

November 7, 2006

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, in the Board Room of the high school.

- Call to Order** President Greenwald called the meeting to order at 8:56 a.m. The following members were present: Jacques A. Conway, Barbara P. Fernandez, 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; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board of Education.
- Visitors** Kay Foran, Director of Community Relations and Communications; Kathi Kyrias, Director of Guidance.
- Visitor Comments** None
- Approval of Disbursement List Dated November 7, 2006** Ms. Ranney moved to approve the disbursement list dated November 7, 2006 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.
- Approval of Course Proposal** Mr. Conway moved to approve the Artic Exploration Summer Field Course as proposed by the Science Division as presented; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- Closed Session** Mr. Rigas moved to enter closed session at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, for the purpose of discussing student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); 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; 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 9:52 a.m.

Student Discipline Ms. Ranney moved to charge tuition accrued for residency student RES 11/07/06-02; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business Township Treasurer

Dr. Greenwald informed the Board of Education members that the administration had created a draft letter requesting the Township Trustees to start criminal action against the former treasurer and to recoup the money from the unauthorized checks written by Mr. O'Connor just before his suspension. Discussion also ensued about asking the other school districts involved to lend their support in recouping these funds by having them sign the letter.

It was the consensus of the Board of Education members to seek reimbursement of these funds, as it is part of their fiduciary responsibility to the District. The Board of Education members added that the letter should not limit the high school's request to just the \$48,000 dollars paid out in unauthorized checks, but there would be freedom to amend that amount once the audit were complete. Ms. Witham informed the Board of Education that the Township Trustees were preparing a statement of fact to send to the State's District Attorney for criminal prosecution. She noted that the schools have the ability to file a civil suit as well, depending on the outcome of the criminal prosecution. Ms. Fisher felt that the two suits could be filed congruently and recommended. Ms. Witham acknowledged that there was a concern regarding a \$15,000 credit card bill. In response to just how quickly the money could be returned, Ms. Witham felt that the school should be reimbursed as soon as the courts determine that Mr. O'Connor owes the money.

It was also the consensus of the Board of Education members for Dr. Greenwald to contact the other presidents of the boards of education to ask for their support in 1) signing the letter, and 2) bringing a civil suit. It was troublesome to the Board of Education members to hear that some of District 97's Board of Education members were uncomfortable with their chief financial officer's remarks in the local media about the fact that Mr. O'Connor should be prosecuted. It is the fiduciary responsibility of the District 97 Board of Education to do everything possible to get the funds returned. Dr. Greenwald will first have a conversation with District 97's Board of Education president about its support and then specifically inquire about this reaction. Mr. Rigas suggested

bringing this action to a vote in a public meeting so as not to risk anyone's fiduciary responsibility.

Ms. Witham stated that the Township Treasurer also paid IRS penalties twice and had not filed for abatement. She asked the Board of Education for direction on how to pay this year's Township Treasurers' fees. It was the consensus of the Board of Education to delay payment at this time.

Ms. Witham explained that the staff in the Township Treasurer's office was focusing on payroll and tax services for those districts that do not do that for themselves. O.P.R.F.H.S. has the capacity to do these two things for itself. She thought that the reconciliation of last year would be completed in the near future. When asked how that was possible, she stated that the school districts had reconciled to the Township Treasurer's book, but not to the Blue Book or the actual bank statements.

It was suggested that Ms. Witham contact Mr. Sullivan, as a courtesy, and explain to him that these actions were being taken because, as a financial manager, she has the fiduciary responsibility to do so.

Adjournment

Ms. Ranney moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 10:20 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2006; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Barry S. Greenwald
President

Barbara P. Fernandez
Secretary