

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2006, in the Board Room of the high school.

Call to Order President Greenwald called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. The following members were present: Barbara P. Fernandez, Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, 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; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors Kay Foray, Director of Community Relations and Communications; James Paul Hunter, F.S.E.C. Chair; Richard Perna, Coordinator of Student Safety; Barbara Nelson, P.T.O. Chair (arrived at 8:54 a.m.); and John and Susan Curran, parents.

Visitor Comments None

Approval of Disbursement List Ms. Ranney moved to approve the Disbursement List dated October 17, 2006; seconded by Mr. Rigas. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion of Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Support Services Position Dr. Greenwald asked that the Board of Education members express their thoughts with regard to fulfilling the assistant superintendent of pupil Support services position next year and how those responsibilities might be managed. This position is presently unoccupied.

Ms. Ranney felt that the new principal's responsibilities would include most of the responsibilities assigned to the assistant superintendent of pupil support services, i.e., running the day-to-day activities, homecoming, dances, visibility at student events, games, athletics, discipline, etc. Dr. Millard felt that some of those parts should be incorporated at a lower level to which Ms. Ranney concurred. Ms. Ranney clarified that ultimately the principal would be responsible for everything, but she did not want to imply that the new principal had to personally handle the day-to-day responsibilities.

Mr. Rigas felt that the Board of Education was "shadow boxing" at this point, as the new superintendent may bring ideas for a completely different administrative structure. He suggested tabling this discussion until the new superintendent was hired.

Mr. Perna's retirement at the end of the year added to Dr. Greenwald concern about having someone assigned to this position, even temporarily, as discipline never ends. Mr. Edgecombe concurred and noted that while he and Mr. Perna were absorbing these responsibilities now, it requires a great deal of time and they sometimes learn the components as they go. Mr. Rigas concurred, but noted that the duties would be new to any new person. He suggested having a talk about the structure of discipline for next year, rather than the position itself. Ms. Ranney stated that the new superintendent will be charged with the responsibility of hiring a principal and by the Board of Education delaying this decision until that person is hired gives the superintendent choices. The hiring of the superintendent is imminent.

Ms. Fernandez hoped that the Board of Education would allow the new superintendent to decide the roles and responsibilities for this position. As a superintendent with experience, she hoped that the Board of Education would allow that person to refine, delegate, oversee, and reorganize, if necessary. There should be a line item in the budget for this position, but the Board of Education should not concern itself with filling this position.

Dr. Millard concurred with the other's statements. She is open to all suggestions and prepared to realign what is needed within the State of Illinois' limitations of finances. She favored leaving the position open thus allowing the new superintendent to make the decision.

Ms. Fernandez hoped that the Board of Education would keep its "balcony" view on this and allow the superintendent options. She did not want to feel like the Board of Education needed to hold this person's hand or influence him or her.

Dr. Greenwald asked if there were money in the budget for this position. Ms. Witham reported that the Coordinator of Student Safety is currently paid with some of those dollars. A new superintendent will have options. Presently, there is no line item for an assistant superintendent, but the budget for the 2007-08 school year will be prepared in the spring of 2007 and that can be incorporated into it.

New Business

Mr. Rigas was informed that the Athletic Department was over budget because of the expense of additional coaching stipends, officials, ticket takers, etc. Discussions are occurring with Mr. Huitema and Mr. Stelzer regarding this issue. As the District

continues to encourage students to be involved, Dr. Bridge stated that the response is not question the need, but to look at creating efficiencies to cover those needs. Ms. Ranney affirmed that the District has to stand strong about staying within budget. Ms. Witham stated that Mr. Huitema and Mr. Stelzer were charged with reporting to her on this issue.

Closed Session

Ms. Ranney moved to enter closed session at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2006, for the purpose of discussing 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), 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 Ms. Fernandez. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 11:20 a.m.

Approval of Student Discipline

Ms. Ranney moved to expel student EXP 10/17/06-11 as of October 17, 2006, for the remainder of the first semester of the 2006-07 school year but to hold the expulsion in abeyance contingent upon completion of the enrollment and regular attendance at an alternative school for the remainder of the first semester of the 2006-07 school year, ongoing counseling, and verification and maintenance of residency in District; seconded by Ms. Fernandez. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Dr. Millard moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 11:22 a.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2006; seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Barry S. Greenwald
President

Barbara P. Fernandez
Secretary