The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, November 17, 2011, in the Board Room.

**Call to Order**

President Millard called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Valerie J. Fisher, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy Leafe McCormack, Sharon Patchak-Layman, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and John Phelan. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Cheryl L. Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations and Treasurer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

**Closed Session**

At 6:32 p.m., on Thursday November 17, 2011, Dr. Millard moved to enter closed session for the purposes of discussing 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; 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); 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 probable 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. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education reconvened its open session at 7:31 p.m.

Joining the meeting were: Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Tina Halliman, Director of Special Education; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; and James Paul Hunter Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair.

**Visitors**

The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: Kay Foran, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; Chala Holland, Assistant Principal for Instructional Administration; Dan Cohen, Division Head for English; Terrie Raeburn, chair of Students 4 Success (AKA PTO); Wyantetta Johnson and Burcy Hines of APPLE; John Duffy, Meg Reynolds, Melanie McQueen, John Bokum, Jr., and Eric Miller, community members; Bill Dwyer of the Pioneer Press; and Terry Dean of the Wednesday Journal.

**Public Comments**

Mr. John Duffy, resident of 604 Gunderson, Oak Park, addressed the Board of Education about a conversation that the Citizens for Equity and Excellence in Education were having. Mr. Duffy submitted a written copy of his statement to the Board of Education members.
Mr. John Bokum, resident of 629 S. Home, Oak Park, Illinois, addressed the Board of Education about the cost of special education services, staff attendance at IEP meetings at outside facilities, and the learning opportunity that can be gained from other schools. He also commented that many community members do not understand why OPRFHS has such a large surplus of funds and that legislation was being considered about the amount of money taxpayers to support a school.

**Board of Education**

Ms. Patchak-Layman thanked the community for bringing comments that were well thought out and researched. Ms. Patchak-Layman attended the CCAR Summit, which some staff members also attended. Ms. Patchak-Layman also attended a presentation on Senate Bill No. 7 hosted by Senator Lightford for many schools in her legislative district.

**FOIA Requests**

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

**Introductory Reports**

**Faculty Senate Report**—Mr. Hunter reported 1) many professional development opportunities have been made available, and 2) the high school does not do a good job of informing the public about the intensity of the school’s work. Dr. Millard thanked the teachers for their hard work every day.

**Superintendent Report**

Dr. Isoye recently met with the Faculty Senate and talked about a variety of items germane to the school.

On Thursday, November 3, Dr. Isoye attended a testimonial session about the studies being done in regards to potential consolidation of schools throughout the state. It focused more on the efficiencies of districts and their partnerships with other governmental entities with cost containments.

On Friday, November 4, 2011, OPRFHS honored the Tradition of Excellence Award recipients: 1) Iris Krasnow of the Class of 72 is a writer, journalist, and professor; and 2) Phil Radford Class of 1994 is the Executive Director of Greenpeace. Both recipients addressed the students during the day and then there was a brunch celebration with family and friends in the Board room.

The Advisory Leadership Team met on several occasions in regards to finance projects. A recommendation will be forthcoming.

Dr. Isoye attended the West 40 IASA superintendents’ meeting at which time a new networking tool for superintendents was introduced by the IASA.

The District Leadership Team held a budget retreat in November. A two-day retreat will be held in January in preparation for the recommendations of the Quality Review Committee’s (QRC) and the Advisory Leadership Team (ALT) in preparation for the budget.

Dr.Isoye attended a PEAC meeting in Chicago to discuss the first wave of administrative rules. Dr. Tina Halliman attended the monthly DVR in his absence.

The Board of Education continued its review of the Policy Manual with the Illinois Association of School Boards on November 10, focusing on the school board and general administration.
Dr. Halliman, Mr. Wiencek, and Katherine Goldberg of Thrive joined Dr. Isoye in accepting the 2001 Community Partnership Award between Thrive and OPRFHS. This award is on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Thrive Counseling Center, recognizing its outstanding collaboration with Thrive Counseling Center to promote the week of youth in our community.

Dr. Isoye attended a Community Works Advisory Board meeting. The board received updates in regards to their success for all youth initiative, community leadership, and PlanitGreen.

Mr. David Davidson from Pacific Education Group spent two days at OPRFHS. The first day was for those who been involved with Courageous Conversations about Race for one to four years, called the LEADS group. The second day for the District-level Team to plan its work with CCAR and to utilize this as a lens in its work.

**English Division**

Mr. Cohen thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to present at this meeting and noted that he was honored and humbled each day of work because he gets to work with, learn from, and lead a group of 32 talented and caring teachers. Through these encounters, he has built relationships and learned the history of the school.

Last fall, the English Division created a set of norms that reflect the expectations of how the division will communicate with and learn, including that of celebrating each other.

Mr. Cohen then heralded the extracurricular activities that the English teachers were involved with at the school.

- Paul Noble and now Lauren Lee publish *Crest* with student editors and hundreds of pieces of student work;
- Dan Ganschow teaches, supervises and puts together the award-winning *Tabula* yearbook and has done so for 12 years;
- Liz Fox teaches and coordinates the production of the award-winning school newspaper *Trapeze*;
- Avi Lessing directed *The Sparrow* last year;
- Jessica Stovall, Devon Alexander, Mike Dorame, Glynis Kinnan, Laura Young and Andrea Neuman sponsor student clubs and student leadership organizations;
- Dan Ganschow, Peter Quinn, and Jay Lind are coaches;
- James Bell sponsored and organized the award winning Alexandria Frisch in the Shakespeare competition;
- Kristen Holtschlag and Brendan Lee organized and chaperoned a trip to Ireland;
- Naomi Hildner organizes the SILC program within the building;
- Marsha Blackwell and Catherine McNary have led Tier 3 reading tutoring last year;
- Devon Alexander designed and implemented the CCAR professional development opportunity;
Lauren Lee, Mike Dorame, Jessica Stovall, and Jim Hunter participate in CCAR;
James Paul Hunter is the head of Faculty Senate;
Dove Heider co-chairs the TCT Professional Development committee with Amy Hill and Chala Holland;
Sarah Rosas was a RtI coach last year;
Gisele Ramilo is currently in a graduate program to become a reading specialist;
Avi Lessing is on a sabbatical working on his dissertation and integrating SEL standards into the curriculum;
Bernie Heidkamp is leading the division in implementing technology;
Lauren Lee is an AP reader working to align the curriculum;
Sarah Rosas and Lynn Gilbertsen are presenting this weekend at NCTE;
SPOKEN WORD led by Pete Kahn, with the assistance from Jay Lind, have put OPRFHS on the map nationally, thanks to the film Louder Than A Bomb. Locally Mr. Kahn is responsible for supporting and challenging hundreds of students every year to find their voices and their strengths;
Catherine McNary is a literacy coach for the Science Division; and
Sarah Rosas is coaching some history teachers in her own time.

Mr. Cohen reported the English Division has:
1) determined the difference between formative assessment and summative assessments;
2) asked and answered the following question: What should every student know and be able to do by creating a list of reading, writing, and thinking targets for grades 9, 10, and 11;
3) looked at the Common Core standards of 46 states and used them to cross-reference or work with OPRFHS’s targets. Within those conversations, the dialogue moved from what is taught to what is needed;
4) Been integral in creating, promoting, and advocating for the new reading/literacy program for incoming ninth graders. This includes teaching Read 180 and LSR;
5) Shifted divisional culture rooted in building relationships and trust and provided feedback to each other;
6) teachers working with the history and science divisions to promote reading/literacy;
7) participated in a three-hour workshop on reading/literacy led by Sarah Rosas and Catherine McNary. Follow up occurred at the monthly division meeting with additional follow up at the November 23 Institute Day;
8) improved the teaching in College Prep courses through the use of learning targets and formative assessments;
9) infused reading instruction and raised the level of racial consciousness and discourse within the division;
10) improved reading instruction, reading scores, and built a common vocabulary around reading that will spread throughout the building;
11) implemented new LSR new courses;
12) administered the first on line school-wide adaptive test. The data is transforming instruction, placement, and communication with each other and students;
13) begun a basic audit of texts looking at gender, race, and ethnicity; and
14) begun creating a multicultural framework to evaluate curriculum that will help identify and name the complexities of both mono-cultural and multi-cultural curriculum.

Board of Education members expressed appreciation about the division’s focus on reading and teacher involvement in extracurricular activities. A concern was raised as to whether technology put a lesser focus on writing. While student ACT data on writing is available, Mr. Cohen said a disparity might continue to exist among classes. The District is starting with the learning standards, which will infuse working toward common writing assignments to see growth. Teachers are writing coaching. Mr. Cohen noted that the ability to speak was an essential piece to language arts.

Every Monday morning the English Division works with the Special Education Division on common language and building relationships. Last spring, the English Division met with teachers on alignment of those classes that are more segregated. The data shared with the Board of Education has also been shared at each English Division meeting.

Triton is piloting with OPRFHS on testing so that ORPFHS can develop a course for senior students identified as needing additional skills so that they may begin in regular college courses, not remedial ones.

**Preliminary Levy**

Ms. Witham presented the Preliminary Levy that will be placed on display for 30 days with final approval in December. The 2011 Levy reflects the 1.5% CPI-U for 2010. The PTEL tax cap states that the revenue is limited by the consumer price index or 5% or less. While the local EAV decreased 9% in 2011, it was less than the amount of decrease in other communities. Ms. Witham cautioned that there might also be a decrease in next year’s as well. OPRFHS is still significantly below the 2002 referendum approval rate of 2.95% at 1.792%.

The District expects the EAV for West Suburban Hospital to be approximately $36,200,000 and the other property to be approximately $1,500,000. A reduction of the Levy by the amount of additional EAV due to the West Suburban property coming onto the tax rolls, would reduce the levy every year hence. The $900,000 that would be received would be spread over the entire community. Ms. Witham stated that the long-range projection model shows a 2% CPI increase, not a 1.5% increase. Alternatives exist if the Board of Education should want to consider a one-time rejection, rather than reducing the levy. The $1.5 million of new EAV was a conservative estimate because of the TIF districts. Ms. Witham guesstimated that the drop in EAV was due to the reassessment.

A public hearing will be held on December 21 and the Board of Education will be asked to approve the Levy on that same date.

**Supplemental Levy**

The Board of Education reviewed a Resolution for Supplemental Tax Levy. PA 96-0501 Debt Service Extension Based provides that starting in the year 2009, the debt service extension base must be increased each year by the lesser of 5% or the CPI for the prior calendar year. This permits school districts to issue a greater amount of non-referendum bonds including life safety bonds, working cash fund
bonds, and funding bonds within their respective statutory limits. This will be approved under the Action section of the agenda.

**FAC Update**

The Board of Education received an update from Ms. Witham on the Finance Advisory Committee.

1) The working groups have met and have prepared materials for cost savings ideas; the reports were submitted to the Quality Review Committees (QRC).
2) The QRC meetings are scheduled;
3) The ALT has met throughout October and November and the ALT is preparing a recommendation for the Superintendent in November.
4) On October 20, Financial data was shared with Citizens’ Council and the new budgeting model was discussed.
5) Ms. Witham discussed leadership roles in facilitation of working groups at the ADA meeting.
6) DLT had a budget retreat on November 8 and reviewed the long-range projection model, historical spending data and trends, discussed cost savings ideas, discussed the new budget model and its implementation for FY 2013, and selected topics for the January budget retreat.
7) DLT is reading the book *Stretching the School Dollar*, mostly recently the chapters on different matrixes and measures in the way business can be done, and then thinking about the things done operationally and comparing that to best practices.

Discussion ensued about whether there will be an opportunity for individual parents and parent groups to review the recommendations and give input. It was reiterated that a presentation had been made to Citizens’ Council on the model adopted by the Board of Education. The administration has been careful to follow the model that was approved. If a changed occurred at this time, it would require the entire Board of Education to make a determination as to how to amend the model and this could cause a delay in the a recommendation to the Superintendent. It was suggested that since this was the first year this was put into motion, if an assessment is done at the end of the year that this be considered at that time. DLT’s work is to look at what recommendations need to come ultimately to the Board of Education in order for it to make decisions on cost containments for the next year. The District is trying to find what the best is and what is the most feasible in terms of cost containment to insure a quality education. The final piece is the Board of Education’s adoption.

**Triton Contracts**

Board of Education members reviewed the following two contracts with Triton College submitted by Dr. Isoye.

1) An Intergovernmental Agreement between Triton College and the School College Partnership. This is the same agreement used with all the Des Plaines Valley Region high schools. OPRFHS incorporated room utilization and will collaborate with Triton on the courses offered and the tools to be used in an effort to save energy resources.

2) A Facilities Rental Agreement between Triton and OPRFHS, allowing OPRFHS’s CITE II Program to use Triton’s facilities two times per week. The advantages to hosting this program at Triton are: 1) good access to transportation, 2) close proximity to work opportunities, and 3) the ease of which students could enroll in classes at Triton. OPRFHS is exploring
over venues for classroom experience for these students. The waiver is for all of the fees.

Dr. Isoye reported that Triton had asked to present these contracts to a committee on December 6 and asked that they be brought to the Board of Education for approval prior to that date. Both are two-year agreements with no automatic renewals. OPRFHS incorporated room utilization and partnering with Triton on the course and the rooms to be used in an effort to save energy resources.

Ms. Fisher was very pleased to see a two-way relationship that benefits both the District and Triton. OPRFHS had, in the past, hosted Triton’s evening school for the benefit of the community and those who attended the classes. She did not believe OPRFHS had recouped the actual cost to do so, however. She felt that conducting a class at a college was beneficial for the students who are 18 to 21. She was not commenting on the agreement or the timing, just the benefits. Dr. Lee and Ms. Patchak-Layman concurred and were pleased with the provisions in the contracts.

One course waiver will be issued up to a maximum of two for District employees during the term of this agreement. Previously there was no limit.

It was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members to veer from the usual process of bringing a contract forward at one meeting and approving it at a second meeting, as they felt these contracts were straightforward. Approval of the motions will occur in the Action portion of the agenda.

Course Proposals for 2012-13

Ms. Hill reported that the course proposals for the 2012-13 school year are the same as the ones she shared with the Board of Education at its October 27 meeting. Only one other comment was received and that was from the Alumni Association asking questions about the Elements of Reading Program.

Discussion ensued about the reasons for bringing forth the Special Education science course and two history courses. These courses are for students who have either dropped or failed a regular education or REI class. In the past when that happens, they are placed into a study hall and they are unable to recapture the credit; thus, they need to stay in high school longer, to get the credits they need to graduate. With the classes being recommended, these students will have a place in that content area and will be able to receive credit. The Special Education Division continues to move students into regular education and cotaught classes, but only 30 percent of students may have an IEP. These courses are not intended to create a segregated environment. Even with the additional certified FTE in the REI classes, students failed. Many teacher assistants do assist in the regular education classes, but it is not the full answer.

The extended Algebra class is intended for freshman students and for sophomore students, as needed. There has been no discussion on extending this to the Special Education course, as this course was seen as a continuation of services; however, discussion with occur with the Math Division Head. The thought was that this paralleled the reading program. Students are selected based on test data from the feeder districts. Incoming ninth graders are taking placement tests on Saturday. Historically, test scores indicate which students will need more support and
instruction. Approximately twenty (20) students each year need pre-algebraic skills. This course was introduced because the students who were previously enrolled in the Algebra Block Program did not achieve as well as expected. Because of this monitoring, that program was eliminated and a decision was made to put all students in the College Prep Algebra Course, except for these students.

End of Quarter Update

Board of Education members reviewed an End of Quarter Update on Initiatives presented by Mr. Rouse, Ms. Hill and Mr. Prale. The initiatives included the categories of Professional Development, Student Services Professional Development, CCAR, Reading Initiative Update, SAP Prevention efforts, Motivational Mentor Program, Master Schedule Changes, and School and Improvement Planning.

In determining the effectiveness of professional development, the District surveys the teachers and asks that division heads and TCT leaders provide their notes and summaries as well as share their needs or requests. Professional development has focused on learning targets. Teachers can take the information they have learned and retool if necessary to help students. Example of that are 1) how the Counseling Division and the Pupil Support Services Team Model looked to strengthen their model, and 2) how SRI data was used as benchmarks for the Reading 180 program to determine if the students participating were progressing.

While PBIS was not included in this report, five staff members attended a PBIS conference and are looking at data, information, and ways in which to use the PBIS model. This work is also related to that of Peter Kahn’s work with 40 to 45 students during lunch periods. Students are provided social/emotional opportunities to talk, etc., so they are better prepared to participate in their classes. The goal is to have more students access this resource.

As the District develops the stated initiatives, they will be entered into the ISBE’s SIP online format. As was last year, the initiatives will be shared with the community, e.g., parent groups, etc., and more stakeholders will be involved in the work. With regard to monitoring, the District is looking at data such as absences, tardies, grades, etc. for things such as the mentorship program.

Discussion ensued about whether the additional math and reading courses required for some students would allow them to graduate within a four-year period. It was noted that the average number of credits a student graduates with at OPRFHS is 54 and only 43 are needed for graduation. These classes will help students build their skills.

While in the best scenario counselors would arrange individual student schedules based on their needs or sequencing, it is more difficult when dealing with 3,000 students. However, because of the work of the counselors and the division heads, it is hoped that this will become better and better.

FY ’12 Application for Illinois School Library Grant

Board of Education members reviewed the FY ’12 Application for the Illinois School Library and agreed with the statements set forth in the signature page to satisfy the requirements for application for the grant and to authorize submission of the application on or before the December 30, 2011 deadline.
The Board of Education reviewed and gave consensus to the concept of the vision presented as to what technology could look like within the Village of Oak Park after a discussion by the Oak Park Council of Governments (OPCOG) members. This was the work of Dee Brennan of the Oak Park Library and input from the members of the Oak Park Management Council, Dr. Isoye of OPRFHS, Tom Barwin of the Village of Oak Park, Gavin Morgan of the Township, Gary Balling of the Park District of Oak Park, and Mr. Carioscio of OPRFHS. This is relatively young in its development and the Board of Education’s feedback will be provided to OPCOG at its next meeting.

Comments included:
1) Preference would be for the most useful technology, not just the newest; and
2) Applaud the spirit of efforts on 1) multi-generational communication, and 2) technology.

It was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members that this work continues and they were excited by the concept.

Policy 3900 Policy 3900, FOIA, was presented for amendment because of changes in the law. It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education members to approve this policy for First Reading under the Action Section of the agenda.

Policy 5330 Policy 5330, Concussions, was presented for First Reading. This policy was being introduced due to new legislation. It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education members to approve this policy for First Reading under the Action Section of the agenda.

Policy 1410 Policy 1410, Facilities Rentals, was presented for second reading and action. It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education members to amend this policy under the Action Section of the agenda. The Board of Education will approve the rental rates later.

Policy 4220 Policy 4220, Retirement Benefits – Non-certified Professionals and Managers, was presented for second reading and action. It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education members to amend this policy under the Action Section of the agenda.

Consent Items Dr. Millard moved to approve the consent items as follows:

- Approval of Monthly Financial Reports
- Approval of Monthly Treasurer Reports
- Approval of the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated November 17, 2011 (check #165888 was omitted from approval for further exploration about the vendor)

seconded by Dr. Lee. 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 Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Pekron Consulting Contract as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Millard moved to approve the Preliminary Levy, as presented, as to approve for display as required; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Dr. Millard moved to approve the Resolution for Supplemental Tax Levy; seconded by Mr. Phelan. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Dr. Millard moved to approve that the Board of Education direct the Board of Education president or Superintendent to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement Between Community College District 504 And School College Partnership Members upon and not prior to the approval of this contract by Triton College; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman was disappointed that the Board of Education was changing its new procedure in approving these contracts at this meeting when they had only been received by the Board of Education that day and had not been available for the community to review.

Dr. Millard moved to approve the Course Proposals for 2012-13 as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. Motion carried.

Dr. Millard moved to approve Policy 3900, FOIA, for first reading; seconded by Ms. Fisher. Motion carried.

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve Policy 5330, Concussions, for first reading; seconded by Dr. Lee. Motion carried.

Dr. Millard moved to approve Policy 1410, Facilities Rentals for second reading and action; seconded by Mr. Phelan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. Later, the Board of Education will approve the rental rates.

Dr. Millard moved to approve Policy 4220, Retirement Benefits – Non-certified Professionals and Managers, for second reading and action; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Millard moved to 1) approve the Open and Closed Session Minutes of October 27 and November 10, 2011, 2) declare that the closed session audiotapes of January 2010 be destroyed and 3) declare that the closed session minutes of
January 1, 1989 through November 1, 2011 shall remain closed; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

District Reports

The Board of Education members submit written reports about their liaison commitments and they are embedded in the agenda.

Closed Session

At 11:00 p.m., the Board of Education reconvened its closed session for the purpose of discussing 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; 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); 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 probable 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); Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 12:46 a.m.

Adjournment

At 12:47 a.m. on Friday, November 18, 2011, Ms. McCormack moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Ms. Fisher. Motion carried.

Dr. Dietra D. Millard Amy McCormack
President Secretary