

December 16, 2010

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, December 16, 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, Jacques A. Conway, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, 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; 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; Cindy Milojevic, Director of Student Activities; John Condne, OPRFHS Faculty Member; David Zimmerman of the Trapeze; Ian Everson, Mason Strome, 1994 Alumni, John Bokum, John Phelan, Candy Montanez, community members; Tim Philosophos, Chair of Huskie Boosters Spirit Committee, Robert Roble, Jill Haas of the Huskie Boosters; Ron Orzel of Citizens' Council; Nancy Leavy of the League of Women Voters; Patrick Brosnan of Legat; Dr. Allan Alson, Educational Consultant; Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

**Changes to the Agenda** Ms. Patchak-Layman asked that Personnel Recommendations under Human Resources be moved to Executive Session.

**Special Recognition** The Board of Education recognized the following for their participation of the creation of the "Teach Me How to Huskie Video"

Tim Philosophos, Chair of the Huskie Booster Club's Spirit Committee  
Mason Strom, 2004 OPRF alumnus  
Ann Petrolionas, OPRF alumna, Special Education Teacher and sponsor of the Dance Club  
Cindy Milojevic, Assistant Principal for Student Activities  
John Condne, Film/TV Teacher  
Senior Student Ian Everson  
Senior Student Nicole Acree

**Status of FOIA Requests** Dr. Millard reported that one FOIA had been received and was yet unresolved.

**Public Comment** Ms. Candy Montanez of 613 Highland Avenue, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education about the theft of her son's possession in the locker room on Friday, December 10, 2010. She was critical of the staff as she said it took five days for the administration to respond to her and that security was not helpful. She continued that the District focused on the fact that her son allowed a friend to put something in his locker. While she understood the policy, it did not take away from the fact that

he was the victim of the high school and as such asked for restitution. She provided Mr. Rouse with the receipts for the stolen items, which she had to replace. She felt the high school responsible because it mandates that students change their clothes and put them in a locker. She questioned why the locker room door was not locked.

### **Board of Education**

Ms. Patchak-Layman hoped the school could address Ms. Montanez's request for restitution and the question of valuables in locker rooms. While policy states that students should not bring their valuables to school, such things as ID's, lunchroom passes, etc., are also considered valuable. She asked to talk about security within the gym and other areas of the building involving not only the theft of iPod's or cell phones, but IDs, wallets, and keys. She also hoped for quicker response times. Parents on both sides of a situation need to have access to and conversation with school staff.

Ms. Patchak-Layman was happy to receive the information about in- and out-of-school suspensions, as it helped to build a better picture of what happens daily. She wanted to talk about how to provide academic programs for these students in combination with the discipline.

Ms. Patchak-Layman has had conversations with the Illinois Attorney's Office about the Open Meetings Act as to whether a meeting is open or closed. The criteria for whether it should be open or closed is not determined solely upon whether the committee was appointed by the Board of Education, but also by its duties, entity bylaws, whether its function is solely advisory, deliberative or investigative, has a budget, etc.

Ms. Patchak-Layman wished all a restful holiday with their families.

On December 6, 2010, Mr. Conway attended a program sponsored by Illinois HOPE, which focused on Illinois student dropouts. Funding of \$300,000 has been cut for re-enrolling students and 128,000 students are no longer attending school. A high school graduate earns \$400,000 more in their lifetime than a high school dropout and 20 percent of the dropouts end up in prison. Mr. Conway continued that eventually everyone would interact with these dropouts if these children were not now provided for. Ms. Patchak-Layman appreciated this information as every student deserves and needs the support of the school.

### **Student Council**

Ms. Vogel reported:

- 1) the Blood Drive went well and another would be hosted in the spring;
- 2) Student Council officers had a Christmas party last Wednesday, and
- 3) Student Council participated in the Teen Café at the Buzz Café, where six students discussed and decided:
  - a) closing the campus may not be appropriate,
  - b) drug dogs may be effective, and
  - c) drug testing would not be appropriate.

Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested structuring more student conversation about this subject during lunch hours.

### **Principal Report**

Mr. Rouse informed the Board of Education that a report from the Parent Action Committee (PAC) would be forthcoming. He then shared the video "Teach Me How to Huskie."

Mr. Rouse reported that the building would be closed the week of December 20 except for business related to the Board of Education election filings. It will reopen on December 27, 28, and 29. He wished all a happy holiday season.

## **Enrollment Projections**

The Board of Education received a report from Mr. Carioscio and Mr. Lanenga projecting future enrollments based upon historical demographic information, as staffing facilities, and finances are directly related to the number of students enrolled.

A significant increase in enrollment occurred in 2009-10 not because of an increased number of freshman or transfer students, but rather from a decrease in the number of students leaving OPRFHS. It was believed that this was an anomaly and the District should return to a flat enrollment. The expectation is that enrollment will stay flat for next year, decline for three years and increase in 2015-16, as enrollment reflects an increase from the elementary districts.

When asked when enrollment changed the number of FTE needed, the response was that it was difficult to make that type of correlation as many factors must be considered.

## **District Reports**

Citizens' Council—Mr. Orzel, co-chair of Citizens' Council, reported that approximately 70 parents participated at the December PAC Community Café. A representative from St. Pat's spoke about mandatory drug testing at that school and the subsequent ramifications. Other people from nearby schools talked about how dogs are allowed into the buildings. This was an informational meeting only. In general, parents were positive going forward with no expectation that anything happening right away.

At the regular meeting of Citizens' Council, the members were introduced to the Rising Star Program via the computer and, thus, were able to see the process, the phases, etc. The Committee felt this process was beneficial to the school and a step forward. Mr. Finnegan added that the members of Citizens' Council were very excited and asked many detailed questions. This was a good tool to help broaden the interest and knowledge throughout the communities.

BOOSTERS—Dr. Isoye reported that Boosters had discussed an event that would occur at the pep rally on Friday, December 17, and he encouraged all to attend. Its committees reported on the preparation for the auction. Debate ensued about the marketing of Huskies as many think that its purpose is only for athletics. Huskies Boosters, however, is about the entire school and includes academic areas, fine and performing arts, student activities and athletics. Often athletics get a smaller percentage of its fundraising than the rest of the school activities. Boosters want to broaden its scope in terms of people at the school. Dr. Isoye will continue to work with them on this project.

APPLE—Dr. Lee reported that he met the four new officers at the last APPLE meeting. APPLE is attempting to revive its membership and get more parents involved, generate new ideas, tutoring, and reaching out to parents in the school community. Mr. Rouse presented the School Improvement Plan and asked for

input. One suggestion was to hold small group meetings to hone in on the AYP statistics.

**Superintendent Report**

Dr. Isoye attended a presentation by Dr. Chance Lewis, professor and author, on the achievement gap, hosted by Melrose Park School District 89 and West 40.

A 2008 alumna while interviewing Dr. Isoye as a class assignment told him how much she appreciated her own OPRFHS experience.

Dr. Isoye met with faculty and staff during the lunch periods to talk about the school, his thoughts, and the District's future.

Dr. Isoye attended his first Rotary meeting as a new member.

Dr. Isoye met with the associate superintendents several times this month to ensure a smooth transition from the associate districts to the high school.

Dr. Isoye met with several leaders of the school subcommittee within PAC and more information will be forthcoming from that group.

Dr. Isoye thanked the Board of Education for continuing the Holiday Tea as the current faculty and staff and retirees appreciate it.

Dr. Isoye told the story of the return of a ceramic Crest, one of three, that had gone missing in 1968.

**Consent Items**

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

- the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated December 16, 2010;
- the Treasurer's Reports for November 2010;
- the Monthly Financial Reports for November 2010; and
- Youth Interventionist Proposal;

seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Boulanger had presented a reworking of the funding schedule at the Finance Committee meeting and while OPRFHS' share increased, both Oak Park and River Forest Township's portion increased more. Based on what happens with other governing entities, OPRFHS offered to absorb a higher cost, as had another governmental entity.

**Policy 3910**

Dr. Millard moved to adopt Policy 3910, Identity Protection, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Mr. Conway abstained. Motion carried.

**Policy 5144**

Dr. Millard moved to adopt approve 5144, Food Management Program, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

- Policy 4113** Mr. Allen moved to approve Policy 4113, Certified Personnel-Certification, for First Reading, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Mr. Conway abstained. Motion carried.
- Policy 4122** No action was taken on this policy at this time.
- Public Hearing** Mr. Allen called the Public Hearing on the 2010 Tax Levy to order at 8:15 p.m. Receiving no written or oral comments, the hearing was closed at 8:16 p.m.
- 2010 Levy** Dr. Lee moved to approve the 2010 Levy, as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all five ayes, one nay, and one abstention. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Mr. Conway abstained. Motion carried.
- Administrative Services Agreement** Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Administrative Services Agreement with Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company, NA; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all six ayes. Mr. Conway was absent. Motion carried.
- Pilgrim Parking Agreement** Dr. Millard moved to accept the new terms of the contract with Pilgrim Church for a three-year period, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- The terms will be \$55,000 for the first year, with a 1% increase for the second and third years. The weekend events will now number five, rather than four events. The District had paid \$54,555 plus \$600 for football.
- Architect of Record** Ms. McCormack moved to approve Legat Architect, as Architect of Record; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.
- Ms. Patchak-Layman had reread the statute concerning architects of record. She offered that often districts have multiple architects of record, allowing them to secure the qualifications and delegate the work. The statute allows the District to say who is first on the list. If the first firm on the list were unable to do the work, then the next capable entity would or would do a second project. An architect of record means that the firm will present a proposal for the work and the District will negotiate the contract. Having only one architect of record, does not allow the District to negotiate the best price. She suggested the backup plan of having two architects of record 1) Legat and 2) FGM. Thus, if negotiations were unsuccessful with Legat, the District would negotiate with FGM without having to go through another RFQ. Ms. Witham responded that if an agreement were not reached with Legat, then negotiations would commence with the next firm on the list and then the next until a successful agreement was reached. The District's recommendation is for an architectural firm that has experience in many areas, but this does not preclude the District from using a different firm nor requesting of the Board of Education a difference experience without first going out for another RFQ.

Mr. Brosnan, from his vantage point, stated the District had followed the standard process of making an RFQ, interviewing the applicants, ranking them, and making a recommendation. He could not think of a project that his firm was not able to handle either with in-house expertise or by reaching out to consultants. He was appreciative of having the opportunity to work for OPRFHS.

**Gifts & Donations** Dr. Millard moved to accept with gratitude the gifts and donations (attached to and made a copy of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Local Ethics Commission Members** Mr. Finnegan moved to approve Julie Mann and Tom Olis as members of the OPRFHS Local Ethics Commission for calendar year 2011; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**School Improvement Plan** Dr. Lee moved to approve Phase II of the School Improvement Plan (SIP), as presented; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

West 40 granted OPRFHS a submittal extension. Conversations would continue with parents about this plan and discussion was occurring about posting this on the website and holding a townhall meeting at some point prior to the last submittal date in April. Phases II and IV will list programs such as tutoring, special math classes, etc.

**Minutes** Mr. Allen moved to approve the open and closed session minutes of November 18 and 23, and December 7, 2010 and a Declaration that the Audiotapes of the closed sessions in March 2009 be destroyed; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

**Non-Agenda** An explanation was given about the transition of students from associate districts to the high school. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked for specific data, e.g., range of data by grades across courses, EXPLORE Test scores, etc. Should parents disagree with the course recommendations, they have the option of overriding the decision, after being given the explanation as to why their child's recommendations. Ms. McCormack noted that she, as a parent, had been impressed with the information presented.

**Closed Session** At 8:54 p.m., on Thursday, December 16, 2010, Dr. Lee 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. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all yes. Motion carried.

At 10:57 p.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2010, the Board of Education resumed its open session.

**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 Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman did not support the motion because she was concerned about the hourly salary scale of the cafeteria cashiers.

**Adjournment**

At 10:59 p.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2010, Dr. Millard moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Ms. Patchak-Layman. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Dietra D. Millard  
President

Terry Finnegan  
Secretary