

April 28, 2011

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, April 28, 2011, in the Board Room.

**Call to Order** President Millard called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Jacques A. Conway, John C. Allen, IV, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy McCormack (telephonically), Dr. Dietra D. Millard and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were: Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; 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 Representative; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

**Visitors** The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: John Costopoulos, OPRFHS faculty member; John Phelan, Board of Education member-elect; John Bokum and Maggie Skiver community members; Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*; Bill Dwyer of the *Pioneer Press*, and James Jaworski of the *Chicago Tribune*.

**Student Recognition** The Board of Education moved to the third floor library to honor the Boys' Swim Team members, their parents, and their coaches for their perseverance and success during this challenging 2010/2011 swim year

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| David Anderson     | Benjamin Lewis   |
| Alexander Arsovski | Gregory Martin   |
| Michael Barron     | Samuel Munno     |
| Dmitry Baycharov   | Luke O'Connell   |
| Griffin Berg       | Sean Obrecht     |
| Nikita Bondarenko  | Kyle Patnode     |
| Christopher Brandt | Nathan Pimentel  |
| Harry Carpenter    | Lucas Pritz      |
| John Casey         | Patrick Raeder   |
| Thomas Casey       | Kelin Silber     |
| Alexander Darnall  | Logan Silber     |
| Hannah Garrigan    | Pavle Simonovic  |
| Benjamin Gronwold  | Stephen Skapek   |
| Mark Hallman       | Waylen Smith     |
| Samuel Heidorn     | Charlie Thompson |
| W Adrian Hernandez | John Verticchio  |
| Secter             | Gordon Watt      |
| James Kelly        | Alex West        |
| Colin Krueger      | Jonas White      |
| Grant Krueger      | Troy Williams    |
| Armando Lee        |                  |

**Agenda Changes** The Board of Education recessed and then reconvened in the Board Room, Room 213. It was the consensus of the Board of Education members to consider the following item under the Finance portion of the agenda.

Consent Item J: Approval of River Forest TIF Money for Instructional Technology

Ms. Patchak-Layman wanted an update on summer employment at the high school under "other."

Item No XI. B. Certified/Non-Certified Proposed FTE Summary for 2011-12 School Year was removed from the agenda.

**Public Comments**

None

**Status of FOIA Requests**

Dr. Millard reported that two FOIA requests had been received and were resolved.

**Board of Education Comments**

Ms. Patchak-Layman attended the Spoken Word final showcase of the season where the seniors were recognized and a scholarship award was made in memory of Ishmal Stewart, a student who passed away. Senior Christian Robinson received that scholarship. Each senior did a presentation for his or her senior activity.

Ms. Patchak-Layman, John Phelan, and Dr. Lee attended an intergovernmental gathering of newly elected members of boards of Oak Park where they were asked to share with their boards the continuing interest in having intergovernmental meetings and encouraged participation by sending representatives to the meetings.

Mr. Conway stated that before community discussions take place on closing the campus, discussions with the Chief of Police, Sam Carson, Director of Security, Micheline Piekarski, Director of Food Service, and Mr. Rouse, Principal, should occur in order to have an understanding of what this means to the community and to the school. If the decision is based on safety, the police should have a conversation about that. If the school locks everyone in here, the Principal needs to talk about the ramifications. If everyone must eat in the building, Ms. Piekarski needs to give her input about standing in line, the seating, etc.

He thanked John Allen for his service to the Board of Education.

Dr. Millard announced that a Special Board meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing in the Auditorium.

**Principal Report**

Mr. Rouse congratulated the junior students on successfully completing the Prairie State Achievement Examinations. The results of this exam are what the state uses to measure a student's college readiness. OPRFHS is hopeful that the results will speak to the high schools commitment to improving the educational services for students.

Mr. Rouse thanked Amy Hill and her administrative assistant, Ms. Lisa Evans, the faculty and staff testing proctors, and the PSAE Committee for their tireless efforts in making these past two days run smoothly. Faculty and staff stepped up to show support for the junior students by making T-shirts. The shirts and individual classroom PowerPoint presentations presented in junior classes echoed the importance of taking

seriously both days of the PSAE testing. During this same time, OPRFHS provided some Internet safety and Recognizing and Countering Sexual Harassment lessons to the sophomore students. Learning Targets for this lesson included the following I-can statements:

- I can distinguish between safe and unsafe practices when using the internet or electronic media.
- I can define cyber/electronic bullying
- I can define sexual harassment
- I understand how bystanders can contribute in harassment situations.
- I can list two reasons why internet safety is important.

Some of these ideas were sourced from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Virginia Department of Education websites. More importantly, a number of our colleagues reviewed and provided input on the materials used. He thanked Linda Carlson, Heidi Lynch, Amy Hill, Amber Hooper, Jonathan Silver, Joe Herbst, and Dr. Gwen Walker-Qualls whose early input in this project helped shape the result. He gave special thanks to Margo Bristow, John Condne, and the many students who helped produce this material and who helped develop the media. And, a very special thank you to Mr. Prale for his efforts in overseeing this project.

Mr. Rouse met with seniors in an assembly format to discuss the importance of finishing the school in good fashion and to discuss upcoming events such as prom and graduation.

Mr. Rouse reminded the community that the District's current goal is to ensure that the key stakeholders, in this case the Board of Education, have all of the information necessary to make the most informed decision about either keeping the current model of open campus, closing the campus completely for all students, or modifying open campus opportunities. If one believes there should be some incentive-laden plan for some students to earn the privilege to leave campus for lunch, that is NOT a closed campus. Closed campus means closing the campus for all students. He reiterated that the Board of Education is hosting a special board meeting to hear public comments on closing the campus on Wednesday, May 4 at the high school. In addition, a substance abuse educational forum for parents and teens will be held next Thursday, May 5 at the high school. Mr. Rouse thanked the High School Action Committee, and the Parent Action Committee for their hard work.

#### **Student Council**

Ms. Vogel reported that:

- Jeff Navy won the MR. OPRFHS contest. Eight students participated.
- Teacher Appreciation Day is May 3 and Student Council has a writing campaign for students to show their appreciation to teachers, divisions, subjects, etc. They will be posted in the Staff Café.
- Senior shirts are being sold.
- Student Council Elections will be held after AP testing.

#### **Student Discipline Report**

Ms. Bishop highlighted the areas in the discipline report

- 74% (3381 out of 4558) of all infractions committed are for failing to serve a Plasco detention or a detention issued by a dean;

- Add truancy to the number above (254) and the result is that 80% of all infractions are caused by truancy and failure to serve detentions;
- Class II infractions make up 95% of infractions committed by students;
- African-American students committed 62% of all infractions, a slight decrease from last year's 64%;
- African-American males continue to be involved in disproportionately more discipline infractions than students from all other groups, with 41% of all infractions, down just slightly from last year – 42%; and
- Sophomore students committed more infractions than students of all other classes did.

There may be fewer thefts reported because the Student Handbook contains a disclaimer that OPRFHS is not responsible for lost or stolen items and a reminder for students to keep their valuable possessions at home, and that it would be at the deans' discretion as to which thefts were worthy of their investigation.

There were no incidents of mob action and a slight increase in drug and alcohol abuse.

Mr. Bishop attributed the decrease of infractions by Special Education students to the work of the behavior interventionist. SWISS, a data collection system designed for ED programs, is used to monitor where difficulties have occurred in Special Education. PBIS has also been introduced to the ED program, a system of rewarding positive behavior, and the District is exploring the use of that on a bigger scale. She also credited PSS Teams for helping students.

Ms. Patchak-Layman was surprised at the low number of drugs and alcohol abuse infractions and she asked situations were not being referred to the counselor or dean. Ms. Bishop stated that if students are seen by the substance abuse counselor, the students are not "caught." The District must continue to educate teachers about what to look for with regard to substance abuse. Many teachers refer students who they think are high to Ms. Bristow, the substance abuse counselor, and she starts the relationship with the students, not the deans.

Ms. Bishop added too that The Oak Park Youth Township serves a vital role in the school community, yet, sadly, some of the neediest students referred to the Township refuse the service. The School Resource Officer's presence, knowledge, and interactions with the students are invaluable; he serves as a deterrent and is able to reach out to students.

Dr. Lee reflected on the school's change in philosophy, i.e., moving away from punishing the students for their violations to that of trying to change their behaviors. Teams of deans, counselors, social workers, etc., were formed. Is there data that shows that change helped? If the District closed the campus, would there be data to show that the change was beneficial, had stayed the same, or had deteriorated? Ms. Bishop stated that the number of students expelled had decreased because the focus changed. Layers of discussions occur about the students: first with the deans, then with the PSS Teams, and lastly a recommendation to continue to expel. This serves as a checks and balance so that no one group has a stronger hammer. When asked if it meant the District was just being easier on students, Ms. Bishop responded that it is a subjective perspective. The school has said it wants to deal with the students, their families—the whole

child—not just the act. When students are expelled, the expulsion is held in abeyance and they are offered an alternative education.

Mr. Finnegan asked for this report in the future to include the last semester data for comparison sake.

Mr. Bishop stated that the District has hired an ISS tutor in addition to the security monitor for the entire day and the first hour of detention. The tutor collaborates with teachers to get the students; work, proctor tests, etc. If a student absolutely cannot miss a class, he/she is allowed to go back to the classroom. OPRFHS's philosophy is different from that of most schools: students are allowed to make up the work they while in ISS or OSS. Teacher feedback is the best way gauge whether tutoring is working is whether teachers have been complaining about incomplete work and they have not.

BOOSTER—Ms. McCormack reported that Boosters had a very successful dinner/auction and the exact numbers will be reported at the May Board of Education meeting.

Alumni Association—Ms. McCormack reported that the Alumni Association was meeting next week about its scholarships. More information will be available after that meeting.

APPLE—Dr. Lee attended the APPLE meeting this month and both Mr. Allen and Ms. Patchak-Layman were present. Several guests and parents were asked to give short presentations.

Faculty Senate—Mr. Hunter reported that:

- Faculty and staff wearing T-shirts in support of the PSAE was a definite change in approach to testing. Both the faculty and the community had not previously understood the importance of the Work Keys test because of the school's high composite score. WorkKeys is about following directions, i.e. reading a memo, interpreting what to do, and then doing it. While it seems simplistic at first, the memos become more and more complicated and more poorly written.
- A professional development experience was held at the high school. The speakers included a parent of student with a disability, a disabled Spoken Word student, two brothers who went to OPRFHS (currently one is an employee and disabled) and Mike Powell who spoke about his condition. In addition, an attorney from Franczek Radelet talked about Special Education at the high school and complimented the high school on many things it does well. He thanked Dr. Tina Halliman, director of Special Education, for proving this opportunity.
- He was disappointed that some of the things being reported as truths were not with regard to closing the campus, such as 1) students regularly having sex in the alleys, and 2) kids who were in the building that did not belong.
- With regard to the discipline report, there has been real growth, which goes back to the truthfulness of the building. Parents are the ones who most frequently text their students. When it comes to those who want a closed campus, parents might say it is great for everyone else, but not for them individually.

- He was glad that the Board election had been competitive and he appreciated all of the people who ran for the office. He congratulated Mr. Phelan, Dr. Lee, and Ms. Patchak-Layman. He hoped the new Board of Education would be able to work together and decrease the time spent in meetings.
- He appreciated Mr. Allen's tenure, for his running of good Finance Committee meetings, changing the budget timeline schedule, helping to hire Dr. Isoye, and working with the community on difficult issues. He was glad he had the opportunity to know him.
- Because of family commitments, Mr. Hunter will not attend the May meeting.

Citizens' Council—Mr. Finnegan stated that Mr. Rouse and his team, Janel Bishop, etc. made a presentation on discipline and school climate at the last Citizens' Council meeting. Former Board member Bill Craig also made a presentation on Community Works. The new officers are Ron Orzel, Jan Pearce, Cathy Brand White, and Frank Lipo. The question was raised about what OPRFHS could do to market itself to college administration officers.

Tradition of Excellence—Ms. Patchak-Layman reported that the process to select the next tradition of excellence recipients would begin May 26. This will be the first activity of the new Student Council officers.

**Superintendent**

Dr. Isoye reported that before spring break, OPRFHS celebrated those students chosen for Human Relations Recognition, those students who had gone out of their way to exhibit exceptional behavior. Dr. Isoye was appreciative of the fact that Senator Don Harmon was the keynote speaker at this event.

Dr. Isoye attended a presentation by Dr. Marvin Lynn of UIC at the Purdue University at its Calumet Campus. His topic was on *Examining the Connection Between Teacher Beliefs and African American Males*, which included an historical perspective. His presentation also focused on two case studies that were part of his research.

Dr. Isoye attended the Illinois Association for School Administrator's Conference in Springfield, Illinois, which focused on technology in schools and how to shift the understanding of digital natives and adapt practices to the learning styles of youth today. It was also an opportunity to get updates about what is happening in the state and to network. He went from there to Bloomington for the ISBE's Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee meeting.

Dr. Isoye thanked Booster Chair Jill Haas and her many volunteers for the hours they put into planning the very successful Booster Auction.

Dr. Isoye thanked Liz Robinson for her leadership of Citizen's Council this past year. He appreciated her work and assistance with the meetings.

Dr. Granados, president of Triton College, gave Dr. Isoye an extensive tour of the Triton campus. It allowed him to understand better the programs that are discussed by the High School College Partnership and DVR.

Dr. Isoye attended the recent OPRFHS retiree lunch and thoroughly enjoyed hearing the stories from the retirees.

Dr. Isoye and Mr. Rouse will attend and speak at the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights Civil Rights Seminar 2011. They will be talking about bullying from a district's perspective.

Dr. Isoye thanked John Allen for his service on the Board.

**Consent Items**

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

- the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated April 28, 2011;
- the Treasurer's Report for March 2011;
- the Monthly Financials for March 2011;
- award of FY 2012 xerographic paper bid to Murnane Paper;
- Roll Over Bids as recommended by NIIPC;
- Award of RFP to Alpha Baking and Sara Lee;
- Award of RFP for NIIPC Dairy Products as presented;
- One-year contract extension with VIP for 2011-12 school year;
- Award of projectors to Midwest Computer Products;
- Award of speakers to Moran Electric;
- Award of Installation to Geary Electric; and
- The funding of instructional technology requests in the amount of \$128,430 from the River Forest TIF funds.

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

**River Forest TIF Funds**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the consent item River Forest TIF Money for Instructional Technology Request; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked this to be removed from the Consent Agenda because some community members were following these funds and wanted to know how the District would use them. The District planned to use these funds for something foundational and non-repeatable expenses. While it did not have to be approved by the Board of Education, doing so showed the District's due diligence in the bidding process and how this would be parsed out to various items.

**Student Discipline**

Mr. Allen moved to assess tuition charges for student RES 4/19/11-01 in the amount of \$9,148.86 for the days that student attended school in the District until the date of withdrawal on February 22, 2011; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes, one nay and one abstain. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay and Mr. Conway abstained. Motion carried.

**Policy 2121**

Dr. Millard moved to amend Policy 2121, DLT & BLT, as presented; seconded by seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Policy 6133**

Dr. Millard moved to amend Policy 6133, Consultation with Parents and Teachers regarding Title I Programs, as presented; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

With regard to the requirement of having sign in sheets as stated in the Parent Compact, it was noted that sign-in sheets are always asked in the 8 to 9 summer program.

**Gifts & Donations**

Dr. Millard 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 all ayes. Motion carried.

**District 97 and  
200 Food Prices**

Mr. Finnegan moved to the increased cost for both breakfast and lunch as presented for District 97 and OPRFHS for the 2011-12 school year; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked what this increase would mean to the OPRFHS budget. Dr. Millard reminded the community that the Food Service Department is not a profit center; this increase was to recoup expenses.

**Ombudsman**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the contract for 10 spaces with Ombudsman Educational Services at the rate of \$5,652 per slot; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Transfer from  
B&I Fund to  
O&M Fund**

Dr. Millard moved to approve resolution that outlines the authority to transfer interest earnings and excess funds from the Bond and Interest Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Transfer from  
O&M Fund to  
Capital  
Projects Fund**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the resolution to Transfer Funds from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee; A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Personnel  
Recommendations**

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

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that the personnel recommendations included the increase in salaries for nonaffiliated and Food Service employees.

Ms. Patchak-Layman had asked for additional information on summer custodians. She was concerned that the posting occurred two days before spring break and closed two days after spring break ended, leaving little time for students to be aware of these opportunities. She also asked how Special Education students were offered opportunities to work during the summer.

Ms. Patchak-Layman observed that both the Bookstore Manager and Director of Food Service would have salaries that were related to their respective budgets. As presented, the salary increases are from the General Fund. Because both positions are in special categories, it is hard to know whether these are appropriate salaries for next year, as they are being looked at in isolation. She suggested approving them with the Food Service and the Bookstore employees. She was also concerned about another level of disparity in the Food Service Department, one salary is way at the top, the



manager, with the rest of the salaries being less, even realizing there are differences in responsibilities. Ms. Witham affirmed that Ms. Piekarski works throughout the summer to process and categorize even though she technically does not work during the summer. Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that some of the actual salaries were broken out by funds. The District increased the cost of the meals, which feeds into the cost of the salaries. She did not feel it was appropriate to pull these salaries out of their departments' budget.

**Athletic & Activity  
Stipend**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Athletic and Activity Stipend positions and budget for the 2011-12 school year; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Administrative  
Compensation**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the administrative compensation package, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and two nays. Ms. Patchak-Layman and Mr. Conway voted nay. Motion carried

Ms. Patchak-Layman did not feel the community was in a position to increase administrative salaries at this point. While the District does have fund balances, a conversation is occurring about easing the taxpayer's burden; this is where the conversation has to start. Last year, she stated that the District could not afford to stay within the midpoint of the NWPA association as it has the largest numbers in the 2 ½ % of the retirements that TRS gives out the end of their careers. TRS reports that the District employee contributes 9.4% of his/her salary, the employer .56%, and the state 28% of the dollars used for retirement. While retirement is in the future for many OPRFHS faculty and the administrative staff part of TRS, the only way TRS can be addressed is by working with the state and the community and looking at our OPRFHS salaries. This year, in addition to increasing administrative salaries, the District is also contributing more to TRS. TRS says the members must contribute up to 9.4%, but administratively the District is contributing 3% to 5% percent, thus increasing its portion of the contribution. There are three administrative groups: DLT, BLT, and Division Heads. Within that composite there are enough questions and differences between each of those that give her pause when thinking how many days each of the groups are in the building, working with students, and how that computes with the other. She felt the increase was ill timed and she could not support it.

Dr. Millard stated that the Board of Education had become aware recently of differences in benefits and salaries across a variety of administrators and Dr. had been charged to review administrative compensation this year, which he did with other district administrators to look at differences between OPRFHS and other schools. There were many variables, e.g., vacation buyback days and how to remunerate the administrators with the budget restraints, etc. Not every administrator will receive the same across-the-board increases. Parts of the package are not perfect. Whenever salaries and benefits are in public view as all public servants are, there is dissent. Some of the increase will address inequities from years past. She appreciated Ms. Patchak-Layman's comments, but she supported the recommendations.

Mr. Finnegan noted the state has not put in the money that it is required to do.

Mr. Allen supported the recommendations because it immediately fixes some substantial and unjustifiable inequities and the package will reduce the school's total obligation by \$37,000.

- Release of Non-tenured Staff** Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Resolution regarding the release of non-tenured staff; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- Minutes** Mr. Allen moved to approve the open and closed session minutes of April 19 and March 24, 2011 and declared that the Audiotapes of the closed sessions in July 2009 be destroyed and declared that the Closed Session Minutes from January 1, 1989 to April 19, 2011 shall remain closed; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay.
- DWC Resolution** Dr. Millard moved to approve the Resolution Appoint Special Education Director as OPRFHS’s representative to the DWC Governing Board; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- Non-agenda Items** Ms. Patchak-Layman had clarified with Ms. Smith about how notices of student employment in the bookstore and for camps were handled. Since then, the Bookstore listed multiple positions, but no indication was given as to the number of positions available. She was concerned that students would be unaware that there may be more than one opening for a job and be discouraged from applying. Ms. Smith gave an update on the new student hiring process, noting that many departments had started their hiring process before the implementation of this new system. If a student were promised a job, that promise would be honored. The new process will be fully implemented next year. Regarding custodial work, some of the work special education students do during the year is not the same deep cleaning that occurs during the summer. One student is a senior and one graduated last year and are painters. Two more positions are being interviewed for and two students are applying. Students applying for sport camp positions are having conversations with the administration that are helping them go on line to complete the application. Next year the entire process will be centralized. Ms. Smith will also coordinate a job fair next year. The deadlines for posting depend upon when the notice for request of a position is received and approved, but usually it is five to ten days.
- New Board Members** Mr. Allen moved to acknowledge the new Board of Education members—John Phelan, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and Dr. Ralph H. Lee; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Cook County Clerk’s office, after having completed a canvass of all votes cast for the high school Board of Education Oak Park and River Forest 200, certifies that the listed candidates received the following vote totals.

| Candidates              | Votes |
|-------------------------|-------|
| John B. Bokum, Jr.      | 2,744 |
| Ralph H. Lee            | 4,359 |
| John Phelan             | 6,659 |
| Margaret Lattner Skiver | 3,280 |
| John C. Allen           | 3,905 |
| Sharon Patchak-Layman   | 4,979 |

Mr. Allen impressed Dr. Millard when he first came on the Board of Education, as he was distinguished and worked for the state of Illinois. While he was quiet in the beginning of his tenure, he helped her clarify information. He is direct, to the point, and he teaches in the way he interacts with people. She thanked him personally for being open and honest in the Courageous Conversations About Race discussions with the other Board of Education members.

Ms. Patchak-Layman too expressed her thanks to Mr. Allen for his service on the Board. She appreciated the way he ran the Finance Committee meetings and she liked the example he set of allowing the Board of Education discussions to continue when the Board of Education had differing points of view. On one issue, they have disagreements but on another, they do agree. It is the value of having seven members on the Board of Education with a variety of viewpoints that can make the best decisions for the District. His views helped to create a bigger picture on the issues before the Board of Education and she thanked him for the contribution.

Mr. Finnegan appreciated his friendship. He was a wonderful mentor to both he and Ms. McCormack in the first two years of their service and worked with the entire Board of Education with examples of leadership.

Mr. Conway was always impressed that Mr. Allen was able to attend Board of Education meetings after he had been in day and night meetings in Springfield. When he was not physically able to be present for Board of Education meetings, he participated by phone. He tipped his hat to him because Mr. Allen is a “classy guy.”

Ms. McCormack thanked Mr. Allen for tolerating her interruptions. She was very grateful for his service, for what he taught the Board of Education, and for what he had given to the students of OPRFHS. She thanked him sincerely.

Dr. Lee did not want to talk about Mr. Allen in the past tense because while his board membership is ending, his service is not. He was hoping to extend that tenure. The Board of Education will still ask much of him over the next several months to which Dr. Lee is thankful. Dr. Millard explained that Mr. Allen would continue to work with the Board of Education in the TIF litigation.

Mr. Allen thanked the Board of Education members for their kind words. In order to be an effective politician, one has to expect to be a one-termer; that was his motivation to get things done. There were only six hundred kids in his high school and the opportunities were not as great as those at OPRFHS. He enjoyed working with the teachers, watching the girls’ and boys’ swim team challenges, and he was impressed that the students never complained about it. He was proud to have worked with the members of this administration as they never made excuses or said they could not do something. They never shirked their duty throughout achievement gap issues. They acknowledged that it was their problem and they are continuing to resolve it, while the rest of the world denies responsibility for it.

He hoped the Board of Education members knew how he felt about them. He has a great deal of respect and fondness and he was proud of their respective wisdom

and courage. He was proud of the courage that the Board of Education showed when it sued the Village of Oak Park for the TIF money, as it was the right thing to do. He was also proud of the diversity and being part of the CCAR, "Teach Me How to Huskie," etc. He loves OPRFHS and he appreciated the other candidates. This is the quality of what is in OPRFHS, as they never attacked each other. He felt the community choose well.

Dr. Millard presented Mr. Allen with a plaque and was a resolution of appreciation as well (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

**Adjournment  
Sine Die**

At 10:31 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2011, Mr. Allen moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Dietra D. Millard  
President

Terry Finnegan  
Secretary