

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, August 26, 2010, in the Board Room.

Call to Order President Millard called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: John C. Allen, IV, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Amy McCormack, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were: Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Michael Carioscio, Chief Technology Officer; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Lauren M. Smith, Director of Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; 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; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; Janel Bishop, OPRFHS Assistant Principal for Student Services; Nancy Leavy of the League of Women Voters; Deb Quantock McCarey, Lisa Lourney, David Zimmerman, Laura Brennan, Tanya Castrogiovanni, Jessica Bullock, Sheila Carson, Kelly O'Connor, Roma Steinke, John Bokum, and Rance Clouser, community members; and Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

Changes to the Agenda None

Dr. Millard introduced the new members of the administration Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent and Lauren M. Smith, Director of Human Resources.

Status of FOIA Requests Dr. Millard reported that five FOIA requests were received and three were resolved.

Board of Education Ms. Patchak-Layman looked forward to an exciting year that included a Board of Education retreat, working on SIP, etc. She invited the staff and community to comment on how to provide a superior education. She wanted consistency in what is being said and what is actually being done. She hoped to see a completed plan for the transitioning of Special Education students back to the high school that includes measuring its success in order to determine if it is a model that should be continued. Ms. Patchak-Layman had brought forward at the Finance Committee meeting a resolution for a public policy question to be put on the November ballot about consolidating the school districts. However, because the State of Illinois changed the timing of approving these types of questions and other election protocols, the deadline has passed. She hoped that the school districts have this conversation for the future.

Ms. McCormack thanked everyone involved readying the school for the students. She heard from so many incoming freshmen that everything ran smoothly. Dr. Millard echoed those comments.

Comments

The following people addressed the Board of Education about Parent Action Cafés.

- Laura Lind of Oak Park and parent of two OPRFHS students;
- Sheila Carson of River Forest and parent of one OPRFHS student;
- Roma Steinke of River Forest and parent of two OPRFHS students and a Citizens' Council member;
- Deb Quantock McCarey of Oak Park, parent and member of Citizens' Council; and
- Kelly O'Connor of Oak Park.

It was explained that the Parent Action Committee (PAC) is a grassroots effort that grew out of the discussion of the forum hosted by Citizens Council on teenage substance abuse. Some members of PAC are also members of Citizens' Council. PAC's purpose is to set up circles of communication in private homes or public venues. The next one will be at Unity Temple on September 14. A townhall meeting will be held at OPRFHS in October in the Little Theatre. Trained facilitators in the World Café model will lead those discussions. Parents need help in understanding the limits and boundaries for teenagers and this is part of the message of the facilitators. Board of Education members requested a list of concepts and questions to be asked of parents. PAC has developed a Facebook page and created an OPRF Drug Free Oath, which is on the honor system.

On October 3, PAC will hold an event at Scoville Park with speakers, musicians, and a march of parents and teens to support these efforts and to show those who sell drugs that they are not welcome in this community. In addition, yard signs will be placed all over the community and the Police and local businesses are willing to post signs.

Mr. Finnegan stated that he and Liz Robinson, co-chair of Citizens Council, were very excited about PAC. He commended Citizens' Council for starting this effort and all of those involved for continuing this cause. PAC is a grass roots organization and stands on its own. He reflected that when raising his children, it was crucial to meet with the parents of his children's friends.

The Oak Park Youth Township has provided support for the printing costs, coordination of different activities, designing of the World Café format, space for weekly meetings, and an awareness of the communities, e.g., police officers and park districts, etc.

John Bokum, resident of 629 S. Home, Oak Park, noted his awareness of the situation. He felt the Board of Education needed to address two issues: 1) cell phones (text messaging) as it easy to deal drugs within the building, and 2) bringing in dogs to the building unannounced.

PAC would also like the school's assistance in cutting accessibility to drugs in and around the school. PAC has developed a school action subcommittee that will present its suggestions to Mr. Rouse and Mr. Isoye. Other subcommittees

include a school policy committee, a teen action committee, and a law enforcement committee.

Ms. McCormack noted that this was extraordinary effort and every adult is working hard to come up with creative ideas. Dr. Lee stated long ago that nothing could be done about the worldwide problems of drug addiction until it got to the point where families and communities could take the major role, as opposed to law enforcement agencies. He assumed that impetus would come from some place such as New York, San Francisco, or Los Angeles, not a suburb of Chicago, but he hoped it could. His concern was not just for the adolescent in these communities, but the United States as a whole.

Ms. Vogel, as president Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), offered this organization's assistance in this process.

It was the consensus of the Board of Education to give its unanimous support to PAC by allowing OPRFHS to be listed as a collaborative partner on its communication materials, just as other taxing bodies have done. Board of Education members were also invited to attend the Cafés.

Mr. Isoye thanked all of them for their work up to this point and for their future vetting. He agreed that OPRFHS should be a collaborative partner. He and Mr. Rouse will be the conduit to the Board of Education for all that they were doing.

Student Council

Ms. Vogel reported that Homecoming is October 9 and the theme is "Jungle." Over 200 students mentored incoming freshmen on their first day. A freshman barbeque is scheduled for September 10. Discussion is occurring about wearing lanyards; students are becoming more receptive once they understand the rationale.

Principal's Report

Mr. Rouse reported that OPRFHS had started on time. He thanked the Buildings and Grounds staff, the Educational Technology staff, as well as the Faculty and Support Staff for their hard work and patience during the summer construction and readying the building for the start of school. With the help of the Student Council president, 200 upperclassman mentors helped make the Huskie Boosters kick-off program the best he had experienced. Emily Hendrix, Student Council President, and the many sophomores, juniors, and seniors were thanked for their hard work. Over 300 parents attended the new student orientation meeting. Mr. Rouse thanked Cindy Milojevic, Assistant Principal for Student Services, for her work in coordinating the opening events. Students are now required to wear ID's. The Registrar's office, the Bookstore, Health Services, and the Counselors were able to assist 90% of the expected student body to register and to attend classes that week.

Certification of Summer Graduates

Mr. Allen moved to certify the thirteen (13) Summer 2010 Graduates, as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Post Secondary Plans

Mr. Rouse presented Assistant Principal Wiencek's Post Secondary Plans Report.

The transcript for the Class of 2010 indicates that 91.4 percent of our graduates plan to attend college: 75.5 percent to our-year colleges, and 15.9 percent to two-year colleges.

The majority of students are attending college in Illinois with Triton College and the University of Illinois at Urbana continuing as their top choices. Seven hundred seventeen final transcripts were sent to 214 colleges and universities.

The question was asked about students who wait to go to college and where they fit into this report. That information was not available at this meeting.

Foreign Exchange Students Report

Mr. Rouse presented the Foreign Exchange Students Report. The six foreign exchange students were from Germany, Italy, Ghana, Norway, Japan, and Thailand.

Student Discipline Report

Ms. Bishop reviewed the 2009-2010 Student Discipline Report, a report that is provided to the Board of Education twice yearly and she thanked Linda Spain, her assistant, for her help in putting the report together. In the summary of findings, overall, 6428 infractions were committed by students during this school year. Ninety-three percent were Class II, the second least serious class of infractions. Of the 6007, 5033 infractions were for truancy, tardies, or failing to serve a detention, which accounts for 78% of all infractions. In a large, suburban public high school, the fact that most of the discipline issues are attendance- and defiance-related (failing to serve detentions) is comforting in comparison to other high schools that have larger issues that are more serious. PlascoTrack records cumulative tardies.

Sophomores committed the most infractions and received the most consequences. However, of 6428 infractions, 6070 or 93% were Class II Infractions (Class I being least serious and Class IV being the most serious). Most students wear their IDs because they understand they must.

When referring to a counseling curriculum status, Mr. Rouse stated that the new Assistant Principal, Jeremiah Wiencek, has a social/emotional learning background and he is looking forward to reviewing the present counseling curriculum.

Ms. Patchak-Layman, noting that freshmen needed a school-wide program, asked what programs were implemented this past year to lower the discipline numbers, which programs were and were not successful. Mr. Rouse responded that the student-mentoring program was a work in progress and that 75 more mentors participated this year than last year. This cadre of mentors can help in a variety of ways. Mr. Rouse also noted that the District provides an 8 to 9 Connections Program, which has now been expanded to a 9 to 10 and 10 to 11 Connections Programs. Their purpose is to provide support to these students; these programs were successful. The District continues to find ways to help the students and feels that the components of the School Improvement Plan, e.g., PBIS and RtI, etc. will help serve the students.

OPRFHS continues to struggle with thefts in the building but it has been proactive in increasing student, faculty, and staff awareness of crimes of opportunities.

Mr. Rouse stated that when one looks at the statistics and the volume of infractions listed, it does not indicate how many times a student finds his/her way to the Deans' offices. The District recognizes how frustrating that can be for those in the African-American subgroup who feel marginalized because of the statistics. As an African-American male, it is frustrating. He speaks candidly with students about how business is accomplished. The District has to work harder to address social/emotion issues, as students struggle when in need of attention. That was the reason for the implementation of Spoken Word, an activity that strengthens student relationships to the school. Another effort to make connections is the class assemblies, run by upper classmen.

Students assigned to In-school Suspension will receive more tutoring services. Students assigned to an out-of-school suspension are provided tutoring also. When they return to school, they are 1) allowed time to make up their work, 2) do not receive unexcused absences, and 3) receive additional time with teachers before and after school. Ms. Bishop welcomed any other suggestions. Mr. Isoye stated that students receive tutoring at an off-site location but their attendance rate is not stellar in terms of their motivation. He was impressed that OPRFHS offered them something while they were gone. Ms. Bishop stated that while there is a philosophical argument as to whether OSS students deserve extra time; the message teachers receive is that these students are important and the expectation is they will be given extra time and that the teachers should make an effort to reach out to them. Mr. Rouse added that this is what separates OPRFHS from other schools. Not many schools will tutor students suspended from school and some expel students once they reach the age of 18.

District Reports

Citizens' Council—Mr. Finn noted that Ms. Robinson looked forward to the new school year and working with the Board of Education on any of its directives. The first meeting will be to set topics for this year, e.g., college tuition, lanyards, etc.

PTO—Ms. McCormack encouraged parents to reenergize PTO.

BOOSTERS—Mr. Rouse thanked the Boosters for their participation at freshman night.

Alumni Association—Mr. Finnegan reported that golfing event hoped to be an annual event.

Tradition of Excellence – Ms. Patchak-Layman that the Tradition of Excellence Committee will be meeting soon to get ready for the assemblies and to make sure all invitees will be able to attend.

APPLE – October 5 is APPLE's kick-off meeting.

Faculty Senate—Mr. Hunter welcomed the new school year noting that it had been a terrific beginning. He thanked the Buildings and Grounds staff, the Technology Staff and the Business Office for getting the construction projects completed in such short time. Mr. Hunter welcomed the new superintendent, noting that he had enjoyed

getting to work with him and looking forward to having a long and successful relationship. He hoped his career at OPRFHS would be as enjoyable as Mr. Hunter's teaching years. The faculty was thrilled by his remarks at the opening meetings and was looking forward to working with him.

During the August Finance Committee meeting, Mrs. Witham presented information on the 10-11 budget and cost containment efforts. John Allen pointedly requested that the members of the press make a sincere effort to share the news of significant cost savings, the stalling of deficit financing and other measures that illustrated the fine financial stewardship being employed by District leadership and all aspects of the institution. It was very disappointing that the *Wednesday Journal* did not acknowledge these outstanding accomplishments. It leads him to wonder about the editorial judgment of the paper and its ability to relay information to the community.

He continued that one of the best parts of the new school year is hearing from the kids that have left the high school for institutions of higher education, we hear from graduates about the value of their high school experience. They feel they are better prepared than their peers and that they received a more rigorous and rich experience than their fellow undergraduates, not those enrolled in major universities in North America, but also local schools, e.g., Triton or Harper, etc.

Mr. Hunter predicted a very exciting and productive experience for the students.

Superintendent

Superintendent Isoye thanked all of those involved in starting an exciting school year, including the students who performed at the Faculty/Staff breakfast, the Board of Education's appropriate action to jump start construction, the Administration, Buildings & Grounds, Technology, the Support Staff (the Bookstore, Security, Faculty, and Clerical) and the student mentors. He congratulated the faculty, staff, and administration, as OPRFHS ranked 606 out of 1,623 schools identified by *Newsweek* as having a ratio of 1 AP or IB test per student graduating; only 6% of American high schools fell into this category and OPRFHS's ratio was 2.169. Mr. Carioscio, Mr. Prale, and Mr. Rouse are spearheading an online textbook pilot this year for some students in Honors Chemistry and Biology. If OPRFHS has approximately 30% participation in its current inventory, students may opt out of purchasing non state-loan books in the future, which would allow OPRFHS to stretch its state-loan dollars if books did not have to be purchased for every student.

Consent Items

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

- the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated August 26, 2010;
- the Treasurer's Reports for July 2010;
- Contract with Pacific Education Group for the Beyond Diversity Training; and
- Flexible Spending and Cobra Contractual Services Contracts;

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

Policy 3030

Dr. Millard moved to adopt Policy 3030, Athletic Fields/Stadium Lights, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried

**Comprehensive
Therapeutics**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the Contract with Comprehensive Therapeutics, as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Personnel
Recommendations**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the personnel recommendations, 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.

AYP Report

Mr. Prale provided a report showing the results of those students who took the Advanced Placement (AP) exams in the 2009-2010 school year.

In 2010, 800 students took the AP exams, a 9% increase over the average of the last three years. Art History and Economics had a significant increase in the number of students taking these exams. District 200 students have maintained the strength and scope of the AP program, as the percentage of students achieving a score that is considered by college and qualifying, reached 86%, slightly higher than last year. The administration will bring forward ideas for increasing AP participation for underrepresented student groups and for supporting the success of those students in the AP Program.

Because the District is transitioning from one AP coordinator to another, it does not know how the number of students taking the test correlates to the number of students in the class. Students who are not taking the AP Courses can take the test and a large number do. When AP class registration is below twenty, students have to be distributed to other classes, meaning a higher enrollment in those classes.

Parents are encouraged to have their students take AP classes because they are the most challenging courses, not because they will receive college credit. OPRFHS has a strong dual credit program with Triton College because OPRFHS teachers satisfy its requirements. Four year colleges are now restricting credit for scores of three and 4; more select school now say a score of 5 may entitle the student to a placement, but not credit. OPRFHS teachers receive their students tests score. Mr. Prale thought there was generally a strong correlation between test scores and the coursework and that teachers were willing to modify their curriculum depending on what they learn from the College Board. The charge for each test is \$105. Everyone who wants to take these tests may as there are waiver programs from both the state and the College Board, and there are test prep scholarships.

**Approval of
Minutes**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the open and closed session minutes of June 24, July 15 and July 17, 2010 and to declare that the audiotapes of the closed sessions dated November 2008 be destroyed. A roll all vote resulted in five ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman did not believe the Board of Education should destroy the closed session tapes without an analysis of them.

Board Goals

Mr. Allen moved to approve the Board of Education goals for the 2010-11 school year as follows; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Goal 1: Racial Equity

The Board of Education will provide an inclusive education for all students and take action to eliminate predictability and disproportionality in student achievement and reducing systemic inhibitors to success for students and staff of color.

Action: The Superintendent will provide leadership in review of current programs and recommend appropriate measures and courses of action to accomplish this goal.

Goal 2: Student Achievement

The Board of Education will raise student achievement as measured by standardized testing and other measures to be approved by the Board.

Action: The Superintendent will provide leadership in review of current programs and recommend appropriate measures and courses of action.

Goal 3: Learning Environment

The Board of Education will provide a safe learning environment for students and staff in an effective and efficient way.

Action: The Superintendent will provide leadership for ongoing programs related to the management of the organization and recommend appropriate courses of action to achieve this goal.

Goal 4: Finance

The Board of Education will oversee the financial condition of the District to preserve prudent fund balances while maintaining and upgrading facilities and educational programs.

Action: The Superintendent will provide leadership and recommend steps to accomplish this.

Dr. Millard noted that while the Superintendent is to provide the measurables to the Board of Education meeting by January 15, discussion is ensuing about when this will be presented.

Ms. Patchak-Layman saw this as a transition year. The Board of Education goals should include measurable items and they should be aligned with budgetary procedures and calendars. After the goals are finalized, she wanted to address how they will fit into the budget cycle and whether the goals should be for one or two years.

Board Committees & Liaisons

Dr. Millard provided the following list of the Board of Education committee and liaison Representatives to the Board of Education members (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting.)

The co-chairs will work with the administrators and will rotate the leadership of the committees monthly.

Ms. Patchak-Layman felt having Board of Education members be liaisons to both the Finance Advisory Council and the School Improvement Plan Committee would be beneficial to the Board of Education and could be used in its discussions about policy and finances. When Dr. Millard asked if there were support for this, Dr. Lee stated that he supported it enthusiastically if he were appointed the liaison. He believed that one Board of Education member could not help but have an influence through the interaction with that committee and that would be disproportionate to the rest of the Board of Education. If he were not the liaison, he would not support it. He felt a hands-off approach until the committee makes recommendation to the Board of Education would be wise. Mr. Finnegan and Mr. Allen concurred noting that Board of Education representation might hamper the creativity of each of these groups to be able to discuss things in the preliminary stages. Ms. McCormack was neutral on the issue and asked if the committees requested a Board of Education liaison. If they had not, she did not support it. Dr. Millard noted that communication has been excellent and she did not feel the need for Board of Education representation.

Mr. Isoye thanked everyone for his or her input and he would work to insure that appropriate and timely communication is presented to the Board of Education.

**OPRFHS Support
Of Parent Café**

No further discussion.

Non Agenda Items

None.

Closed Session

At 9:36 p.m., on Thursday, August 26, 2010, Dr. Millard moved to go into closed session to discuss student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10) and 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); seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all yes. Motion carried.

At 10:30 p.m. p.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2010, the Board of Education resumed its open session.

Student Discipline

Dr. Millard moved to expel Student EXP 08-26-10-1 for the 2010-2011 school year but held the expulsion in abeyance contingent upon successful completion of an alternative education program. Although the student would be on social probation for the 2010-11 school year, should the student complete this program during the prescribed timeframe, the student would be allowed to participate in graduation; 2) seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Allen moved to instruct the Superintendent to send a letter regarding RES 05/27/10-5 decreasing the tuition from \$15,252.09 to \$12,252.09; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Ms. Patchak-Layman abstained. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 10:37 p.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2010, Dr. Millard moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Dietra D. Millard
President

Terry Finnegan
Secretary