

April 19, 2007

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, April 19, 2007, in the Board Room of the high school.

Call to Order

President Greenwald called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. A roll call vote indicated the following members were present: Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Yasmin A. Ranney, and John P. Rigas. Also present were Susan J. Bridge, Superintendent/Principal; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board of Education.

Appointment of Board Secretary Protempore

In Board Secretary Fernandez's absence, Dr. Millard was appointed Secretary Protempore.

Visitors

Kathi Kyrias, Director of Guidance, James Paul Hunter, F.S.E.C. Chair; and Sharon Patchak-Laymen, community member.

Old Business

Ms. Witham reported on the Township Treasurer's meeting held the prior evening at the high school. She stated that the group believes it will be ready to dissolve the organization by June 30, 2007. Mr. Sullivan and the audit firm would prefer that O.P.R.F.H.S. wait until the end, June 30, before it withdraws. Because of the dissolution, a committee, whose members will consist of the business managers of the various districts, will be formed for the purpose of deciding how to split the money and fees. The benefit to not withdraw as planned (May 1, 2007), is that O.P.R.F.H.S. would have representation on the committee, which would insure that 1) the costs were split among the districts proportionately according to the amount of services the Township Treasurer provided to each district, and 2) that O.P.R.F.H.S. participate equally on the distribution of revenue.

It was also announced at the meeting that more costs had been identified since the last meeting and there is now a \$400,000 deficit. That number could change with the June 30 reconciliation. Eighty bank accounts have now been identified. The audit firm feels that over \$400,000 is missing. Ms. Witham provided the Board of Education with a spreadsheet as to what the auditors thought each district's balances were versus the money actually discovered.

Ms. Witham next asked the Board of Education if it wanted the audit firm to do a forensic accounting. Forensic accounting is an

expensive item-by-item reconciliation, which can take years to complete. Ms. Witham reported that District 97 felt the balances were close enough and the representatives from the other districts said they would talk with their boards of education. Ms. Fisher felt District 200 should support a forensic accounting because fraud might be proven and the District could then sue. Mr. Rigas asked if a claim could be made on the bond, which would force the bond company to do a forensic auditing.

Mr. Rigas felt the District's fiduciary responsibility was to spend money wisely. If it were found that half of the interest calculations were wrong and/or someone took some money, there would be no return on the District's money. Dr. Greenwald concurred. Mr. Rigas added that the only person in the office who had any history was the Interim Township Treasurer, Gerald Sebesta. Ms. Fisher stated that if fraud could be proven, District 200 could recover the \$400,000. Ms. Witham was instructed to contact the bond company and legal counsel to find out the benefits under the bond. When she meets again with the group on Tuesday, April 24, she will propose this option.

Closed Session

Ms. Fisher moved to enter closed session at 11:33 a.m. on Thursday, April 19, 2007, for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); and 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 Mr. Rigas. Motion carried. Mr. Conway and Ms. Ranney were not available for this vote.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 12:16 p.m.

Adjournment

Ms. Ranney moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 12:18 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, 2007, seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Barry S. Greenwald
President

Dr. Dietra D. Millard
Secretary Protempore

