

March 24, 2011

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, March 24, 2011, in the Board Room.

- Call to Order** Vice President Allen called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: John C. Allen, IV, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy McCormack, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were: Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Michael Carioscio, Chief Technology Officer; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Lauren M. Smith, Director of Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; James Paul Hunter, FSEC Executive Committee Chair; Katrina Vogel, Student Council Board of Education Liaison Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.
- Visitors** The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: Kay Foran, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; John Costopoulos, OPRFHS faculty member; Jason Dennis, OPRFHS Dean; Jacqui Charette-BassiriRad and Christine Majkrzak, of the OPRFHS Bookstore; John Bokum, John Phelan, and Maggie Skiver, Board of Education candidates; Ron Orzel, Chair of Citizens' Council; Wyanetta Johnson, Chair of APPLE; Attorney Ken Florey; Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*; Bill Dwyer of the *Pioneer Press*, and James Jaworski of the *Chicago Tribune*.
- Agenda Changes** It was the consensus of the Board of Education members to move the following items to the Finance portion of the agenda.
- Consent Agenda moved to Finance Agenda
 - F. Renewal of IHSA Annual Membership;
 - G. Legal Services for Human Resources;
 - J. Instruction Materials Fee; and
 - N. Funding of Technology Projects.
- Public Comments** Wyanetta Johnsons, 38-year resident of Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education about closed campus. She did not support closing the campus because she felt confining the student to the building would cause too much tension within the building. Allowing students to go outside during the day would release tensions.
- Status of FOIA Requests** Mr. Allen reported that two FOIA requests had been received and resolved.
- Board of Education** Ms. Patchak-Layman gave a "shout out" for the talent show held at the school. It was well attended and six winners received monetary awards. She also attended two of the three Spoken Word presentations, Rounds 1

and 2 round. OPRFHS was well represented and the team carried itself well.

Mr. Finnegan stated that education is under a huge attack in the news, probably stemming from NCLB, which was based on gains that had not happened in the first place. He thanked the incumbents and the other candidates for running for the Board of Education. It is vital to have discussions about the school in spite of the tides running across the nation that are detrimental to the students.

Mr. Allen stated that Mr. Conway was on a mission in Haiti, and Dr. Millard was chaperoning a school trip to India.

Principal Report

Mr. Rouse congratulated student organization BOSS for its second annual “You’ve Got Talent Showcase,” March 19. Over 250 students, parents, and community members watched more than 15 student acts ranging from solo pianists, guitarists, rap duos, accapella singers, Rihanna and Usher covers and dance troops. The event was well received and he looked forward to next year’s event. Thanks to Mr. Mark Vance, Faculty Sponsor, Ms. Debra Mittleman, Parent Outreach Coordinator, President Haley Hammond, Vice President Mariah Bender, and Special Events Coordinator Lindsey Allen.

He also announced the Scholarship Cup Award Recipients for the Class of 2011. This prestigious honor was first awarded in 1915 to the top scholar(s) of each graduating class based on seven semesters of Grade Point Average (GPA), and student of OPRFHS for five of the seven semesters. The sixteen students from the Class of 2011 have been identified to receive this honor at the June Commencement Ceremony. All Scholarship Cup recipients will be seated on the graduation platform, receive their diplomas first, and have their pictures and a 300 to 500—word statement in the program.

The following sixteen students will be named Scholarship Cup Winners of the Class of 2011:

Lucy L. Gill, Jacob S. Ginn, Matthew Goodsmith, Lindsey E. Jones, Nathan Aaron Landay, Elena M. Michaels, Benjamin J. Mildenhall, Isabelle P. Neylan, Zoe Rae Rand, Katherine Anna Ritter, Chiara Santiago, Gaia Soledad Santiago, Emma C. Silverman, Rachel Jaye Silverman, Ariel Rose Vincent, Maranna Yoder. Congratulations again to all Scholarship Cup Recipients!

This week marks the end of the third quarter at OPRFHS. Mr. Rouse wanted the neighboring community to know that the high school is working diligently to put measures in place to supervise appropriately and effectively the students during the lunch periods and around the perimeter of the school. Students are well aware that open campus is a privilege and not a right; therefore, they must be better at respecting the school and the neighbors by not creating disturbances

and loitering around the school. Another strong push will be made to continue the campaign of wearing IDs across the building in an effort to create a safer learning environment.

Next week is spring break and OPRFHS has five student groups going overseas: India, Spain, England, France, or Italy.

Student Council

Ms. Vogel reported that Student Council was involved in:

- Promoting a competition called “Minute to Minute”;
- Fundraising with the Japanese Club for Japan;
- Elections for Student Council offices;
- Huskie Palloozza;
- Science Spirit Assembly;

Enrollment Statistics

Mr. Carioscio presented the 2010-11 Official Enrollment Data and School Year Statistics dated March 2011. No discussion occurred.

District Reports

Citizens’ Council— Ron Orzel reported 1) Ms. Witham presented the proposed instructional materials fee. Some parents were paying less than the \$320 recommended but they were comfortable with it as it benefited the entire student body. Funds would still be available for those who could not pay that fee. Cindy Milojevic presented a report on those students who are under-engaged, fostering leadership, data points, and data collection. While the members were impressed with the extracurricular activities offered at OPRFHS, they wanted to see more intramural activities offered so that students will have additional opportunities to participate in their sports.

BOOSTER—Ms. McCormack encouraged everyone to buy tickets/tables for the Booster Auction to be held April 16 at Concordia University. Boosters is still taking donations for its silent auctions. Ms. McCormack noted that the appropriations process had begun. Cathy Yen, the new Performing Arts Chairperson, is working with Huskie Boosters, Music Boosters (the "CTA"), various parent groups and OPRFHS staff to form a more cohesive and functioning parent "Arts" group in order to promote community between parents, support student activities in the arts and foster school spirit and school pride in the performing and fine arts accomplishments. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 6 in the Staff Café.

Ms. McCormack noted that students would not participate in any way at the Booster Auction.

APPLE—Ms. Johnson stated that at last month’s APPLE meeting a very mixed group of parents attended and wanted to get more involved. Significant information was provided. Food will be served next month. APPLE also provided all of the Board of Education candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Superintendent Report

Faculty Senate—Mr. Hunter commented that this was the busy end of the semester: seniors are getting nervous, sophomores have growth spurts, and juniors are getting ready for the PSAE. He told everyone to enjoy the break and he encouraged everyone to buy tickets to the Booster's auction.

Dr. Isoye attended the MSAN Governing Board Meeting, in Arlington, W. VA. OPRFHS is a founding district of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN). MSAN is based out of the University of Wisconsin- Madison and focuses on research in mathematics, literacy, student/teacher relationships, and conversations about race. Arlington Public High Schools hosted this meeting and shared its success and knowledge in working with Courageous Conversations about Race, as well as how the schools are focused for the future.

OPRFHS continues its work with Courageous Conversations with its cohort of teachers and next year it plans to begin systemic discussions through a series of workshops.

Mr. Prale, Dr. Montoya-Kostro and Dr. Poyner-Brown of West 40, and he looked into different models of funding streams for alternative education programs. They visited the Morton Alternative High School, Maple Park Academy Achievers Program, and Harbor Academy.

Dr. Isoye attended a two-day meeting on strategic planning for the Illinois Math and Science Academy. This was an update session looking at its focus and the work to achieve the objectives of its five-year plan.

Dr. Isoye attended an area superintendents' meeting at which State Superintendent Dr. Koch was the keynote speaker. He focused on the current work at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Dr. Isoye continues to meet with the Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee of the ISBE. After a year, it is closer to having a design for a default model of principal and teacher evaluations based on state Public Act 096-0861. This work will help OPRFHS, as it will need to begin its own discussions in regards to evaluation systems as required by the legislation with the first target for the fall of 2012.

Pat Cermak donated 152 tickets to the Chicago Sinfonetta. The Sinfonetta was founded in 1987 in response to a lack of opportunity for minority classical musicians, composers and soloists. Twenty-three years later, the Chicago Sinfonetta remains the national model for promoting diversity and inclusiveness in orchestral music. The founding Maestro, Paul Freeman, will be celebrating his final concert as musical director at Dominican University on Sunday, May 22 at 2:30 PM. Mr. Cermak wanted OPRFHS students to have a unique opportunity to hear and see this group as it performs in this community. An

official donation letter will be in the April Board packet, but he hoped for an affirmation to move these forward to the Principal to determine how to distribute. Mr. Cermak knows the District through Wight and Company.

Dr. Isoye wished all a great spring break. OPRFHS never seems to stand still; it has tremendous energy and vitality. The break provides time for the students and faculty/staff to pause, reenergize, and get ready for the rest of the year.

Consent Items

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the consent items as follows:

- the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated March 24, 2011;
- the Treasurer's Report for February 2011;
- the Monthly Financials for February 2011;
- 2011-12 Athletic Uniform Bid;
- Authorization to Commence FY 2011 Audit;
- Substitute Rates for FY 2012;
- Commencement of E-Commerce;
- Special Education Bus Contract;
- Field Trip and Activity Bus Contract; and
- Asbestos Contract

seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Policy 3310

Mr. Allen moved to amend Policy 3310, Contracts/Purchasing, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes.

Policy 3820

Mr. Allen moved to adopt Policy 3820, Energy Management, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Policy 4105

Dr. Lee moved to adopt Policy 4105, Equal Opportunity, and Minority Recruitment, as presented; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Policy 2121

Mr. Allen moved to approve Policy 2121, District Leadership Team & Building Leadership Team, for first reading, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Policy 6133

Dr. Lee moved to approve Policy 6133, Consultation with Parents and Teachers regarding Title I Programs, for first reading, as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

New legislation is the cause for amending this policy.

Ms. Patchak-Layman offered that the PEG Committee members discussed closed campus and a substance and drug abuse proposal that had come forward by Parent Action Committee. The Committee members noted the items on which they wanted more information. If others had questions, they were encouraged to share them.

**Public Hearing
On Life Safety**

At 7:37 p.m., Mr. Allen called a Public Hearing on the Life Safety Amendment #21 (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting).

John Bokum inquired about the amount of asbestos remaining in the school. Mr. Finnegan explained that the answer was unknown, as it is unknown what is behind every wall. Some of the floor tiles are not yet friable and, thus, are safe. The District has hired a separate contractor to oversee the removal of the asbestos and one to remove it and this will take several years. Dr. Lee added that those in the asbestos removal industry drew up the laws about this and he did not believe the cost was justified.

Life Safety is a funding mechanism for generating funds and making sure the District has not missed anything that it must complete. An analysis was done 10 years ago and the items listed were prioritized. Item B, the next tier, will be completed with this funding.

Hearing no more oral or written comments, Mr. Allen closed the hearing at 7:42 .m.

**Approval of
Life Safety
Amendment**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the Life Safety Amendment #1, as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan; A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The projects being proposed for this summer include:

- Remove and replace existing ceiling system and light fixtures;
- Remove existing galvanized steel domestic water piping, replacing with cooper piping; and
- Remove and replace vinyl asbestos floor tile.

Construction

Mr. Allen moved to approve the contract with Henry Bros., as the construction manager, and the General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, for the 2011 Renovation, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee.

Mr. Florey explained the changes in the contract as was presented to them at the table. He satisfactorily responded to the Board of Education's questions regarding the scope of the work, the use of minority-owned and women-owned businesses, and the construction manager's comfort level in working with companies in which it had worked, and the fact that OPRFHS

will now pay for the insurance as part of the fee, which will cost the district less now than in the past.

A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Board Budget

The Board of Education continued its discussion from the Finance Committee about its budget for the 2011-12 school year. It reiterated some of the decisions it had made previously, e.g., include \$25,000 for a strategic plan, etc. The money that had been included in the Board's budget for Courageous Conversations about Race would now be part of the General Education budget for professional development. While discussion ensued about setting funds aside for not-yet-identified special projects, it was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members to add only \$7500 for future Board of Education retreats at this time. Other items, except for the hiring personnel, etc., could be considered at the April PEG Committee meeting.

IASA Annual Membership

Mr. Allen moved to renew membership in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and to abide by IHSA's Constitution, By-Laws, Terms and Conditions, and Administrative Procedures, Guidelines and Policies of the Association for the period July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Legal Services

Dr. Lee moved to approve the use of the legal firm Miller, Hall & Triggs, LLC to provide supplemental legal services for the HR Department; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

It was reported that 20 percent of this firm's staff is diverse.

Instructional Materials

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Instructional Materials Fee of \$320 for the FY 2012 school year; seconded by Dr. Lee. Discussion ensued.

The process for qualifying for the federal government's Free and Reduced Lunch Program would not change with the implementation of this fee. Its threshold is set in July but the Board of Education could discuss raising the threshold for the District. The parents would have to provide their information. If they do not qualify for that program, they could ask for a payment plan. In special situations where there is a loss of employment, illness, etc., the school works with the families. No family has flatly refused to work with the school. Most textbooks will be handed out at the Bookstore, but the materials in the classroom will be handed out just in time. All students will be assessed the fee even if they do not pick up for their books.

Ms. Patchak-Layman She did not see a line item in the budget to support fee-waiver students and asked if a new one would be established. Ms. Witham responded that historically the Bookstore has been a breakeven

entity and supported those who could not pay. The Bookstore will now use its revenue and ecommerce to drive down the materials fee. Perhaps in working with teachers about the way in which they use books, this fee may decrease in the future.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the District would add the same amount of dollars to the budget that had been received from the state for state-loaned books. Ms. Witham responded that the District was collecting the dollars and ordering the books of that value. If the District remains with the same purchasing system, it will have to go into the market and buy the books that will need to be delivered free.

Ms. Patchak-Layman stated that the new model works with averages, which means some pay less and some pay more. A model in which averaging is used means that students are subsidizing students who cannot pay. Ms. Witham explained that OPRFHS is not averaging. Every book, workbook, and/or consumable was reviewed and included in a five-year projection model, including the cost of salaries, etc. That cost is rolled out over five years and the school has been careful not to make the Bookstore another cost structure that would erode the school.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that this was a difference of opinion. She believed that the school had an obligation to provide those students on waiver with books, that they had not been considered, and the school took them out of the average. If they had been, the fee could be lowered by \$50 per student. She also believed that when students paid \$300 or \$400 for books, most of them received credits at the end of the year by reselling their books to the bookstore. People will be surprised to learn that they will not receive any money back and she felt this was problematic.

Mr. Finnegan noted that if the new model were not implemented the District would spend approximately \$80,000 on new software, \$80,000 on taxes, and an unknown amount for state loan books. He thanked the committee for the work it did on this. If the new model were not implemented, the cost of books would be higher next year. He appreciated the new model and he felt that spreading the cost across all families was the fairest decision. Ms. McCormack added that the fee includes the just-in-time materials, e.g., art supplies, workbooks, other packets and materials, etc. Mr. Allen felt that while Ms. Patchak-Layman and the community had raised some good points, he has not seen a workable alternative. Parents are now paying too much. Ms. Patchak-Layman stated that other suggestions were made but the District rejected them. One suggestion was to have rental fee of \$10 per book and a \$1 handling fee. She felt that the “just-in-time” delivery of items was a resolution to a past problem and should be separate from the materials fee. Were teachers teaching without the materials? This is a public school and it should be free. Instructional materials are part of education and they need to

be included in the price of it. Putting it into a cost center takes away from public education. Ms. Witham noted that other models had been reviewed and the District felt this was the best for it.

Ms. Johnson objected to the new model. She suggested lowering the pay of teachers/administrators and raising taxes instead.

Technology

Mr. Allen moved to approve \$340,570 in unmet expenses for technology projects for the 2011-12 school year to be taken from the River Forest TIF funds; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked the administrators about what impact the school could expect on education and academic performance of students with the implementation of these technology projects. She asked too 1) what other dollars were left in TIF fund and 2) what was the competition for these dollars. Mr. Carioscio noted that this list conveyed what was necessary to take place throughout the school so that the District has a standard platform, making it easier to deliver instruction. He explained that 1) all instructional areas will have wireless accessibility for one-to-one computing, 2) wireless capacity will be increased even further through a multi-year plan, 3) projectors will be mounted in the classrooms (half this year and half next year) in order to eliminate dangerous situation with carts, wires, tripping, etc., 3) tablet computers will be provided to teachers so that they have the opportunity to utilize technology effectively as another tool to improve curriculum, etc. Teachers using tablets have had good results, especially those in Math and History. The smaller requests include 1) the redesign of the website, 2) administering a pilot voice over IP telephone system, and 3) content filtering. Most of the items are focused on the District and instruction within it. Ms. Witham is brainstorming with the business managers of the other taxing bodies on ways to share resources: the superintendents have been asked to attend the next meeting. Any undesignated funds from the River Forest TIF will be used in conjunction with instruction.

**Personnel
Recommendations**

Dr. Lee moved to approve the personnel recommendations, as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of
Retirement
Requests**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the retirement requests as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the open and closed session minutes of February 24, February 26, March 10, and 15, 2011 and declared that the Audiotapes of the closed sessions in June 2009 be destroyed; seconded by Dr.

Lee. A roll call vote resulted in ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

**Public Hearing
On Calendar
Waiver and
Approval of
Waiver**

Mr. Allen called a public hearing on the calendar to order at 8:15 a.m. for the purpose of requesting a waiver from the ISBE regarding the observance of Lincoln's Birthday as a non-attendance day. In the waiver request, the School District is seeking the option of moving the nonattendance day to President's Day.

When asked by Dr. Lee why this was being requested, Mr. Hunter stated that the District traditionally chooses one day to honor both president birthdays and thus has fewer disrupted weeks.

Hearing no further written or oral comments, Mr. Allen closed the hearing at 8:53 p.m.

Mr. Allen moved to approve the waiver on the calendar, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Amendment of
2010-11 School
Calendar**

Dr. Lee moved to amend the 2010-11 School Year Calendar, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Based on the way the parent/teacher conferences and student attendance days are scheduled, OPRFHS will meet the requirements of student attendance for the school calendar even though two snow days were taken. The Board of Education also abated the remaining emergency days.

Non-agenda Items

None.

Closed Session

At 8:55 p.m., on Thursday, March 24, 2011, Mr. Allen moved to go into closed session to discuss 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 probably 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) 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; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 11:06 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2011, the Board of Education resumed its open session.

**Release of
Probationary
Non-Tenured
Staff**

Dr. Lee moved to approve the release of probationary Non-tenured teachers, as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 11:07 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2011, Dr. Lee moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Ms. Patchak-Layman. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

John C. Allen, IV
President

Terry Finnegan
Secretary