

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, in the Board Room of the high school.

**Call to Order**

President Greenwald called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A roll call vote indicated the following members were present: Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Dr. Dietra D. Millard (departed at 9:08 a.m.), Yasmin A. Ranney (departed at 10:25 a.m.), and John P. Rigas. Also present was Dr. Susan J. Bridge, Superintendent/Principal; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Cheryl Witham, Chief Financial Officer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board of Education.

**Appointment of Secretary Protempore**

In Board Secretary Fernandez's absence, Mr. Conway was appointed Secretary Protempore.

**Visitors**

Richard Perna, Coordinator of Student Safety and Sharon Patchak-Layman, community member.

**Approval of Check Distribution List Dated February 13, 2007**

Ms. Ranney moved to approve the check distribution list dated February 13, 2007, as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of the meeting); seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Closed Session**

Ms. Ranney moved to enter closed session at 8:38 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); collective bargaining and/or negotiations; and Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11); Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); and Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case

the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 10:30 a.m.

### **Mid-Year Update On District Goals**

Dr. Bridge presented the Board of Education with the Mid-Year Update on the District Goals (attached to and made a part of the minutes of the meeting). The four main goals are as follows. Each have numerous action plans attached to them.

Goal I: Intensify the campaign to use data with increasing effectiveness and efficiency to eliminate the academic performance and discipline gap within O.P.R.F.H.S. and to assure that it sustains the programs supporting the maximum achievement of each and every student served.

Goal II: Hire a new superintendent and determine the administrative structure for the 2007-2008 school year.

Goal III: Continue to identify and implement all available and appropriate means of sustaining District 200's financial stability well into the future to assure the fair and equitable use of district resources to achieve the main goals of the district.

Goal IV: Complete the research and development phases of several key projects and implement them, as appropriate and possible, during the 2006-07 school year.

Goal V: Through a variety of events throughout the school year, engage the students, staff, and communities in wishing this handsome, vintage building a very Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Mr. Conway stated that he has had conversations with students about the ways students talk among themselves regarding the achievement gap. He offered to pass those names on to Ms. Milojevic and Ms. Hill as possible participants in the All-School Institute Day Program.

Mr. Rigas was interested in the progress that had been made utilizing data within Skyward. Mr. Prale said there was little progress. Other systems to help with the disaggregation of data were being explored. Mr. Rigas asked if Crystal Reports was able to pull out data, and, if so, he suggested that a few people be trained to write reports in the program and assist others. Mr. Prale responded that the school can now tag students in Skyward, i.e., Academic Support, Athletics, Spoken Word, etc. and teacher aides are able to run reports, but it needs to occur more. He is continuing this conversation with Margie Downs of Data Processing.

Mr. Rigas was concerned about the students, not at the lower end, but those that were struggling in different areas and who were not telling

their parents and who were not going to their teachers for help. He emphasized that the knowledge is in this building and the school has to learn how to do the interaction. While parent access is good, it is not the end-all.

In doing research on a superintendent candidate, Mr. Rigas discovered that the candidate's school report card showed that the state ranked the school as excellent; however, it did not meet AYP. Where is the disconnect? How does a school rate excellent under one standard and does not meet or exceed in another. He found that intriguing.

**Student Discipline** Mr. Conway moved to rescind the held in abeyance contract status of Student Exp 5/16/06-23, because of a violation of a behavioral contract; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Conway moved to expel student, EXP 02/13/07-25, as of February 13, 2007, for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year through the first semester of the 2007-08 school year but to hold the expulsion in abeyance contingent upon completion of enrollment and regular attendance at an alternative school for the remainder of the 2007-07 school year through the first semester of the 2007-08 school year; ongoing counseling; and verification and maintenance of residency in the district; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard, Ms. Fernandez, and Ms. Ranney were not in attendance for this vote.

Ms. Fisher moved to expel student EXP 2/13/07-26, as of February 13, 2007, for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year through the first semester of the 2007-08 school year but to hold the expulsion in abeyance contingent upon completion of enrollment and regular attendance at an alternative school for the remainder of the 2007-07 school year through the first semester of the 2007-08 school year; ongoing counseling; and verification and maintenance of residency in the District; seconded by Mr. Rigas. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard, Ms. Fernandez, and Ms. Ranney were not in attendance for this vote.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Conway moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 10:51 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2007; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard, Ms. Fernandez, and Ms. Ranney were not in attendance for this vote.

Dr. Barry S. Greenwald  
President

Jacques A. Conway  
Secretary Protempore