

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL
201 North Scoville Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60302

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

A Finance Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2008. Chair John P. Rigas called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. in the Board Room. Committee members present were: John C. Allen, IV, Jacques A. Conway, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John P. Rigas. Also present were Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; Jack Lanenga, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors included Kay Foran, Community Relations and Communications Coordinator; Doug Wiley, Supervisor of Finance; Tim Keeley, Purchasing Coordinator; John Stelzer, Director of Athletics; and James Hunter, FSEC Chair.

Acceptance of Finance Committee Minutes of April 15, 2008

The Finance Committee members accepted the April 15, 2008 Finance Committee Minutes, as presented.

Construction Update

The installation of airlock doors has had a significant affect on the temperature in the hallways involved. Mr. Lanenga was pleased with this result.

Turf Replacement Project

Mr. Lanenga provided the following background on the turf replacement:

“The turf on the O.P.R.F.H.S. stadium is in need of replacement. The Board of Education agreed with staff that the turf has become a liability for athletes. SRI, a company that went bankrupt, originally installed the field. Without a warranty, the only option available is to replace the turf.

His summary of findings included: “Five bids were received. The bid specifications indicated that O.P.R.F.H.S. would use an evaluation tool to determine the most qualified bidder. As part of the process, one or more members of the team visited fifteen (15) different fields. At least three references were checked for each vendor. Mr. Lanenga provided the evaluation tool used and actual bid tabulations. Summary reports of each reference check and field observations were included. There was a consensus of the committee that Field Turf is our unanimous choice for this project. The strong

references, the crisp definition of detail of its fields, obvious attention to detail, and the fact that it is a good company with a good reputation lead to the recommendation to use Field Turf.”

The recommendations were as follows:

- 1) The Board of Education approve the bid of Field Turf for the replacement of the turf at the O.P.R.F.H.S. stadium;
- 2) That staff be instructed to attempt to negotiate a lower rate with Field Turf. There is precedence for doing this with Field Turf, as the cost for demolition is subject to review. Mr. Lanenga felt that another \$30,000 in savings might be realized from the demotion cost.
- 3) Include in the approval alternate bid #2, the end zone lettering. This is the only opportunity to do this at an extra expenditure of \$15,000.

Mr. Rigas asked how the present turf would be disposed. Mr. Lanenga stated that it would be given to the driving range location on Madison Avenue and the driving range was paying for its transport to the driving range. Thus, the District will save transportation and disposal costs. In addition, the golf team practices at this location and there is a great opportunity to receive discounted rates for the O.P.R.F.H.S. golf team and save landfill space.

Eco field, which is plastic rather than re-used tires, stays much cooler.

Mr. Lanenga spent some time demonstrating the differences in turf provided the top bidder to the bottom bidder. Field Turf seemed to provide a superior product and better installation.

It was also the consensus of the majority of the Finance Committee members to include a center logo of “OPRF.”

Mr. Lanenga explained that points were deducted from a bidder who did not provide a warranty backed by a prepaid insurance policy.

It will take approximately three to four weeks to install the turf, scheduled from July 14 to August 11.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted there was a difference of \$50,000 between first and the last bidders. She did not feel that the references for Field Turf versus the other bidders warranted the high school spending an additional \$50,000 or more. Mr. Lanenga responded that after staff made site visits to different schools, making personal observations and given the amount of use the field receives, it was worthy of spending the extra \$50,000. However, Mr. Lanenga was convinced that after further negotiation of the demolition costs more money could be saved.

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve this bid at the Special Board Meeting to follow this meeting as presented, subject to the approval of the logo.

Athletic Screen Uniform Bid

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve the Athletic Screen Uniform Bid at its regular Board of Education meeting May 22, 2008, under the consent agenda, as presented below:

- 1) Badminton Uniforms and Girls Soccer Uniforms should be awarded to Salkeld Sports; and
- 2) Boys' Lacrosse Warm-ups and Girls' Softball Warm-up Jackets should be awarded to Boathouse Sports.

Printing bid

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve the Printing Contract with MECK Printing under its consent agenda on May 22, 2008, as presented.

Mr. Rigas noted that the high school should continue to evaluate what documents are provided in printed form, as many printed things are not read.

Class Ring

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve the Class Ring RFP to Jostens, which includes Total Ring Cost, Total Stationary Cost and Diploma Covers under its consent agenda on May 22, 2008, as presented.

Mr. Keeley responded to Mr. Conway's questions about problems with diploma envelope, last year. Mr. Keeley stated that there had been a miscommunication about the envelopes and a rush delivery was made. The Jostens's representative personally delivered them in time for graduation. This year, the caps and gowns would be delivered one week prior to graduation.

Prevailing Wage Resolution

It was the consensus of the majority of Finance Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve the Prevailing Wage Resolution at its regular Board of Education meeting on May 22, 2008, as presented. This will be presented under the regular Finance section.

Ms. Witham noted that the Illinois Department of Labor requires local bodies to adopt annually a resolution for prevailing wages to be paid to workers in certain job classifications.

Resolution to Transfer Funds

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to Transfer Funds at its regular Board of Education meeting on May 22, 2008, as presented. This resolution outlines the authority to transfer interest earnings and excess funds from the Bond and Interest Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

PTAB Resolution

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee members to recommend that the Board of Education approve the PTAB Resolution at its regular Board of Education meeting on May 22, 2008, as presented, under the Consent Agenda.

This Resolution will allow the Administration in conjunction with the law firm Franczek Sullivan, to file a request to intervene in Appeal Proceedings for the re-assessment of property within the District. PTAB requests have a negative effect on the property tax collection in subsequent years and the revenue cannot be recaptured. This request is necessary because the District must intervene within 30 days of notice. This resolution must be approved by the Board of Education annually.

Analysis of EAV

A Board member made a request at the April Finance Committee meeting to talk about the possible effect on the District's revenue if the total EAV in the two communities were to decline.

In Ms. Witham's written report, she stated that the fair market value of property in Oak Park and River Forest is not directly tied to the EAV that Cook County assigns to individual properties. In addition, it is important to compare the rate that the District is presently collecting to the maximum rate allowed.

The District's extended rate for the 2006 levy was \$2.751. The actual maximum rate allowable under the law is \$4.60. Senate Bill 1682, which was enacted in 2006, permits school districts to levy at the statutory rate while also remaining in compliance with PTELL laws. Although individual rates will still not be permitted to exceed the statutory ceiling, a taxing district's limiting rate will be the governor on its ability to increase its property tax revenues. The District's total levy amount would continue to be the previous year's levy amount plus the increase in CPI, not to exceed 5 percent, plus the

value of new property. The District can allocate the total levy among the funds. There is an inverse relationship between EAV and the limiting rate. In other words, as EAV increases, the levy rate decreases. Likewise, if EAV were to decrease, the levy rate would increase. The 2006 EAV in Oak Park and River Forest totaled \$1,953,507,430. The EAV would have to plummet to \$11,682,353 in order for the rate to increase to \$4.60, a decrease of almost 50 percent.

Adjournment

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.