The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, October 28, 2010, in the Board Room.

**Call to Order**
President Millard called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: John C. Allen, IV, Jacques A. Conway (arrived at 7:09 p.m.), Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Amy McCormack, and Sharon Patchak-Layman (arrived at 7:10 p.m.). 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 Curriculum and Instruction; 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; Jason Dennis, OPRFHS faculty members; Nancy Leavy of the League of Women Voters; John Bokum, community member; Christy Harris and John Massena of Concert Tour Association; Liz Robinson and Ron Orzel, Co-Chair of Citizens’ Council; David Zimmerman and Lauren Brennan of the Trapeze; Jim Jaworski of the Chicago Tribune, Terry Dean of the Wednesday Journal; and Bill Dwyer of the Pioneer Press.

**Recognition Resolution**
Dr. Millard moved to approve the Resolution Recognizing the 2011 Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Competition; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

2011 National Merit Scholarship Commended Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rebecca L. Baiman</th>
<th>Ellen N. Lesser</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rachel E. Brade</td>
<td>Jeffrey M. Levrant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Max C. Drickey</td>
<td>Isabelle P. Neyland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric K. Duwe</td>
<td>Caleb D. Nordgren</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma K. Dwyer</td>
<td>Rachel L. Shannon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah N. Green</td>
<td>Emma C. Silverman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colin I. Haber</td>
<td>Eric V. Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darcy L. Hargadon</td>
<td>Russell J. Trenary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsey E. Jones</td>
<td>Cameron Uslander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly D. Kovats</td>
<td>Daniel A. Weissglass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Changes to the Agenda**
No changes were made.

**Status of FOIA Requests**
Dr. Millard reported that of the four FOIA requests received, three were resolved and one is unresolved.

**Board of Education**
Mr. Finnegan commended everyone at the high school for helping to make
Mr. Conway complimented Dr. Millard for doing a wonderful job as president.

Ms. Patchak-Layman thanked the District for providing the Beyond Diversity Training, in which many District employees and Board of Education members attended. While that was a positive occurrence, she wants the school to be even better, e.g., better AYP scores, etc. The school owes each student the best education. She also felt that more work on the Beyond Diversity Training was necessary.

She thanked the administration for the follow up information about salaries. A concern was expressed last month about adults in the school receiving wages of less than $10 per hour. She felt that the adults in the building needed a livable wage. She wanted to provide the eleven employees who received under $10 per hour an income that would disqualify them from receiving additional assistance from the state and federal government.

She commented that most of the student employees do not have to go through the formal hiring process as now the solicitation occurs by word of mouth. All students need to know that these jobs are available and most pay minimum wage. Special Education students only receive $3 per hour, however, and that is neither fair nor inclusive. Everyone should feel equally respected; she wanted to discuss further the work in Special Education.

Ms. Patchak-Layman also asked that Board of Education members be informed when police are called to the school at the time the event occurs, especially when it concerns drugs and alcohol. She did not want to read about it in the local media. She continued that it is difficult for the Board of Education to do the correct planning for appropriation of funds if it is uninformed.

Dr. Lee read the following statement, “I want to express a few serious on-going concerns that were brought to the surface again for me by the lead story on page one of today’s Chicago Tribune. It stated that 91.6% of Illinois high schools failed to meet federal and state standards in reading and mathematics. Of course, this was not news to our board members, administrators, or faculty. We, like most other educators in this state, have been aware for several years that this federal law (called “No Child Left Behind”) was structured in such a way as to make it almost inevitable that all high schools were doomed to failure to meet the escalating standards by 2014, with the exception of a very small group of public schools that serve almost exclusively the healthy and the wealthy.
“One of my concerns was that, for many of those educators and parents interviewed by the Tribune, the problem was that schools that failed to adequately serve only 5 – 20 percent of their students were lumped into the same category as schools that failed to adequately serve 75 – 90 percent of their students. Their solution seemed to be “fix the law, not the schools.”

“My greatest concern was for us: we have complained about the inadequacy of the NCLB law and its unreasonable standards, and yet we have failed to set achievement standards that make sense to us. We have not even agreed that we should try to do this! We do not meet state and federal standards for reading and math, but we have not set reading and math standards for ourselves that can serve as means by which we can hold ourselves accountable for trying to make measurable progress toward any specific goal.

“Standards of achievement don’t have to be perfect in order to be useful. They do not even have to be based on very accurate measurements in order to be useful. However, they do have to exist in a clearly stated form, and they do have to be objectively measurable.

“When are we going to set useful standards of achievement for ourselves?

Dr. Millard thanked the subgroup from Citizens’ Council for its work and displayed the signs it had made with the message of “Clean Mind/Clean Spirit” which supports OPRF Drug Free teens. Should anyone want a sign, she suggested contacting Ms. Kalmerton. The Village of Oak Park is distributing a sign about alcohol as well.
this year. The correct number was 4.88, not 5.05. This corrected number eliminated the anomaly.

More students are taking more classes. A registration increase of .2 classes per student has a tremendous impact on the classes needed, i.e. fewer study halls and more classes that are academic. When asked about the scatter gram results of freshman versus seniors, it was stated that 500 freshmen take study halls, which was not included in this report. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors take, on average, six academic classes. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if there was a planning mechanism to look at the numbers and look at the FTE more specifically. She asked if the ability for sophomores, juniors, and seniors to take credited music classes would change these numbers and the response was yes.

**School Profile and State Report Card**

Mr. Rouse presented the 2010-2011 School Profile and the 2010 State Report Card.

Mr. Rouse will provide the Board of Education with the fourth and eighth grade National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores of the Oak Park and River Forest elementary schools.

**Student Withdrawal Report**

Mr. Rouse presented the Student Transfer/Withdrawal Report for the 2009 school year.

The following information was included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfers</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Withdrawals</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student/Family Withdrawals</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>195</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The label “Refusal to Attend under Student/Family Withdrawals may be re-labeled, as these students never actually attended and the label was misleading.

**Triton Evening School Report**

The Board of Education received a description of the Triton High School Completion Program. Two students had withdrawn from OPRFHS prior to the first month of school with plans to enroll in Triton’s GED preparation program. Five students were withdrawn prior to September 29 with plans to take Evening High School courses to earn their diplomas. In 2009-2010, five students successfully completed at least one Evening High School course.

The administration is looking at programs to track students after they leave the high school. When asked if OPRFHS pays for a student’s GED classes or evening high school programs, the response was no, however, if a student completes the program, he/she will receive a diploma. Students may use Triton as an option if they withdraw from school, but they may not use it as an alternative education while at OPRFHS.

**District Reports**

Citizens’ Council—Ms. Robinson reported that the key topic at the October 21, 2010 Citizens’ Council meeting was school finances. The Council commended the school on its budget management, its Triple A Bond Rating, and its actions to save money. Most of the information presented was new to the Committee members. The discussion included how to push this information positively into the community as well as the issue of the feeder school’s referendum, and the nature of referendums. The Council has been asked to brainstorm on the design of the new website. Its November 11 meeting will include a preview of the School Improvement Plan.
BOOSTERS—Ms. McCormack reported that Boosters had approximately 40 people at its October 6 meeting where there was a presentation from the Parent Action Committee on its goals, etc. Even though over 600 Student Directories have been sold, some are still available. The dinner dance/auction is being planned and is scheduled for April 16, 2011 from 6:30 to 12:00 p.m. at Concordia University. Appropriation funds were being spent by the high school. Boosters’ next meeting is November 2.

Alumni Association—Ms. McCormack reported that the Alumni Association had its summer award presentation October 25, at which time the students reported on what they did, e.g., music camps and trips that extended to other parts of the world, etc. It was a celebration of what the Alumni Association affords students. These are enrichment grants and the Alumni Association welcomes donations.

Concert Tour Association (CTA)—Christy Harris, co-chair of CTA, reported that CTA had sponsored the Huskie Music Fest Celebration, an event where all music groups in the high school performed. The turnout for this event was great and she encouraged all to attend the concerts this year. She also noted that the Marching Band won a contest this fall. The next CTA meeting is November 9.

APPLE—Dr. Lee reported that the October 5 APPLE meeting was well attended. The concerted effort by APPLE to bring in new leadership signals a managed infusion of new leadership. Mr. Isoye and other administrators were formally introduced at this meeting.

Village of Oak Park Interventionist Program—A program was held on the Youth Interventionist Program, its various services, its funding, and its expectations of funding. Representatives from every Oak Park governmental entity attended.

ED-RED—Dr. Lee, as the Board of Education liaison to ED-RED, will attend an ED-RED meeting on Friday, November 5 at 1:30 p.m., where the ED RED staff, based on its expertise and judgment, will talk about the kinds of changes it expects due to the elections.

River Forest Council of Governments—Mr. Allen attended the River Forest Council of Governments meeting where the governmental entities gave reports. The Village of River Forest hired a new village administrator who will start in November.

OPRFHS receives money from the Youth Township for the intramural program. They will be asking for more funds for the next year.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Isoye thanked the Boosters for its hard work to support all students in the school. Through its efforts last year, Boosters provided resources of $50,929, which went to Fine and Applied Arts, Science and Technology, Math, PE Wellness, Orchesis, Special Education, Athletics, the Stadium, and student activities. From this list, it is easy to understand how Boosters affected the whole school. Its hard work and generosity is deeply appreciated by all.

Mr. Isoye stated that the Alumni Association provides unique experiences for current students. Students were able to take trips to various parts of the world, some school sponsored and some through other organizations. Students participated in leadership
Mr. Isoye thanked the Alumni Association for its generous support of the students.

Mr. Isoye reported that Parent visitation day went very well. Parents had the opportunity to visit classes and see what the day in the life of their students looks like. Parents enjoyed it and their students probably tolerated it.

Mr. Isoye reported that OPRFHS continues to work with its Baldrige representative in examining the organization’s efficiencies.

Mr. Isoye met with State Senators and State Representatives. Earlier in the year, he met with Senator Harmon and Representative Ford, and more recently with Senator Lightford.

Mr. Isoye will attend two conferences in Chicago, one this week and one next week, both dealing with the nation’s concern of the achievement gap.

Mr. Isoye also emceed the Illinois State Board of Education’s “Those Who Excel” awards banquet in Peoria. It was a great way to represent OPRFHS. Over 600 people attended that evening and State Superintendent Dr. Koch presented more than one hundred awards. The main event was the naming of the Illinois Teacher of the Year.

The following Monday, Mr. Isoye attended the Illinois Principal’s Association’s annual conference and accepted his award for the Illinois High School Principal of the Year in Peoria. He was honored at being chosen and he enjoyed the opportunity to be with many of his colleagues from around the state.

The same day in Chicago, Mr. Isoye attended the governing board meeting for the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN), which is a cohort of districts examining the achievement gap through partnerships with research organizations and the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

OPRFHS continues to examine who it is and how it goes about its business through its work with Courageous Conversations About Race. A two-day Beyond Diversity workshop was held for teachers, staff members, Board of Education members, and administrators. It was an excellent experience for all.

Mr. Isoye continued that six administrators attended the T+L (Technology and Learning) Conference put on by the NASB during the past week. It was an excellent opportunity for the District to begin to understand how technology resources can enhance learning based on the needs of today’s students.

Mr. Isoye also reminded all to be mindful of their surroundings as they come and go from the campus, especially as daylight time occurs.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked how the current course of action relative to Baldrige fit into the committee process outlined in the contract. Mr. Isoye responded that he is working with the concept of Baldrige by incorporating it into some of the present work of the school so that it does not feel like an additional endeavor. At this point, over 35 internal people have been interviewed. Blueprint Education Group will be asked to present a mid-term report at the December Instruction Committee.
Mr. Allen moved to approve the consent items as follows:

- the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated October 28, 2010;
- the Treasurer’s Reports for September 2010;
- the Monthly Financial Reports for July, August and September 2010; and

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

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

Dr. Millard moved to approve the AT & T Contracts, as presented; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Ms. McCormack was absent from this vote. Motion carried.

The two contracts are for Internet Data Services. The District will be upgrading its current service from 11 MB to 41 MB. This update will assist the faculty’s ability to deliver instruction. The second set of contracts is a renewal of the AT&T voice contracts for three years for both local and long-distance services. The final cost will continue to be $1,580 per month. While there are only two providers of this service, AT&T and Comcast, Comcast did not have the services for this building previously; however, it will and then OPRFHS will have two providers in the building.

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Insurance Broker Consulting Agreement with Gallagher Bassett, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Ms. McCormack was absent from this vote. Motion carried.

The agreement is a three-year term with two additional one-year extensions at a rate of $42,000 for each of the three years.

Mr. Conway moved to approve the personnel recommendations, as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Smith reviewed the process for which a position is filled. After a requisition form is completed, both the Chief Financial Officer and Superintendent must review, and approve it. Human Resources will post the position, and then receives and filters the applications. Information is tracked relative to an applicant’s gender, the number of applications received, and the reason for either hiring or not hiring a person.

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the miscellaneous salary recommendations listed below; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Tutor: $30.00
Ms. Smith will provide the Board of Education with the money the District spent last year on after-school tutoring.

**Curriculum:** $27.50  
**Proctor:** $22.00  
**Room Supervisors:** $27.50  
**Facilities Supervision:** $15.00  
**Ticket Taking:**  
  - **Football:** $17.00  
  - **Basketball:** $17.50

Ms. Smith provided the Board of Education with the names of certified probationary teachers (attached to and made a portion of the minutes of this meeting). *The School Code of Illinois* requires teachers new to the District to remain on probationary status for a period of four consecutive full-time years before tenure can be granted.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the evaluation process remained constant for all the teachers first four years. Mr. Prale responded affirmatively but that during the fourth year of a teacher’s employment, appropriate documentation must be in order to remove the teacher. The District’s attorney provided the Division Heads with how to proceed with the evaluation process. In addition, every Division Head must attend a two-day workshop on staff evaluation. Mr. Allen charged the administration to have all of the administrative evaluations completed prior to April 1.

The Employee Personnel Information and Profiles for 2010-2011 is based on October 1, 2010 data. The number of FTE non-certified employees is 231 as of October 1. The number of non-certified employees is subject to change based on staffing requirements tied to a student’s IEP. Ms. Smith also provided demographics by age, department, and race.

The Faculty/Staff FTE Report is also reflective of the District’s status as of October 1, 2010. The number of certified staff is 230.4. The increase is attributed to additional sections in History, Mathematics, Science, and Theatre/TV Production. Other demographic information included the ratio of males to females, age, and race.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that the above information would be helpful when balancing all of the services provided at the school. One of the things discussed in Courageous Conversations About Race (CCAR) was that students should see adults working on their behalf and not just in categorized areas. It is important for the school to mirror the world and that the school is fair and equal in not only race but in gender.

Public Act 096-0434 requires that the Board of Education review the Administrative Salary and Compensation Report at one of its regular meetings. The Board of Education received this report as a requirement of the Act.
Mr. Allen reminded the Administration that the Board of Education had wanted the faculty salaries included on the website and added that Mr. Hunter had agreed to that so long as the faculty’s years of service were listed as well.

While the State Report Card is a comparison of schools throughout the state, it was noted that there was a wide divergence in the cost of living between the Chicago area and the southern part of the state.

**Sabbatical Reports**

The sabbatical reports of History teacher Linda Burns and Physical Education teacher Lucy Riner were presented to the Board of Education as part of the requirements of the Sabbatical Leave process.

**District Improvement Plan (DIP)**

Mr. Isoye reported that the District was working with West 40 to understand the requirements of the Rising Star Program. The DIP is not as difficult a task as the School Improvement Plan (SIP); the Restructure Plan will work with SIP on the questions. While there is an October 29 deadline, Mr. Isoye stated that District 200 was granted an extension for the Board of Education to approve the DIP as well as the Statement of Assurances. Mr. Isoye was confident that the Board of Education would want to see the quality of work before it signed a Statement of Assurances. Citizens’ Council will vet the DIP and additional updates will be given to the Board of Education. West 40 was happy to work with District 200 because it was going through the process for the first time as well.

**Project Lead The Way Grant**

Mr. Prale presented a draft of the narrative portion of the Kern Family Foundation Grant application to be submitted before the November 5, 2010 deadline.

The grant would provide $35,000 over three years and would provide an opportunity to help with the planning. Mr. Prale was unable to print out the entire grant because it only prints the “view” and not the entire response to a question.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked to see the physical plan and a draft of the budget. Mr. Prale responded that the District provided this information in an effort to be transparent. It represents a turn in Applied Technology and Applied Arts and there are implications for counseling, articulation with regional colleges, etc. This is a significant move for not only Curriculum and Instruction but for students.

Ms. Patchak-Layman likes to read grants because it provides unknown information to her. Her interest in the planning process for space was because of her interest in wanting more people to participate in District’s decisions on how facilities are used. While she felt PLTW was a good program, the Board of Education does not have an overall picture of how it fits into the curriculum and the space involved, had other requests been vetted, what considerations had been given to those who cannot use the space, or how other programs could use the space. She asked what would happen if no students were interested. Mr. Prale reported that the space already exists and the grant application proposal uses space allocated to technology. The challenge is to maximize available space and renovate it appropriately. Conversations with people from Buildings and Grounds, the Science Department, the Educational Technology Department, and
Ms. Patchak-Layman felt this made sense if the District had a strategic plan. Her concern was that if the grant did not come through, how this program would be funded. This grant changes the original intention for this to be a one-year program. Mr. Prale stated that the administration felt this curriculum was good for the students and the Applied Technology Department, as it provides pre-engineering-type of experiences. It is about strengthening the Applied Technology Department by taking some existing courses and applying Project Lead the Way to college standards. This grant may assist the District in building a program. The Board of Education will be informed if the grant is not received. PLTW has been successful in other high schools.

**Educational Technology Pilot Updates**

Mr. Carioscio and Mr. Prale presented a status report on the Educational Technology and Curriculum and Instruction collaboration on two technology pilots this year, both whose purpose is to gather information on costs, benefits, and issues involved with deploying new technologies in the District.

The first pilot is using online textbooks in Honors Chemistry 1-2 and Biology 1-2 (350 of the 700 students offered the opportunity took advantage of it). Students in this pilot may request a book for home use at any time at no cost because these are state loan books. Two publishers were used and the user-friendliness was substantially different. Publishers are moving in the direction of online books. The District continues to seek feedback from the teachers and students will be surveyed.

A one-to-one computing pilot in the Business Education Department will be offered second semester. Business Education teachers Bardo and Hostrawser, as well as ET Technician, Amit Martin, will visit area high schools to gather information on other one-to-one initiatives. Approximately 40 students will receive Lenovo Netbooks. Students may not substitute their own laptops in this pilot as consistency and standardization is important. It will also help the instructor troubleshoot.

**Minutes**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the open and closed session minutes of September 23, October 14, and 19, 2010, and declared the closed session audiotapes of January 2009 be destroyed; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

**Election Designee**

Mr. Allen moved to appoint Gail A. Kalmerton, as designated representative, to handle the receiving and filing of nominating petitions for the election to be held in and for District No. 200 on April 5, 2011. Authority is further given to her to delegate authority to carry out these duties when she is absent; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Superintendent Mentoring**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the mentoring agreement with School Exec Connect, as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
Mr. Isoye chose Dr. Allan Alson, former superintendent of Evanston Township High School, as his mentor.

**Non-Agenda Items**

In response to a question as to the status of the School Improvement Plan, Mr. Rouse stated that the District had submitted responses to the Smart Start Plan and was waiting to hear feedback from the RESPRO coaches before completing the other 71 indicators. The Board of Education will receive an update at the November Instruction Committee Meeting.

**Closed Session**

At 9:38 p.m., on Thursday, October 28, 2010, Dr. Millard moved to go into closed session to 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); Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all yes. Motion carried.

At 11:57 p.m. on Thursday, October 28, 2010, the Board of Education resumed its open session.

**Adjournment**

At 11:58 p.m. on Thursday, October 28, 2010, 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