet his contract was signed the next day. She continued that, at present, “we” are further and further apart.

Mr. David Pope, resident and president of the Village of Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Mr. Pope, acknowledged his title of President of the Village of Oak Park, but that he was not there to speak on behalf of the village. He had also had the opportunity to speak with the outgoing members of the Park Board as well and he wanted to thank all the retiring Board of Education members for their service. One of the roles and responsibilities of elected officials is to collect arrows that come from the community members. Expressing appreciation is something that is not done enough. This community had made a decision to live out the words of evaluating and judging and being concerned about the contents of their character. That is the essence of Oak Park. This is an opportunity to build upon the leadership of the greatest generation of Oak Parkers. Mr. Pope was not there to support or oppose the Board of Education’s decision, but he was there to support its right to make a decision and to thank you for that leadership. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Fernandez, Dr. Greenwald, and Ms. Ranney for all that they had done for the community, and, in particular, to call out the leadership of Dr. Greenwald. Many things do not make the front page

of the papers. Dr. Greenwald was a lobbyist for all of the taxing bodies to work together. He thanked him for his leadership at large.

Patti Reilly Murphy, parent and resident of 1016 Superior Street, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

After hearing the other comments about the Special Education department, she felt compelled to speak about her three children who had the most severe disabilities and all of whom all the Special Education Department had positively affected. She touted Ms. Cada for being the administrator who steered them in the right direction to get the necessary help. She could not speak strongly enough to this fact. She wanted the Board of Education to know that Ms. Cada was a terrific person and that they should renew her contract. She also stated she would miss Dr. Bridge. She appreciated her enthusiasm and hard work and that even her daughter was talking about how much she would be missed. She also thanked the outgoing board members on behalf of the community for doing this thankless job.

Mike Gibbs, a 1980 graduate, president of the Huskie Boosters and resident of 527 Monroe, River Forest, addressed the Board of Education.

He thanked the incoming and outgoing Board of Education members for the sacrifices they made and would make through their service to the lives of the children in these communities. Mr. Gibbs spoke about the discussion of impropriety of this Board taking action that evening on the superintendent-elect. He reviewed the tedious and meticulous process that the Board of Education had ventured into and felt that it would not only be inappropriate, but unfair to find a new superintendent and a new principal in a month. The discussion should not be about a given candidate. This process serves over 3,000 students. He felt that the discussion of being inappropriate was unfair; it was a matter of timing.

On a personal note, Mr. Gibbs stated that Dr. Bridge introduced Dr. Weninger to the Huskie Boosters at its dinner/dance. Over 500 people heard about his vision of the future of this school. Dozens of parents expressed their impressions about Dr. Weninger and the comments he made.

Mr. Gibbs also thanked Dr. Bridge for her dedication and wished her well in the future. He stated that she would always be a Huskie. Mr. Gibbs also offered congratulations to Board of Education members-elect.

Ms. Roberta Raymond Larson, a 1955 graduate, and resident of Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Ms. Larson affirmed her love of the school because of how it positively changed her life and continued to do so. She had the same goal for every student at the high school.

Not only did she want to thank the two Board of Education members who were the liaisons to the Alumni Association, Dr. Millard and Ms. Fernandez, she also wanted to thank all of the Board of Education members. Being a board of education member is not an easy job and not one that receive “thank you’s.” The community forums were open to the public; this is something that did not have to occur. This Board of Education decided to welcome the community to meet the future superintendent. Whether it was good or bad decision, the community had the opportunity to see the applicants. They Board of Education made the right choice.

She warmly welcomed Dr. Weninger. She stated that he was a wonderful person and that he would see a lot more of her. She continued that racial difficulty is an issue all across the country. She hoped that all would join in and work together with Dr. Weninger. This position of leadership is a shining light, a beacon. If she were a superintendent, this school would be her top choice. What better place could a superintendent come? She suggested that everyone put these bad things behind and move ahead. Again, she offered her thanks. She did say that the current Board of Education had made some mistakes, but that no one was perfect. She thanked them again.

John Bradley, parent and resident of 617 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Mr. Bradley’s three children graduated from O.P.R.F.H.S. and the school is an important part of this community. He had thought the superintendent search was going to be national. He was disappointed with the candidates. He did not understand why a candidate was chosen who had no superintendency experience and did not understand why the Board of Education could not hire an interim for one year. He urged the Board of Education to reconsider this decision.

Pat Nassano, parent and resident of 507, Edgewood, River Forest, read a statement by Meg Reynolds.

Ms. Reynolds welcomed the three new board members and hoped that they could live up to their reputation. The high school has deep-rooted programs. Ms. Reynolds’ comments concerned the old board voting on

the various agenda items including the appointment of the superintendent, the approval of the faculty contract, including whether its ability to do so was even legal. She alluded to legal action to be taken in the future. Ms. Reynolds stated that the new Board of Education members have the children in their hands.

Karen Dotty, resident of 174 N. Euclid, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education.

Ms. Dotty said that everything said earlier represented her feelings. She thanked Dr. Bridge for her help. She also thanked the outgoing board members, especially thank Dr. Greenwald. She came, not because he asked her, but because she has watched these events unfold in the papers and she received one of the appalling flyers. The people on the sidelines believe these are libelous statements. She felt it was important to separate people's unhappiness from the process with which they speak of them. While unaware of the problems raised that night regarding the school board, she did not think this was the way to handle these disagreements. She believed it healthy to work with the administration and the board. She welcomed the incoming superintendent and hoped that he found the community welcoming. As a person who served on the board of an elementary school, she knew what it was like to work with a consultant, a search firm, and the hours spent interviewing. The open forums did not have to happen. The Board of Education was entrusted to find the best candidate possible and she believed it had.

Leah Marcus, past board member and resident of 1102 Jackson, River Forest, addressed the Board of Education.

Ms. Marcus stated that she has three children, a husband and was a former board member. It had been her responsibility to make some difficult decisions. There were great dissensions about many of the decisions and about the way the Board of Education rose above these dissensions. It would be a great tragedy if the people disappointed in the high school did not help the new superintendent push the school further in the direction in which they wanted. Dr. Bridge deserves a well-deserved thank you. She welcomed and thanked Dr. Weninger for his incoming service.

Linda Belpedio and Rosemary Pesoli, retired O.P.R.F.H.S. faculty members, addressed the Board of Education.

Upon examining the Faculty Senate Negotiations Team's tentative contract, it was noted that one of the major benefits guaranteed to the past retirees of 2005 and 2006 (exactly 12 retirees) was changed due to

the fact that they had not signed a retirement contract. The retirees of these two years had not been allowed to sign a retirement contract. They were told it was no longer necessary. Now they are being told that because they do not have retirement contracts, their benefits were changing. They feel discriminated against because their colleagues who retired under the exact same contract were allowed to sign a retirement contract, and, thus, their benefits were not affected. The terms of the new agreement states “retirees without retirement contracts move to TRIP.” This will not allow us the same benefits as the others who retired under the same agreement, as Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois PPO is not an option. They asked that the Board of Education grandfather in those faculty members that were not able to sign a retirement contract so that they may continue with the same benefits.

She thanked the Board of Education for its time and said goodbye to Dr. Greenwald, Ms. Fernandez, and Ms. Ranney. She also welcomed the new superintendent.

Mary Jaros, retired O.P.R.F.H.S. faculty member, addressed the Board of Education.

In an email, John Rigas had said that those 12 retirees specifically did not receive a separate retirement contract because they retired during the time that the faculty unionized. If that were the reason, it was incorrect. Many other retirees who retired under that same contract in the years between and including 1999 - 2004 did not receive separate retirement contract, even though they were in the union. Mr. Rigas responded that he thought that it was a mistake for the school to have given the people the contracts.

Whether it was indeed a mistake or not, the Board and the Administration were treating the 12 teachers who retired in 2005 and 2006 differently than they treated other teachers who retired under the same contract. Therefore, they are being discriminated against. She stated that they should be given the same retirement contract, rights, and benefits as the rest of the teachers retiring under that 1999-2004 contract.

Mr. Rigas concurred that there were more teachers who had retired without individual contracts and were receiving the same benefits, but that was the practice in place. Previously, retirees had not retired under any Collective Bargaining Agreement. The school ceased that practice more than two years ago. There was an understanding three years ago when he was in charge of the negotiations. The new contract delineates that there will be no individual contracts.

Ms. Jaros stated that only the current teachers had the opportunity to vote on this today, not the retirees. Retirees take health care very seriously. She had cancer eight years ago and is now cancer free. She reported on her experience of taking half of her cancer treatments under Blue Cross/Blue Shield and half under United Health Care. She stated that there was a major difference in how one is treated. She felt this decision should be reconsidered for the twelve retirees affected.

Dr. Greenwald offered his thanks for the comments concerns, and consent.

Board of Education Comments Dr. Greenwald reported that no F.O.I.A. requests had been received.

Mr. Conway offered his appreciation and sincere thanks to the retiring board members. They did a wonderful job in their time of service. From the countless hours that are spent together in late night and early morning meetings, he learned from all of them. Their support, advice and compassion for the children of these communities helped to make this school the best possible environment. He tipped his hat to the three of them and said thank you, thank you, thank you for their efforts they did a job that does not pay well. The Board of Education receives more complaints than do umpires and/or referees. The retiring Board members did a tremendous job and he was proud for the opportunity to work along with them.

Ms. Ranney reported that she attended the River Forest Council of Governments meeting with Dr. Bridge and saw the value of communicating in a relaxed and informal way with other administrators of the village.

Dr. Millard offered comments similar to Mr. Conway's regarding the retiring Board of Education members. She stated that she would name Ms. Ranney the ambassador, because she does many things for many people. She acknowledged Dr. Greenwald who had given his heart and soul to ensure the referendum was passed and who guided the Board of Education through difficult contract negotiations. She thanked Ms. Fernandez for her caring about students. It has been a year of negotiations with the faculty and the superintendent search and without primarily Mr. Rigas, the outcome might have been different. She has been along for the ride and she thanked him for his efforts.

Ms. Fernandez stated that she appreciated the voters who voted for her; it had been a learning experience in which she grew personally and professionally. She thanked the voters for their votes and confidence.

The Board of Education dedicates its time in numerous capacities to make decisions that are in the best interest of all students. To the incoming Board of Education members, she wished them the best and offered her assistance whenever called upon.

Barbara Fernandez then shared her reasoning for the way she would vote on the superintendent appointment. She stated the following:

“The superintendent selection process was arduous, time consuming and heart wrenching. Nevertheless, my involvement was one of commitment and sincere thought. I read every survey for every candidate. Based on the survey results, the community, Instructional Council, the faculty, the Building Administrative Team, and the students, she approved and recommended Dr. Weninger as our superintendent. Granted, Dr. Weninger is not perfect, but none of us is perfect and each has shortcomings.

“While maintaining the objectivity of the superintendent process, objectives were set. All of these objectives are a crucial and mandatory part of Dr. Weninger's performance-based contract. I will speak to the number one performance-based goal.

“To improve academic achievement across the entire student population and with particular emphasis on improving the achievement of minority and special education students.”

“It is true that not every candidate could fulfill every objective until given a chance. Based on the performance-based contract for Dr. Attila Weninger, the goals include personnel, school climate inclusive of increasing the quantity and quality of student participation, improving the adjustment of incoming students, freshmen and parents through development of a mentor program, assessing the effectiveness of on-going programs designed to improve student relationships, while increasing the sense of efficacy among students and parents by being visible and approachable at as many student and parent activities as possible.

“Finally, I took the time to research and thoroughly read the criminal background check mandated by the law of the State of Illinois, I am proud to say that nothing criminal or illegal was found involving Dr. Attila Weninger. Therefore, I approve this contract.”

Ms. Fisher read the following statement:

“I would like to provide some background to tonight's meetings. This is the seventh time I have attended the changeover of the District 200

school board. Every one of these seven change-over's, tonight's included, was calendared by the district many months in advance of the meetings, on a date which complied with election law, within the timeframe set forth by statute. The Board votes on the next year's meeting schedule each November. Tonight's May 15 changeover meeting date was approved by the Board at its November 2006 meeting.

"On each of these changeover evenings, the current Board of Education first held a business meeting to wrap up current Board business and thank retiring members for their service. That meeting adjourned and followed immediately by an organizational meeting of the new Board where newly elected Board members were welcomed and officers of the new Board elected. This is the only order in which these two meetings can possibly occur and is the same procedure followed by other governmental entities.

"Regarding the matter of legality, which has been raised by several individuals and misunderstood in the media, District 200's policy and practice comply with both Illinois election law and Illinois School Code. O.P.R.F.H.S. Policy 20 states that new members will be seated immediately after they have been both certified by county officials – which must occur within 21 days of the election (certification by the county required in this election's case by May 8) – AND sworn in to office. Swearing in must occur, pursuant to Illinois School Code, within 28 days of the election. Again, in this election's case, by May 15. These election laws and school code timelines apply to District 200 as well as other boards, which have held their organizational meetings during this seven-day window, and like our sisters District 97 and District 90 (which installed its new board members the previous night, May 14) have held business meetings with executive sessions to wrap up current board business prior to holding an organizational meeting to seat their new board members.

"At six of the seven District 200 Board changeovers at which I have been present, some board personnel changed. The business of the District is, of course, ongoing and must be conducted according to its needs. By design, boards are not static, but are continuing bodies made up of changing individuals. Staggered elections avoid the twin problems of failure of continuity and lame duck boards that defer responsibility. Work continues even in election years and each of the seven board members' votes has full dignity and weight from the day he or she is seated until his or her last meeting. If this were not the case, every other year would potentially be a lame duck situation causing a frequent vacuum of leadership and paralysis of action.

“With respect to the superintendent contract in particular, I would like to dispel any concern that this board rushed into the critical decision of who will be O.P.R.F.H.S.'s next superintendent. This is the second time I have participated in the process of hiring a superintendent for District 200, having been actively involved in the 1998 search that brought Dr. Bridge to O.P.R.F.H.S. The initial timeline in each process was virtually identical. In both cases, the superintendent announced in advance his or her intention to retire. In both cases, the Board determined during the summer prior to the current superintendent's last school year to proceed with a national search, and selected a search firm to assist in that process.

“There was one difference, I might note. This time, the search firm advised the board that a closed process would be preferable in order to promote confidentiality and therefore attract more applicants. Some local boards have conducted searches for chief executives in that closed fashion without public interviews. This board, however, determined that it was committed to an open process, as was the case in 1998, and commenced the search last fall on that open basis. It also determined that all board members should participate at every meeting concerned with hiring the superintendent although that would inevitably cause a slowing of the process due to individual board members' other obligations.

“Focus groups within both the school and broader community were held last September to obtain input on the direction the school should go in its hiring quest. After the focus group phase concluded, later in the fall, the search firm interviewed approximately 30 candidates and presented six to the Board for interviews. In December, this board interviewed each of the six candidates for over two hours each, selecting three who were then invited back for all-day interviews with all areas of the school community, including forums with the community at large. As a result of input and further board review, these three were subsequently rejected, and the search firm was instructed to undertake a second full search.

“The process was repeated, with six interviews by the Board the week of February 12, then three finalists meeting all day within the school and community the following week. It should be noted that at that time neither members of our community nor board candidates asked that this process be suspended until after the April election. On February 26, the board met for several hours and two site visits ensued. Subsequently, the week of March 19, the board selected Dr. Weninger and entered contract negotiations. Finally, the Board and Dr. Weninger jointly worked out clear, measurable performance goals in accordance with the Illinois School Code.

Certainly, this nine-month process has not been rushed, nor has a decision been made just in the last seven or so days. The current board personnel have spent hour upon hour interviewing the candidates and reviewing the input. New board members, not having been present at these interviews and meetings, are simply not in an informed position to vote on this contract. It is the first and foremost responsibility of the board to select a superintendent for District 200. The timing of this critical hiring occurred on the watch of the current board and the board would be wrong to abdicate that responsibility or delay the process.

I have had the privilege to serve this District and to work with excellent fellow board members for 10 years. This time around is no exception. District 200 is fortunate to have had the dedicated service and commitment to excellence of Barbara Fernandez, Yasmin Ranney and Barry Greenwald who are retiring tonight. I am confident that my 'yes' vote on the superintendent's contract is consistent with both sound principles of board governance and with this board's ongoing commitment to O.P.R.F.H.S. and the communities it serves. Thank you."

Dr. Millard made the following comments:

"Tonight this Board is finally voting on a contract to hire a new superintendent for District 200. This search started in the fall of 2005 with a committee of community and school members to advise the Board of Education of the advantages and disadvantages of retaining the combination of superintendent/principal as one position versus splitting the positions into two separate appointments. Rich Deptuch capably led this group in multiple discussion meetings, plus site visits to half dozen Chicago-area schools, and he compiled a formal report of this Committee's activities presented to the Board of Education in February 2006. After considerable deliberation, the Board decided to split the positions: with a principal to be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the high school and a superintendent to supply vision, planning, and expertise with dynamic leadership to pilot the District to achieve a superior level of excellence for students and our community.

"At that time, I envisioned a candidate for superintendent that would bring to us superb executive skills with a flair for building inclusive relationships with the mosaic of stakeholders in this community and a distinct record of creative problem-solving in raising achievement and performance in an academic environment. I hoped this person would be widely respected with a talent for bringing opposing sides together to work collaboratively to achieve a common goal. I was willing to search far and wide, within the secondary schools and beyond, for as long as

necessary to find this extraordinary person to create a top-notch school, with a clear vision about how to prepare students for the world after O.P.R.F.H.S. I admit that I am an idealist, but I also believe that such a person can be found and that our school and our communities deserve no less.

“This Board has interviewed and investigated two sets of six candidates for superintendent. Six of these, three in each search, had all-day interviews at O.P.R.F.H.S. and each appeared at open forums which offered the community an opportunity for feedback to the Board and our chance to observe each candidate’s interactions with our community. After further Board debate, Dr. Attila Weninger has emerged as a candidate that is most acceptable to the Board to take on this role. He has worked his way up through the ranks of English teacher to administrator in several different high schools in suburban Chicago. Those who have worked with him describe him as “passionate about education, very hard working, diligent, and a fast learner, who can make tough, unpopular decisions.” Certainly, these characteristics are desirable for our superintendent. However, this school needs and deserves a superintendent who possesses the distinctive vision, breadth of experience and ideas, and demonstrated leadership capabilities to energize our community and guide O.P.R.F.H.S. to realize its substantial promise.

“This is the single most important vote I will make while a member of this Board. After my own deliberate and arduous investigation of this candidate, I am not convinced that Dr. Weninger is the right person for this job, in this school, in these communities, at this time. Contrary to what some may think, this is my own opinion, independent of printed words and loud public voices that have made many inaccurate and even malicious statements about the candidate and various Board members. My position in no way indicates approval of the tactics of some in our community to undermine and malign this or any candidate. At times very recently, I have questioned whether I should reverse my position because I do not want to even appear to support these political and polarizing tactics. I have made this decision with my own mind, heart, and conscience, not influenced by opinions of others in this community who might think otherwise.

“If the majority of this Board votes to approve Dr. Weninger, I will work cooperatively with him in our communities’ efforts to serve each student and each member of our community, and I will ask us all to do the same—for the students and their lives after O.P.R.F.H.S. I will demand Dr. Weninger’s concentrated focus on the key endeavor of this school: to raise individual and collective scholarships for all members of our school community, to reach individual and collective potentials

previously only imagined. As a member of this Board, to whom he must report, I will strive to keep the long-range goal of excellence for all the top priority of this District. We must all be accountable for the methods, decisions and programs that will elevate this District to exemplary heights and admired more than ever before. We want O.P.R.F.H.S. to be sought after for its innovative, extraordinary educational opportunities for students, staff, and faculty, a school that truly enriches all residents of Oak Park and River Forest. I ask each member of this community to contribute to this goal, for our future will be determined by our abilities to work together, despite our differences, to help each other achieve our shared vision of the best possible education for all.”

Ms. Ranney read the following statement:

“I am honored to bring to our high school a man of his caliber and qualifications. Dr. Weninger has served as Principal, (just as Dr. Bridge had served at Glenbard prior to her appointment here), Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Director of Human Resources. Dr. Weninger believes strongly that the student voice is important. I know that Dr. Weninger will engage everyone, BAT, administrators, faculty and staff, and community representatives, and include everyone, including our students, in meaningful and appropriate ways as he begins the work required of him as superintendent of O.P.R.F.H.S. I am most excited about the depth and breath of experiences you bring to our high school, Dr. Weninger.

“Your background including students’ voices in decision-making at LT because of your core belief and I quote, you, Dr. Weninger “that students will find more to be excited about, learn more, and develop strong, lasting loyalties to their schools if they are included in meaningful and appropriate ways.”

“The four-year comprehensive Induction & Mentoring Program for certified employees is one of your major accomplishments; one that I know we will benefit from at our high school.

“Your extensive review of school-wide curriculum which led to significant change in the quality of academic programs; I know you will develop in concert with our BAT team, programs that will tend to our number one goal, minority student achievement.

“Your commitment to core issues of getting to know our school, its culture, the students, and getting to know your teachers, staff and students. I know you will make your presence felt, as you have done at LT, and students and parents will get to know you and your leadership

style very quickly. I know you will stay the course of fairness and equality, against all odds, and do the right thing for all students at O.P.R.F.H.S.

“Dr. Weninger has been the recipient of numerous honors, awards and distinctions. I will not get into the nitty-gritty of those. Suffice it is to say that you have proved yourself over and over again as a leader who leads by example, asking others to do no more than what you yourself can deliver. You have been called a workaholic, and I take that as a high compliment.

“Dr. Weninger, I am absolutely convinced that the 33 years of experience in education more than qualifies you to lead our high school to a level of excellence that is hovering around the corner. I know that you will serve and tend to all issues residual and new at our high school with energy, professionalism and the willpower to move academic achievement in the right direction for students who are most at risk. You are absolutely equipped with the education, experience in various educational roles with different responsibilities, so that you understand the rigors demanded of each of those roles. You bring credibility, strength and commitment to our high school and our community supports you.

“The most significant area of your strength is in the fact that your experiences have been in a high school setting, in three flourishing, well respected high schools, all in the Chicagoland area. You already have the tools in place to lead our high school. Now, it is just a matter of getting down to the nuts and bolts of our particular high school. A word of warning. If I were you, I would become very good friends with Jack Lanenga. Even now, I get lost if I enter a different way! These hallowed halls will throw you for a loop every time!

“Your ability to be measured in your response, or non-response, as you have tried to understand differing views, competing perspectives, and blatant and outrageous allegations that have besmirched your name, reputation and cast aspersions on your qualifications. You have demonstrated emotional intelligence, as you have navigated the choppy waters of civic and community engagement, Oak Park style!

“Finally, your credentials and references spoke highly of your leadership qualities; your strong work ethic is value added for our high school. but most of all your sincere caring for all people, your genuine compassion and understanding of your staff, faculty and students are qualities we need and treasure as values for our high school. If the culture of our high school is measured by its leader, then we will score well under your leadership.

“To close, your contribution to the field of public education, in particular high schools are an invaluable asset to our high school. You will make THE difference in our high school in those areas we seek it the most. Your personal and educational philosophy speaks directly to those goals this BOE has set forth. I know you come here armed with the knowledge, background and skills necessary to make those goals a reality. I welcome you on behalf of many members in our community who are not here tonight, who could not be here, but who will as you take office, send you their personal welcome as you assume leadership of our high school.

John Rigas made the following statement:

“I have in front of me a flyer distributed throughout the community this past week. Its title is ‘Stop the Dirty Dealing at OPRF.’ It goes on to state voters wanted changes in policies at OPRF and “Yet Dr. Greenwald is denying the winning candidates their right to take office immediately, as is clearly stated in the present Board rules. Unlike past years, the new board will not even be seated until the end of the May 15 Board meeting, so that Dr. Greenwald can ram through his own choice for Superintendent without permitting the newly elected Board members a vote in the decision!” As Ms. Fisher has already indicated, the current process is identical to past practice. My own experience was as follows. The meeting at which I became a board member, I sat in the audience while the board conducted its regular board meeting for that month. In addition, at the end of the meeting, the board went into executive session to discuss various items, of which I do not even know what transpired. I was sent into Dr. Bridge’s office until the closed session was complete sometime after 11:00 p.m. that evening. After that, the Organizational Meeting took place and I was part of the re-organized board. Recently, at my suggestion, we have moved the closed session to the beginning of the last board meeting, so new members would not be required to wait until late in the evening to be seated. The flyer misrepresents the facts and that is ‘Dirty Dealing.’

“Further, Dr. Greenwald does not nor did he select the new Superintendent; this Board of Education made that selection and set the timeline for the selection. I have not heard from a single new board member that they feel in a better position to make this selection than this Board. In fact, if any of the new members felt that way, they would be telling me and each of my fellow board members that the countless hours of time spent working through this process was a waste of our time. I find any inference of that both offensive and arrogant.

“The flyer goes on to state, ‘Parents’ organizations (plural) have stated that Dr. Greenwald’s choice is a bad one.’ The school has the following Parent Organizations: P.T.O., Boosters, A.P.P.L.E., Citizens’ Council, and the Concert Tour Association. To date, we have only heard from representatives of A.P.P.L.E. who have indicated that they are dissatisfied with the selection. Clearly, this statement again is intended to misrepresent the facts and I call that ‘Dirty Dealing!’

“The flyer continues as follows, ‘but what is worse is his attempt to bypass the voters and deny the winning Board candidates the right to decide. Senator Don Harmon and others have said this is wrong.’ We contacted Don Harmon and he, in a written statement, has said “the current Board participated in the selection process and is probably in a better position to make the final decision.’ Again, further dirty dealing by the people responsible for this flyer.

“The document is signed, Faculty and Parents for Excellence at O.P.R.F.H.S. I am unaware of any organization with this name in the Oak Park and River Forest community, who its members are, where they meet, and what its agenda is beyond spreading misinformation and a desire to divide the community.”

**Approval of
Superintendent
Contract**

Mr. Conway moved to approve the appointment of Dr. Attila J. Weninger as Superintendent of the O.P.R.F.H.S. for the term of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2011; seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Dr. Millard voted nay. Motion carried.

**Approval of
The Annual
Administrative
Appointments**

Mr. Rigas moved to approve the annual appointments of Division Heads, Dean Counselors, Department Heads, Deans of Discipline, Coordinator of Student Safety, Directors of Special Education and Instructional Technology; seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Mr. Conway voted nay. Motion carried.

**Approval of
Non-Union
Employee
Salary
Recommendations**

Mr. Conway moved to approve the non-union employee salary recommendations for the 2007-08 school year as presented; seconded by Mr. Rigas. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of
The C.B.A. with
Faculty Senate
2007-12**

Ms. Ranney moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Faculty Senate for the term 2007-12; seconded by Mr. Rigas; a roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Mr. Conway voted nay. Motion carried.

Mr. Rigas explained the provisions of the contract. They were:

1. Five-year term.
2. Institute an eight-period day; each period being a full 48 minutes.
3. The school day will be from 8:00 a.m. to 3:04 p.m.
4. In order to increase out-of-the classroom contact with students, faculty members will have supervisories, which will include monitoring of study halls, tutoring, supervising make-up testing, etc.
5. Compensation, based on data from 18 schools, averages four percent annual increases over a five-year term.
6. Similar salary lanes to peer groups and new salary lanes will put O.P.R.F.H.S. 11th out of 18 districts, which is consistent with the commitment that the District has made to be no higher than the middle third in this group.
7. Health insurance co-pays will increase for both medical and drugs.
8. Retirement benefits have gone from 20% bumps to 6% increases.
9. Retirees will move from the District plan to the state's plan for retirees, TRIP.
10. The District will provide a 2.5% match to the 403B plan, consistent with 401K programs in the private sector.

Concerning retiree's insurance, the negotiating team looked at the TRIP doctors and the dollars involved and found it to be similar to Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The drug co-pay is better, the deductible is cheaper and the premiums are cheaper for HMO and PPO. He understood the retirees' fear of change, but he believed the faculty's bargaining team did much research on this change and he was comfortable with it.

Consent Items

Ms. Ranney asked that the approval of Policy 5152, for First Reading, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Rigas moved to approve the consent items as follows:

- The open minutes of April 26, May 2 and 8, 2007;
- Personnel Recommendations (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting);
- Resolution Ratifying and Confirming Execution of certain vouchers and payment of certain bills and expenses, fund transfers and list of bills for April 2007 (attached to and made part of the minutes of this meeting);

- Resolution Authorizing Execution of Certain Vouchers for the Month of May 2007 (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting);
- Check Disbursements for May 15, 2007 (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting);
- the following textbooks, *Principles of Economics*, and *Business and Personal Finance*, both reviewed by Ms. Ranney, and *Consumer Education and Economics*, reviewed by Ms. Fernandez, for the Business Education Department; *Astronomy: A Self-Teaching Guide, 6th Edition*, reviewed by Dr. Millard, for the Science Division; and *Discovering French Nouveau! Bleu 1, Discovering French Nouveau! Blanc 2, Discovering French Nouveau! Route 3*, reviewed by Mr. Conway, and *Los Ojos de Carmen*, reviewed by Ms. Fernandez, for the World Languages Division;
- Breakfast Box Bid to Kellogg's,
- Bread Bid to Alpha Baker,
- Combi Oven Bid to Fox River Foods
- Dairy Products Bid to Becker's Lockwood and Marigold,
- PTAB (Property Tax Appeal Board) Resolution,
- Authorization of Resolution to Transfer Interest from the Bond and Interest Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund,
- Adoption of the Resolution Regarding Compliance with "Wages of Employees on Public Works" Law;
- Food Service Intergovernmental Agreement between District 97 and District 200,
- Amendment of Policy 3450, Investment of School District Funds,
- Policy 5127, Alternative Credit, for First Reading and Action;

seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of
Policy 5152, for**

Mr. Conway moved to approve Policy 5152, Prohibition of Electronic and Cellular Paging Devices, for first reading; seconded by Dr. Millard;

First Reading

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Ranney had suggested waiting to approve this for first reading until the new superintendent was able to provide a more detailed analysis after he had reviewed practices of other schools nationwide. She was concerned about the long-term effects of this policy. She did not feel it had been fully vetted and there was no recommendation from B.A.T.

Dr. Millard reiterated the process of amending policies, noting that this policy was being presented for first reading. The proposed policy would be forwarded to the appropriate groups for feedback.

Mr. Edgecombe reiterated that this policy was for first reading and there was an option to continue the discussion at the Board of Education table or refer it back to the Policy Committee. He believes it was appropriate to send it out for first reading now which would allow any changes to be approved and could be acknowledged in next year's Student Handbook. Mr. Edgecombe continued that B.A.T. has discussed this issue periodically over the last year and half and would do so again before the June Policy Committee meeting. In addition, the first part of the policy was reviewed by counsel and the Policy committee recommended a change.

Mr. Conway called the vote.

A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Ranney voted nay. Motion carried.

Gifts & Donations

Mr. Conway moved to accept with gratitude the gifts and donations as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Ms. Fernandez. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Township Treasurers Office

Mr. Rigas moved to withdraw from the Township Treasurer's Office and to appoint a school treasurer and to approve the filing of a complaint against the Township Board of School Trustees and Township Treasurer for an accounting and mandamus and to delegate authority to prosecute such claims to Ancel, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, subject to the direction and consent of the school treasurer; seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Witham explained that the Board of Education and administration had carefully monitored the dealings of the Cicero Township Treasurer's office for approximately four years. Serious concerns about proper recordkeeping, the monthly reconciliation process, investment portfolio reporting, oversight by Trustees and member district

participation have been raised. The work of this Board of Education to demand accountability and in communicating concerns has accomplished three things: 1) the release of the past Treasurer, 2) legislation sponsored by Senator Harmon allowing O.P.R.F.H.S. to withdraw and 3) successful referendum by the elementary districts permitting dissolution of the office. After the termination of the previous Treasurer, it became evident that the Board of Education's concerns about the office were all warranted. A massive effort by the professional accounting firm of Virchow Krause to recreate records and reconcile accounts had ensued since September 2007.

Per legal opinion, O.P.R.F.H.S. has a unilateral right to withdraw from the Treasurer's Office immediately. The District has delayed withdrawal in order to prepare for independence and in order to maintain an active voice in the reconciliation process. The District's participation in the reconciliation process has progressed as far as possible. In addition, the District has completed the process of establishing new bank accounts, appointing a treasurer, obtaining a Treasurer's bond and changing banking ACH and wire data. The District is now ready for independence.

As the Treasurer's Office prepares to dissolve, it has become apparent that the District's best interests would be impossible to maintain in the proposed structure of an oversight committee controlled by other elementary districts. It is imperative that the District exercises its unilateral right to withdraw and demand immediate delivery of all assets. Then the lawyer will seek judicial oversight of the transfer of district assets and final dissolution of the Office. The resolution, prepared by the attorney, will allow the District to proceed. The resolution should then be delivered to the Trustees at their quarterly meeting on May 16, 2007.

Dr. Greenwald noted that the above was due to the hard work of Ms. Witham, Dr. Bridge, Ms. Ranney, and Mr. Sullivan, a friend to the school, as well as to Senator Harmon. He appreciated their efforts on behalf of the school.

**District Committees
Liaison
Representative
Reports**

Faculty Senate—Mr. Hunter reported that it had recently been his practice not to speak at these meetings, but he had been prepared to at this meeting. He was disappointed that while there were 25 speakers, the room was now empty.

For the last two years, he sat at the Board of Education table and listened to the high school get beat up in an entertaining and a sad way. This evening was the first time he had heard positive information as well, even though it was painful to watch as the Board of Education was

attacked. It is wonderful to hear the other comments today. He hoped the press knew just how small the contingent of people who come before the Board of Education to complain is. The faculty has been impugned.

Regarding the involvement of the superintendent and the things that were said, it seemed that they felt the search process had just started. It, however, started with the conversation about whether to split the superintendent/principal position. He felt it was unfortunate that it took this long to get this “ironed out.” At the same time, this small group of people has bombarded the school with their nasty attacks on the administration, the Board of Education, and the community. The blaming of Dr. Greenwald is completely wrong. The viciousness of the attacks has been unprecedented and the claim that the faculty supported the complaint was unfair. He was disappointed that again this group had not stayed to hear what the faculty had to say. The Faculty went to the Board of Education and said that it found Dr. Weninger to be the true candidate and it looked forward to doing what is best for students and the community.

Mr. Hunter continued by saying how much he appreciated the Board of Education’s work. He could not imagine the time they spent away from their families. He hoped that this Board of Education took away how grateful the faculty was of its work. He looks forward to working with the new Board of Education. There is a unique set of circumstances at this time—a new superintendent, a new board, a new contract and a young faculty.

Mr. Hunter announced that this was the last time Loie Davis would be at the Board of Education table as the representative of Student Council. He told her that she had a most amazing learning experience about politics this past year. She had insights into the whole process. He appreciated the work she had done on behalf of Student Council.

Student Council—Ms. Davis introduced Student Council’s new Board of Education liaison, Chris Fernandes. She stated that Student Council’s fashion show raised \$364. It was much fun and two student disk jockeys played. Student Council would also donate dresses to the Salvation Army.

Ms. Davis then made comments about the events that evening, saying that it was the most intense meeting she had experienced. She was going to college next year and would not linger on the O.P.R.F.H.S.’s boardroom negativity. She did not feel she had enough information to form strong opinions, but she hoped that people would not allow

antagonism to prevent everyone's common goal—excellence in education.

A.P.P.L.E.—Mr. Conway reported that the guest speaker at A.P.P.L.E.'s last meeting, Abe Thompson, also spoke on the Oprah Winfrey Show about a school in South Africa.

Alumni Association—Ms. Fernandez thanked all those that participated in the Alumni Association fundraisers.

Citizens' Council— Dr. Millard reported that Citizens' Council toured the Fine Arts Department.

Concert Tour Association— Ms. Ranney reported that the Concert Tour Association's end of year banquet had been held and it was gearing up for the end of year recitals and performances. Future dates are on its website.

**Approval of
Closed Session
Minutes**

Ms. Ranney moved to approve the Closed Session minutes of April 26, May 2 and May 8, 2007; as presented, to declare that the closed session minutes from January 1, 1989 through May 8, 2007 shall remain closed, and to declare that the closed session audiotapes of November 2005 be destroyed; seconded by Ms. Fisher. Motion carried.

**Abatement of
Emergency Days**

Ms. Ranney moved to cancel the emergency days, June 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, which are included in the Official school Calendar of O.P.R.F.H.S.; seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

This action resulted in a school year that began August 21, 2006, with an ending date of June 8, 2007 The revised calendar reflects 177 days of student attendance, two Suburban Cook Regional Office of Education approved Institute days, four Staff Development days and one day for Parent/Teacher Conferences, thereby providing the contractually required total of 184 days.

**Acknowledgement
Of April 17
Election Results**

Mr. Rigas moved to acknowledge the results of the April 17 Election; seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The results were as follows:

Candidates	Votes
Ralph H. Lee	4,788
Barry S. Greenwald	3,744

Yasmin Ranney	4,074
John C. Allen IV	4,396
Sharon Patchak-Layman	4,383

**Acknowledgement
Of Retiring
Board of Education
Members**

Ms. Fisher expressed her sincere thanks for Ms. Fernandez’s dedication and for never wavering in her excellence for students.

Ms. Fisher expressed her appreciation to Ms. Ranney for all her commitment to this high school. Ms. Fisher expressed to Dr. Greenwald her appreciation for not only all of the countless hours of dedicated service to the Board of Education, but even before that, including his help in getting the referendum passed. She stated that the Board of Education would miss them, but she knew that they would continue to support the high school as they watch their many contributions benefit the students in the year ahead.

John Rigas noted that in service to this Board of Education, he had the opportunity to meet nine different people who he had not known and had become friends with them. Tonight he would meet three new friends. Being a Board of Education member is a learning experience. He enjoyed working with all three of the retiring Board of Education members, agreeing with them, disagreeing with them and learning to understand their points of view. In the end, it is because of mutual respect that they can agree to disagree. The Board of Education does not have one mind, i.e., Dr. Greenwald was often surprised when Mr. Rigas supported his position. Ms. Fernandez brought the experience of the classroom and a teacher. He is the first to say that he does not know what should happen in the classroom. Ms. Fernandez has experienced the difficulty in being a Dean Counselor. Ms. Ranney has been the voice of reason. He will miss all of them, but he was sure they would meet again. Becoming friends is the best thing about being on the Board of Education.

Dr. Millard said to all that Board of Education work is a lot of work and commitment; it takes a lot of careful thought process, courtesy and confidence. She thanked them for their service.

Ms. Fernandez said to her fellow board members that this was an experience and an opportunity that she will never forget.

Ms. Ranney made the following remarks.

“To the Board of Education, B.A.T., and Dr. Bridge–Thanks.

“I would like to thank my colleagues on the BOE for their tenacity, diligence and consistency as you have engaged in the work of the board.

Unequivocally, this Board of Education has worked for the best interests of all students at our high school.

“To Dee Millard, who will not leave any stone unturned in board deliberations—for her incisiveness and tenacious resolve in giving 150% to any issue that is addressed at this board table. Your recent involvement in the superintendent search, the countless hours of personal time you put into your research, site visits, and all the time you have given to our high school, away from your profession, away from your patients, has been in the hundreds. When Dee is at the board table, every issue will receive its complete, deliberate and almost painstaking depth of discussion. However, it is important, and I value it, and in so doing, you serve our students better. Thank you, Dee.

“To Jacques Conway, the man with stoic grace and understated elegance. Jacques is a classic reminder of the E F Hutton ad from the 80’s ‘When E. F. Hutton talks...people listen.’ Jacques is a man of few words, but when we get those words, they are pure gold—24 carat at that. It does not mean he has nothing to say; he has plenty to say. However, he allows the rest of us to say it. Jacques, you are a fantastic listener and a wonderful sounding board. You are good for our school board. Whatever role you continue to play on this Board of Education, I am confident you will do so with vision and foresight, always keeping what is best for our high school uppermost in your mind; always seeing the big picture.

“To Valerie Fisher, the consummate professional, the historical giant, who steals the ball every time! When all views have been discussed and issues seemingly resolved, Valerie will bring about a different perspective and have us all dribbling the ball again. If good board governance could be personified, it would be called Valerie Fisher. She is incisive, always sees the global picture, respects differing viewpoints, and works hard to bring about consensus without downplaying the other person’s thoughts and ideas. It’s strength, and a unique one at that – to agree to disagree without getting personal about the people and personalities involved in the debate. Valerie is masterful too at the art of negotiating ideas and staying on the seminal issues of policy-making. Never have I seen Valerie leave her seat on the balcony and want to get on the dance floor, meddling and mingling with issues of management; she leaves that to the experts! She is a consummate policymaker, understands her role intrinsically, and refrains from getting into management issues. Besides being the historical guru, Valerie, you own the intellectual compass on this Board of Education.

“To Barry Greenwald, my running mate, my friend, my board president. Four years ago, I first met Barry as we were slated to run for political office. Since then, Barry has singularly led the charge, behind the

scenes, for changes in our discipline policy. He has been the only one who first asked the questions: Is it working? Are students coming back with a better perspective of what the requirements of success at high school means to them? What is the follow-up for students involved in the discipline pipeline? Is our policy fulfilling its intent to help students succeed, or do we stop short by just meting out the punishment, or consequence? He probed, prodded, and asked questions; more than others, it was Dr. Barry Greenwald who has led the charge for changes to our Discipline Policy. He is the true liberal, the bleeding heart as I call him. We have not seen movement in that arena, but you have opened the door to change. It will be up to our new superintendent and his administrators to take that where they feel it best serves the needs of our students, our high school and our community. Barry you have brought to the Board table wisdom, grace, enormous passion for our students, and I can say this unequivocally and without any hesitation whatsoever, that you have always wanted to do the right thing for our students. This past year, serving as our President, has placed at the forefront of our collective attention, some tremendous challenges. To allude to just a few, Barry has successfully steered us through choppy waters, always ensuring all seven voices are heard, attended to and kept fully informed. Besides playing arbiter with our search firm, serving as Board liaison to numerous committees, and being the Board's voice as you have interacted with the press, you have monitored and mentored our search process to its successful conclusion. You have been an excellent board member and I will miss working with you.

“To Barbara Fernandez, who stays the course and has a moral inner compass that keeps her focused on her beliefs—I commend you and will know you as the board member who never compromised her personal ideals and values. It would have been so easy for Barbara to placate, and succumb to pressures, sometimes internal and at other times, external. However, you did not. For that, and for your service on the board I honor you. I particularly congratulate you for your strength and resolve that you have so consistently demonstrated as we have made decisions for the collective good of our high school. It takes great personal commitment and fortitude to do that, and you have done so every time, without hesitation, without compromise.

“To John Rigas, the Intelligence Quotient. Various vignettes come to mind when we would wrestle over issues, particularly the legal issues, or discipline cases. Three words say it all about John! Fairness, equity, and social justice. He does not let us off the hook! John is a constant reminder that there is no room for inconsistency or missteps in judgment because they are just poor Boardsmanship. He constantly has been the reminder of past practice and how we need to make our systems and operations better and more efficient. John's breadth of

knowledge and experience has been exemplary additions to our board, and he brings to bear the full force of his background when he engages in board work. John continues to push for electronic board packets. That time has come! It is here; it is now. For your work, and the countless hours you have spent being the board's chief faculty contract negotiator, not once, but two times in the past 4 years. You deserve to be on the high school's payroll! Actually not! We probably could not afford your services! But John seriously, your work just with contract negotiations, a one-man, standalone accomplishment, could not be achieved without your reasoned, rational, knowledgeable input that helped both sides achieve consensus. Thank you John.

"I want to thank B.A.T., Jack, Jason, Phil, Amy and Cheryl who work in synchronous harmony, each playing a different instrument, but creating a symphony of silent action that keeps the wheels of this 3,500 student/staff conglomerate functioning smoothly, efficiently and sometimes, even grandly, as in the many exercises we have come to witness, but also in those that we don't. It is almost in the quieter, unforeseen moments, that your true personal dedication to our students and our families rises to the surface, and without specifics, I have been privy to some of those. Events of the not so recent past challenged each of you, and required you to come together seamlessly, taking on additional duties and responsibilities, and do it in a new spirit of collaboration. In addition, you did just that. Kudos and congratulations to each of you for giving of your personal best every time!

"To Jason and Cheryl, with whom I've worked MOST closely, with Policy and Finance – thank you for your wisdom and your attention to detail. To Cheryl, whose work is the best in the field. Stay the course with the issues that are most pressing on the board's agenda, as I know you will continue to do your best for our taxpayers.

"B.A.T. members, my words are not sufficient to thank you for your work and professionalism as you continue to serve our high school. I am so gratified that you will work together to transition Dr. Weninger over the next several months.

"To Kay Foran who rises to every challenge with a calmness in her demeanor that is at once settling and reassuring – who gets the job done, and done right every time. Kay, you are a true asset to our high school. Your writing is excellent; your work is exemplary, and your foresight in planning and being prepared as the communications director for our high school are sincerely appreciated.

"To Gail Kalmerton, the Board's keeper. Gail, your work is uncompromising. You have made board work seem effortless and easy.

You do it with your diligence, attention to detail, thoroughness in getting materials and information to us, and keeping us focused and on task. Your work to this district and your contributions to Board work deserve every recognition you receive. May I please go on the record as I thank you for your service?

“To Sue Bridge, Sue, you are poetry in motion. For four years, I have worked beside you as we have dealt with various issues that have run the gamut; not just those that happen in a high school environment, but others that have usurped time, attention, and energy and at times left me exhausted. But you continue with boundless energy and dedication, always staying the course of rightfulness and justice, keeping front and center what is the best course of action for our district, and most importantly, for all our student body. I cannot begin to tell you that your service to our high school. You exemplify the term dynamic, daring, diligent. Your enthusiasm, and true involvement and love of our students are evident in everything you do. You have been the heartbeat of our high school for eight years and you have given the very best of you to it. I don’t know where you get that reserve of energy at 7 p.m. at night, after putting in 12 hours to walk into another meeting and stay focused, involved and represent our high school as you have done. Besides all that, you are compassionate, humble and caring. You will go down in the annals of OPRF’s history as the Superintendent who opened the doors of our high school and made it a vital, visible, inviting place to be—for students and for families. Make no mistake that the reputation of O.P.R.F.H.S. nationwide is excellent. You have been beyond good for our high school, Sue. You embody the qualities that make us shine. Thank you for your service to our high school.”

Dr. Greenwald offered to the incoming Board of Education members that being on the Board of Education was a wonderful journey. It will teach them things they did not know they had to learn. He welcomed them to the Board and knew that they would do an excellent job. For him, it had been a real trip. He did not realize how little he knew or how much he had to learn and still has to learn about what it takes to run a new institution like this. He had the experience of being with Mr. Conway, Dr. Millard, Ms. Fernandez, and Ms. Ranney, who taught him so much because of their different perspectives. He always appreciated the enormous patience that his board membership had brought. Mr. Rigas would carefully and continually instruct him, just as Ms. Witham did, because of his being a slow learner. Ms. Fisher would carefully mind and instruct him of his role. Dr. Millard, who has a very demanding job that deals daily with life and death, where the emotions have to be so intense, has not for a moment not stepped up to the plate and done her share or more. She is a woman of conviction.

Dr. Greenwald noted that he and Ms. Fernandez ran together for the Board of Education. She is a person who stuck to her “guns,” got the information she needed, spoke her mind was, most importantly of all, very much your own person and that has been a true gift of this board. He and Ms. Ranney have been become good friends and while they do not always agree on things, they have respect for each other. It has been quite a ride and he has learned much.

To B.A.T., Dr. Greenwald said it not easy with the Board of Education, and the caring and the feeding of the Board of Education well done at this school. The Board of Education came to know you and respect your talents. The school is fortunate to have them.

To Mr. Hunter, Dr. Greenwald acknowledged that working with him had been a pleasure and a lot of fun both as a colleague and a playmate and he hoped their relationship would continue.

Dr. Greenwald thanked Ms. Foran for her being highly instructed and showing him the way.

Dr. Greenwald stated that if cloning were legal, he would clone Gail Kalmerton. There is not enough of her to go around. She has amazing grace, patience and willingness to help. Nothing is too much for Ms. Kalmerton. Those of you joining the Board of Education, please know that you will be dealing with a one of the high school’s true treasures. He thanked Ms. Kalmerton for all of her help in keeping him on track for four years.

He noted that Dr. Bridge was a joy to work with and getting to know even better. He knew her heart’s desire was to make O.P.R.F.H.S. better. This is not an easy community to serve and the past weeks have been more difficult. He was accused of many things, i.e., shoving a decision through the board, making the decisions based on the moments, rather than the well being of the school. The people making these accusations and allegations do not know who he is not for what he stands, but all too unfortunately, people do not know the Board of Education members and believe only what they hear or read. These people are hurting the possibility of someone stepping up to take on the challenge of serving the community. People may say that they do not need this extra harassment, that they have a busy enough life not to take that kind of criticism, especially when it is not true.

Dr. Greenwald continued that what was seen in the last few weeks was a decline in civility, an ability to twist the truth, by people who claim to have the high school’s best interest at the heart. He was unsure of their interest. If people want young people to be civil, to respect honesty and

integrity, then he thought it needed to be modeled. He witnessed a tragic loss of all of those characteristics over the last couple of weeks. He concluded by thanking the Board of Education for allowing him to work with its members and for being a part of the process.

**Adjournment
De Sine**

At 11:05 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, Mr. Rigas moved to adjourn de sine the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Jacques A. Conway
President

John P. Rigas
Secretary