

July 15, 2010

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, July 15, 2010, in the Board Room of the high school.

Call to Order

President Dr. Millard called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m. A roll call indicated the following members were present: John C. Allen, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy Leafe McCormack, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and Sharon Patchak-Layman (arrived at 7:47 a.m.). Also present was Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Lauren M. Smith, Director of Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board of Education.

Visitors

Kay Foran, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; Robert Zummallen, OPRFHS Director of Buildings and Grounds; Tim Keeley, OPRFHS Purchasing Coordinator; James Paul Hunter of the Faculty Senate; Nancy McGinnis OPRFHS staff; James Zuehl of Franczek Radelet; Paul Keller of Ancel Glink; Patrick Cermak, LeeAnn Meyer-Smith, Jose Roscoe, and James Nagel of Wight & Company.

Construction Update Due to the strike by the labors and operating engineers, the summer construction had been halted since July 1. After an assessment of critical points of instruction, contingency plans were developed. A list of items that must be completed in order for school to open and a list of areas that could be functional, although not totally complete, were provided. Other items scheduled for completion may be deferred to a future date in order to 1) save money or 2) reduce the workload for the next six weeks, e.g., tuckpointing and caulking, the elevator shaft, landscaping, etc. The impact of the strike would be minimal if work resumed in full by Friday, June 16 or Monday June 18. Wight volunteered to pick up the additional costs of adding shifts in order to complete the necessary work to meet the school opening. Wight prided itself on schools opening time. If construction did not start the following day, it was estimated to cost the school an additional \$5,000 per day for labor and other costs.

The Board of Education was informed that OPRFHS could take legal action and it was suggested that this be discussed in closed session. Wight was available for this discussion.

Note: No OPRFHS employees were impacted by this strike.

Closed Session

At 7:52 a.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2010, Mr. Allen moved to enter closed session for the purpose of 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 Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 10:04 a.m.

Dr. Millard reported that the Board of Education was interested in completing construction at the school as soon as possible and, thus, would convene a Special Board meeting on Saturday, July 17, 2010 at 8:15 a.m. to consider how to get the construction workers back to work.

**Approval of
Check Distribution
List**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the check distribution list dated Thursday, July 15, 2010, as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

While the specifics were unknown at the time, the Board of Education was later informed that the laptops being purchased were part of the District’s plan for regular replacement of these items.

**Approval of
Treasurers’ Report**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the June Treasurer’s Report as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

While the next five-year plan will show a decrease in interest income, Ms. Witham reported that the present income returns were still above market. She reduced the expected income in the amended budget.

**Grand Prairie
Contract**

Dr. Lee moved to approve the contract with Grand Prairie; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Personnel
Recommendations**

Mr. Conway moved to approve the personnel recommendations as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); 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 did not support an additional 1.0 FTE position in Special Education.

Student Handbook

Dr. Lee moved to approve the modifications to the *Student Handbook* as presented with the additional enhancements noted below:

- Letter B, Line 1: Replace “If a student repeatedly violates school policies and procedures, the student may be suspended out of school for up to 10 days.” A student may be disciplined pursuant to the code of conduct which may include suspension for up to 10 days.
- Letter C, Line 2: Start a new paragraph after the word “law.”
- Letter C, Line 3: Add (10-22.6) after the word “Code.”
- Letter C, 2nd Para: Delete the words “The Illinois School Code (10-22.6) provides as follows:”

seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and two nays. Ms. Patchak-Layman and Mr. Allen voted nay. Motion carried.

Board of Education members stressed the importance of educating the staff and students about the practice and legalities of these new interventions and consequences.

Student Names & Addresses

Mr. Conway moved to approve the request by State Representative Camille Y. Lilly for labels with the names and addresses of graduating seniors; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Board of Education Committees & Liaisons

Dr. Millard distributed last year’s list of Board of Education member committee and liaison assignments for the 2010-11 school year. Final assignments will be made at the Board of Education retreat. Dr. Millard wanted to rotate the responsibilities of the chairs and affirmed that the Board of Education would continue with the committees-of-the-whole format.

Discussion of Retreat Planning

Mr. Isoye asked the Board of Education to consider some questions to help it and he establish a good working relationship, including its expectations, and its desired operational aspects. He also suggested inviting someone such as Linda Hanson of School ExecConnect to facilitate three or four Board of Education retreats throughout the year in order to be able to have in-depth, ongoing conversations about professional development. While a discussion of suggested dates occurred none was decided upon.

Ms. Patchak-Layman appreciated Mr. Isoye’s document as the model of governance was first and foremost. She hoped that Dr. Hanson would be able to address the local governance and elected official component of this at the retreat. She felt that the missing component in this model was the legal responsibility. Dr. Millard encouraged the Board of Education

members to talk directly with Dr. Hanson in order to make the retreat as profitable as possible.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if Dr. Hanson's involvement with other boards had been independent of her involvement as a search firm. She was concerned that a consultant might not be able to separate out possible judgments formed when acting as a recruiter. When working with OPRFHS, Ms. Patchak-Layman did not want to respond to an analysis from another time. Mr. Isoye stated that the springboard of the conversation would come from the design expertise of Dr. Hanson and it would be based on the conversations and what the Board of Education determined.

Several Board of Education members wanted to reserve judgment about having more than one retreat with an outside facilitator, as they felt the direction would be set at the first meeting and that Mr. Isoye could move it forward from there. This would also be a less expensive option. Mr. Isoye stated that facilitators were an efficient way to provide the expertise to have conversations that would allow him and the Board of Education to be clear about the outcome.

Closed Session

At 11:28 a.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2010, Dr. Millard moved to enter closed session for the purpose of 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 Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 12:10 p.m.

Adjournment

At 12:11 p.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2010, Dr. Millard moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Dietra D. Millard
President

Terry Finnegan
Secretary