

January 27, 2011

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, January 27, 2011, in the Board Room.

- Call to Order** Vice President Allen called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: John C. Allen, IV, Jacques A. Conway, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard (attended electronically until 8:00 p.m.), 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; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; 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 Liaison; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.
- Visitors** The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: Kay Foran, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; Dr. Tina Halliman, Director of Special Education; David Zimmerman of the *Trapeze*, Peggy Swanson of the League of Voters, Liz Robinson, Co-chair of Citizens' Council; John Bokum, John Phelan, and Maggie Skiver, Board of Education candidates; Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.
- Changes to the Agenda** Changes included: 1) public comments were moved head of the Board of Education's comments, and 2) Approval of Policy 4015 for first reading was removed from the agenda.
- Status of FOIA Requests** Mr. Allen reported that one FOIA request had been received and resolved.
- Visitor Comments** No comments.
- Board of Education** Ms. Patchak-Layman spoke about three issues:
- 1) Communication to parents about changes made to a student's schedule mid-year, including non-core classes. She had received feedback from parents about changes made without notification to them or to the students.
 - 2) Do course recommendations reflect the Board of Education's goal of allowing all students to work at their highest and best? Colleges no longer look as intently at a student's scores but instead at whether the student is a "good fit" for the school. OPRFHS' selection process does not include direct contact with students prior to making the recommendation. While there is an over-ride system in place, the placement is made before the school knows who the student really is.
 - 3) More student involvement and participation in civics was important. None of the issues that come before the Board of Education is discussed with the Student Council Board Liaison Representative. Because the goals are to peak student curiosity and have students intellectually explore

things, i.e., through groups or teams, adults should model what is already being done for students.

Mr. Allen attended a meeting with the parents of the girls on “the list,” representatives of the high school, and the Oak Park and River Forest Police Departments. He was struck by the parents’ civility and the support that the students gave to each other and using this event as a way to grow.

Student Council

Student Council representative Katrina Vogel reported:

- 1) In response to the comments made by the administration about “the list,” on January 28, clubs, sports, faculty, and staff would be wearing T-shirts printed with the word RESPECT on them. In addition, the Star Club would write anonymous notes of encouragement to post on a bulletin board.
- 2) Student Council is seeking one representative from each club in order to be as diverse as possible.
- 3) Student Council will also have conversations about current issues, e.g., closed campus, etc.
- 4) The theme for the King of hearts Dane is Superheroes. Students will help donate to the Heart Association Found by purchasing the delivery of “crushed cans” to someone.

Principal Report

Principal Rouse reported that second semester started relatively smoothly and he congratulated the faculty on successfully closing first semester. Grades are accessible online and grade reports will be mailed home on January 28, 2011.

Regarding eighth-grade transition, Principal Rouse stated that residency verification for eighth-grade families was due the following week and that the Class of 2015 Open House was scheduled for Wednesday, February 2, from 6-8 pm in the Fieldhouse. He thanked Cindy Milojevic for organizing this event. Incoming students will have the opportunity to take a self-guided tour and all academic departments will be represented.

He also congratulated the OPRFHS Huskie Speech Team for its performance the week of January 15 at the Rolling Meadows High School Invitational Speech Tournament for taking 6th place out of 26 schools. It will also participate on Saturday, January 29, at Warren Township High School in Gurnee, Ill.

In an effort to establish more positive meaningful relationships with students, Mr. Rouse will begin hosting “Pizza with the Principal” once a month during lunch periods so that students have the opportunity to discuss topics relative to learning environment issues.

District Reports

Citizens’ Council— Liz Robinson, co-chair of Citizens’ Council reported the following:

- 1) Ron Orzel will be the Council’s new chair.
- 2) The PAC subcommittee was composed of a broad group of people.
- 3) The proposed energy policy was presented;
- 4) The communication strategy for the school and the vehicles that are available; and
- 5) Next month’s meeting is February 10.

BOOSTER—Ms. McCormack reported 1) 650 Student Directories still available for purchase, planning for its annual dinner dance at Concordia University was underway

and 3) Cathy Yen was the new performing arts chairperson who was putting together a committee of parents from various groups.

Alumni Association—The Alumni Association has two new board members, Scott Dunnell (a 1971 Graduate) and Claire Walter (a 2003 graduate and faculty member). Its board members are to take part in the conversations about closed campus. A lengthy discussion about summer grants occurred and the Alumni Association was hopeful that enough funds to provide at least a portion of summer programs for approximately fifty students and Alumni Association membership renewal.

Concert Tour Association—Ms. Patchak-Layman reported that the CTA spoke about procedures for granting special monetary requests for programs for students as its treasury has additional money because it did not need to put deposit downs for the Orchestra and Marching Band trips. CTA is also beginning a strategic planning process for the organization to develop direction and ideas for the coming years.

Faculty Senate—Mr. Hunter appreciated Mr. Rouse's comments as the faculty was working hard to close the semester and he thanked Mr. Allen for his comments.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Isoye made the following comments.

He too acknowledged that our community was hit hard with the coverage of the unfortunate incident targeted at the District's female students. The community is working to move forward and work towards a better way of having the students see the ramifications of this behavior. He thanked the faculty and staff, students, and parents for their support as the administration moves forward.

Dr. Isoye attended the Oak Park Council of Governments meeting.

Dr. Isoye attended a West 40 meeting for area superintendents where he learned about the most recent pieces of legislation passed by the state legislators from the executive director of the Illinois Association of School Administrators.

At a recent Rotary meeting, Dr. Isoye sat with Jan Pate of the YMCA and he met her special guests from Kosovo who were leaders studying Oak Park's local governance model through the YMCA and many other multiple agencies.

Dr. Isoye attended the Illinois State Board of Education Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee as an appointed member. This committee is working to advise the state on ways to support the new legislation in regards to evaluation of teachers and principals and a state model to assist boards when they begin to discuss adopting these evaluation systems.

The OPRFHS Administration continued its ongoing discussions with the Village of Oak Park about emergency plans.

Dr. Isoye attended the High School/College Partnership with area high schools that have students who matriculate to Triton. Triton also attended. Discussion included the various programs supported by this partnership and the work of the Des Plaines Valley Region, our partners in education, employment, and lifelong learning.

On January 29, Dr. Isoye will attend a law conference hosted by Franczek, Radelet. On the same day, many of the other administrators will attend the Northwest Personnel Administrators Association teacher recruitment fair at the Rosemont Conference Center.

Dr. Isoye attended a special meeting at the Boeing Company as it collaborates with the US Naval Academy on its outreach efforts to attract minority youth from the Chicago Metropolitan Area. Opportunities available to students through the Naval Academy are numerous and include a tuition-free education at the fifth best undergraduate engineering school in the country. One of the greatest challenges facing the Academy is the ability to identify, attract, mentor, and retain qualified minority candidates. He will participate in the conversation as it looks to broaden their scope.

The Board of Education's Committee meetings will be Monday and Tuesday, February 14 and 15, as Dr. Isoye will be attending the AASA Conference later that week.

Consent Items

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

- the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated January 27, 2011;
- the Treasurer's Report for December 2010;
- the Monthly Financials for December 2010;
- Authorization to Prepare Amended FY 2011 Budget;
- Authorization to Prepare FY 2012 Tentative Budget;
- the CDARS Deposit Placement Agreement;
- the Comcast Contract for increased bandwidth;
- the Food Service Bid for Commodities; and
- the agreement with Konica;

seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard had departed.

Ms. Patchak-Layman made a request to receive copies of legal bills received by the District.

Policy 4113

Mr. Allen moved to amend Policy 4113, Certified Personnel-Certification, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Motion carried. Ms. McCormack was absent from this vote and Dr. Millard had departed.

Policy 4122

Mr. Conway moved to approve Policy 4122, Substitute Teachers, for First Reading, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Motion carried. Ms. McCormack was absent from this vote and Dr. Millard had departed.

Gifts & Donations

Mr. Finnegan moved to accept with gratitude the gifts and donations as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard had departed.

Architectural Services

Ms. McCormack moved to approve the contract with Legat Architect for architectural services; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in three ayes and three nays. Motion failed. Ms. Patchak-Layman, Mr. Allen, and Dr. Lee voted nay.

Last month the District approved Legat Architect as the architect of record. Ken Florey of Robbins Schwartz Nicholas Lifton and Taylor, Ltd. is the legal counsel who is negotiating a contract, which will define the duties and responsibilities between the architect and a future construction manager, as well as strengthen the District's position. Approval would have allowed the negotiating process to continue in order to prepare for summer 2011 projects. The attorney made the recommended amendments.

Several Board members felt it was more prudent to wait until the fees for the extra services could be included in the contract before approving it, understanding there would be some time delay. Ms. Witham will also ask the attorney to strengthen the contract language regarding the use of environmentally designed alternatives and soliciting a diverse workforce per Board of Education member requests.

Ms. Witham suggested that the costs would be less, between 7% to 8.5%, and that negotiations were occurring on the 2011 projects and planning for those in 2012, which will be brought to the Board of Education soon.

Ms. Witham gave the example of a public versus a nonpublic bid as referenced in the contract. Should asbestos be found and in need of removal, a proposal would be provided but it did not have to be bid out. Legat would help the District to understand the proposal and, if appropriate, test for services, and monitor the work.

A complete contract will come back to the Board of Education for approval at its Special Board meeting on February 15, 2011.

School Energy Efficiency Project Grant

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the application for the School Energy Efficiency Project Grant; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard had departed.

Legat Architects assisted in the submission of this ISBE School Energy Efficiency Proposal Project Grant. The caveat is that the ISBE may not have enough funds to meet all of the application requests and, thus, the District may not be selected as a recipient.

2011 Summer School

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Summer School Stipends, Tuition and Dates (Schedule C); seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in three ayes and three nays. Motion failed. Ms. Patchak-Layman, Dr. Lee, and Mr. Conway voted nay. Dr. Millard had departed.

Mr. Allen moved to approve the Summer School Stipends, Tuition and Dates (Schedule A); seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in four ayes and two nays. Mr. Finnegan and Ms. McCormack voted nay. Motion carried. Dr. Millard had departed.

Stipends: No increase
Dates: June 15 through July 22, 2011
Tuition: \$180.00

Advisory Leadership Team

Ms. Patchak-Layman moved to approve the moved to accept DLT's recommendations to the Board of Education concerning the ALT with the amendment that rather than have four community members, they would be representatives of the Boosters, APPLE, Citizens' Council, and the Alumni Association; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in four nays and two ayes. Ms. Patchak-Layman and Dr. Lee voted aye. Dr. Millard had departed.

Ms. Patchak-Layman wanted parents to be part of this process, as they understood the school, had the financial expertise, and were willing to do the work. Citizens' Council was always available to be part of things and it would positive for the community to be included. She also opposed it being a closed process. While understanding her purpose, Mr. Allen felt her concerns would be met through presentations to the Board of Education. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the Board of Education intended to amend its original motion last month approving the FAC Report because it said this committee would advise and report to the Board of Education. This recommendation is a change from that which the Board of Education had approved. If its purpose is advisory to the Board of Education, then one cannot legislate that it be a closed meeting. Ms. Witham responded that the FAC would report monthly to the Board of Education via a committee meeting.

Mr. Hunter appreciated the interest in specifying from where the committee members came. The reason that the committee has worked so well is that people from different arenas have been present. Mr. Isoye stated that the original intent of FAC was to look for committee members who had a deep understanding of future planning and this model allowed for flexibility. Ms. Patchak-Layman reiterated that the expertise already existed within all of the parent groups.

Mr. Conway moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the Structure of the Advisory Leadership Team, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and one nay. Motion carried. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay and Dr. Millard had departed.

Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Lee moved to approve the personnel recommendations, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Conway as absent from this vote and Dr. Millard had departed.

The tutor in the In-school Suspension Center is a non-certified position because it is similar to that of an aide who provides educational support. When the job description was written 10 years ago, it was classified as a CPA position. The present job description is aligned with the previous one.

Ratification and Adoption

Mr. Allen moved to approve the Ratification and Adoption of Written Assurances of Provisions, as amended; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Conway was absent from this vote.

Page 126, Item B: Delete “and the Principal of the High School.”

Ms. Halliman reported that the District’s attorney had recommended the amendments to the Written Assurances of Provisions so that it was aligned with the law. The last part of this document includes procedures that not only comply with the law but also go beyond it. Realignment will occur again when there is a change in the law or in the District’s procedures. The ISBE in Springfield will keep a copy of this.

Discussion ensued about aligning the Board of Education Policy 6500, Special Education, to these as well.

Minutes

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the open and closed session minutes of December 16, 2010, and January 5, and 18, 2011 a Declaration that the Audiotapes of the closed sessions in April 2009 be destroyed; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay and Dr. Millard had departed ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman regularly votes no because the Board of Education does not have a process to review the closed session tapes.

**School Calendar
2011-12**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the school Calendar for the 2011-12 school year, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Mr. Conway was absent from this vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Allen appreciated the fact that the District would honor Veterans’ Day on the actual national holiday date.

**Superintendent
Contractual Goals**

Dr. Lee moved to approve the indicators of measure to be included in Appendix B of the Contract between Dr. Steve T. Isoye and the Board of Education dated April 15, 2010 and amended September 23, 2010, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard had departed.

As this was the first year of the contract, Ms. Patchak-Layman stated that these transitional indicators. She hoped that they would be more specific in the future, so that the community can pinpoint the work being done through the indicators.

Closed Session

At 8:40 p.m., on Thursday, January 27, 2011, Mr. Allen moved to go into closed session to discuss 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; 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); Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. The

placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in six yes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard had departed.

At 9:48 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2011, the Board of Education resumed its open session.

Student Discipline

Mr. Finnegan moved to withdraw student RES 01/18/11-01 and assess tuition charges in the amount of \$7681.59, representing tuition from the beginning of this school year through the end of semester one; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and one nay. Motion carried. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Dr. Millard had departed.

B&G Letters of Agreement

No action was taken.

Rescission of Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Finnegan moved to rescind the personnel recommendations; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard had departed.

Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the personnel recommendations based on information presented in open and closed sessions; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard had departed.

Adjournment

At 9:48 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2011, Mr. Conway moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Millard had departed.

John C. Allen, IV
Vice President

Terry Finnegan
Secretary