

December 8, 2011

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, December 8, 2011, in the Board Room.

- Call to Order** President Millard called the meeting to order at 6:41 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; Lauren M. Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations and Treasurer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.
- Closed Session** At 6:31 p.m., on Thursday, December 8, 2011, Mr. Finnegan 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; 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 Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- The Board of Education reconvened its open session at 7:33 p.m.
- Joining the meeting were: Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; 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; Robert Zummallen, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Students Peter Slattery and Jack Chalabian; Bill Dwyer of the *Pioneer Press*, and Paul Keller of Ancel Glink (arrived at 8:37 p.m.).
- Public Comments** None
- Student Council** Mr. Rouse provided the Student Council report submitted by Jack Hendrix who was ill and unable to attend the meeting. Student Council is working on the senior shirts for the class of 2012 early so that seniors will have more opportunities to buy the shirts this year.
- Superintendent Report** Dr. Isoye asked Mr. Rouse to give a report on Modified Closed Campus. Mr. Rouse stated that the Modified Lunch hour Task Force has been meeting every other Friday this semester. He shared some of the innovative changes that have

been made to provide additional areas for students based upon collaboration and student feedback.

- 1) Stools and tables are being added to the upstairs art gallery area. After Winter Break, seating for 27 students will be available.
- 2) The tutoring center is close so that students working independently on projects may study in this area during other periods of the school day as well.
- 3) The Little Theatre has been made available for all students during the lunch periods.
- 4) Room 276A, a computer lab, will be open for business so that students may drop in and print materials and/or use the Internet during lunch periods. A pass will be required from the downstairs Safety and Support monitor to access this area.
- 5) Students will travel to Legat's offices the week before break to brainstorm on long-range plans for building space. Those ideas may be discussed with the Board of Education later. Lead architect, Rob Wroble, will spearhead this initiative.
- 6) The goal for second semester is to prepare for the freshman/sophomore students' use of the mall area on nice weather days. This may necessitate the revitalization of the pavilion discussions from years past.
- 7) The District is piloting different types of furniture for the student lobby. Students will not be permitted to lie on the steps of the auditorium or eat in that area, but the District is looking to provide additional space in the lobby area for students to relax by adding furniture and greenery to the area.
- 8) The first informational session for students was held in the Little Theatre and their feedback was solicited. About 20-30 students attended each lunch period. As a result, a suggestion box was placed in the cafeterias to allow student to provide feedback regarding lunch selections and serving lines, etc. These types of sessions will be held monthly second semester. A Q&A-form of communication was used at this time because the students felt it was not the right time for a survey.

The following statistics are for the period from August 23 to December 12, 2012 as compared to August 24-December 3, 2010

Tardies

Freshmen	Down 30%
Sophomores	Down .2%
Juniors	Down 24%
Seniors	Down 31%
Total	Down 21%

Unexcused Absences

Freshmen	Down 47%
Sophomores	UP 10%
Juniors	Down 36%
Seniors	Down 29%
Total School	Down 38%

Failing Grades

Freshmen	Up 17%
Sophomores	Up 16%

Juniors	Down 50%
Seniors	Down 52%
Total School	Down 34%

Discipline Occurrences

Freshmen	Down 38%
Sophomores	Down 5%
Juniors	Down 40%
Seniors	Down 45%
Total	Down 33%

Students who have participated in the MCC Lunch Task Force will present to the Board of Education in April. Student Peter Slattery noted that he was proud of what the task force was doing. Parents of Students 4 Success are talking about having students and parents market the results of MCC. The Trapeze will run an editorial about MCC as well.

Discussion ensued about the experience of sophomores, as their stats are not as good as the other classes. Factors that might be the reason for their results include: 1) They are no longer freshmen and they know the rules; 2) They were looking forward to an off-campus experience this year; and 3) they do not have the same incentives as do the upperclassmen.

Dr. Isoye thanked the Task Force for its work. He noted that the sample furniture had been returned and temporary tables and chairs had been placed in the balcony area until the new furniture arrives. The Board of Education was approving a check for furniture this evening and the District may yet look at amending the budget to address more things, the mall, etc.

Ms. Fisher stated that this was a great outcome for all of the students, parents, and faculty and she was happy that the school was moving forward in utilizing smaller spaces for students in a more student-friendly way, along with the use of the mall.

Mr. Rouse will provide a comparison of statistics on lunchroom activities in terms of discipline from last and this year.

Dr. Isoye reported that administrators and Board members attended the IASB/ IASA/IASBO Joint Conference in Chicago.

Dr. Isoye reported that he would submit the recommendations of the Advisory Leadership Team (ALT) to the Board of Education at its regular January meeting.

Dr. Isoye reported that the Courageous Conversations about Race discussions continue.

Dr. Isoye reported that the Scholarship Committee continues to look for ways to support students and work with donors to fund scholarships.

Dr. Isoye serves on an Illinois team that would provide feedback to the national committee on the work for the next generation of science standards.

Ms. Patchak-Layman and several other representatives from OPRFHS, other school districts, and the ISBE attended the Bill and Melinda Gates-sponsored workshop on school finance in Illinois.

Marshall & Ilsley

The Board of Education reviewed a renewal contract with Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company to act on the District's behalf in making payment of and furnishing services for the Health and Dependent Care Flexible Spending plan offered under a Section 125 cafeteria plan. The term of the contract is January 1-December 31, 2012. This was reviewed by legal counsel. Percentage wise this service has been positively received by the staff.

It was the consensus of the Board of Education to approve this contract under the Action section of the Board of Education agenda.

Facility Rental Rates

The Board of Education reviewed the administration's proposed facility rental rates as part of its responsibility outlined in Policy 1410. The rental fee structure was revised in the spring of 2010 due to rising maintenance costs, as well as building safety and security. In November, Policy 1410 was revised again to include a separate classification for "feeder groups" as well as a \$10 per participant fee for them. These rental rates will be brought to the December 21 regular Board of Education meeting for approval.

The rates were developed are reviewing feeder group fees as compared to other feeder groups, the structure was simplified significantly. There is now no difference between regular week rentals and weekend rates.

Forty-five outside organizations use the high school's facilities. The only complaint received was from the craft group. It wanted to use several areas of the building (South Café, Hallways, one gym, etc.) and it amounted to a large rate. This is the second billing cycle for these rates and there have been no other complaints.

Technology Plan Update

The Board of Education reviewed the Technology Plan for 2011-2016. It included the future vision, progress towards goals, strategies, timeline, budget to do the plan as presented, but it is not yet approved, and an instructional technology plan (which will come at a later time).

The District's future vision will be to leverage technology in a holistic way by implementing technology with the greatest impact on student engagement and achievement and deploying technology with an overall plan to improvement student achievement. A colored graph showing the progress on goals was included and projected status of the infrastructure plan as of 2012-13.

The strategies for infrastructure included implementing cost-effective infrastructure to support both the instructional and operational areas of the district, which included:

- 1) Completing the next phase of wireless implementation (capacity and all of the building);
- 2) Deploying technology to support teacher preparation—tablet computers;
- 3) Standardizing classroom technology (projector mounts; wiring and power; computer setup);

- 4) Upgrading internet bandwidth and associated technology (routers, firewalls, content filter, etc.);
- 5) Replacing of phone system (voice over IP); and
- 6) Updating wiring and core electronics in building.

Mr. Hunter testified to the benefits of using the computer tablets. In reading instruction, he has been able to reinforce visually by highlighting text, etc. It has assisted him in putting together learning targets, organizing the day, accessing information from the web, storing information, and allowing availability of the information after the classroom. He was also impressed with how much could be done with children. Using multiple-choice tests in history, they were able to determine in which sections of the materials students fell behind and which ones had to be reviewed.

Discussion ensued about the physical installation of the protector and the screen (which are the white boards). The short-throw projectors are positioned near the wall so that the issue of teachers throwing shadows is alleviated and the light is not shining in their eyes, as happens when a projector is mounted across a room.

The data strategies included providing appropriate information to support fact-based decision-making to the District by doing the following:

- 1) Redesigning the District's website to be completed by 2012-13;
 - a. Complete Phase I of Project in 2011-12 school year;
 - i. Implement enhanced "look and feel" with improved search and navigation
 - ii. Plan for Phase II – other systems integration
 - iii. Faculty- and staff-specific tools and interfaces
 - b. Complete Phase II of project in 2012-13
 - i. Determine means of faculty and student communication
 - ii. Implementation phase (Phase IIa) of faculty pages
- 2) Creating a series of data dashboards for the various stakeholder groups;
- 3) Reviewing existing reporting tools and building tool sets to improve timeliness and accuracy of reporting;
- 4) Standardizing and streamlining recommendation and course selection process
- 5) Reviewing existing data stores and redesign to improve timeliness and accuracy of reporting
- 6) Improving accuracy and timeliness of data capture through self-service.

A draft budget was included based upon estimates from last year's expenditures, not including requests from faculty and staff, but including \$100,000 for student technology, \$60,000 for data reporting, \$25,000 for online regular, and \$350,000 to replace the District's obsolete phone systems.

The items listed are not in order of prioritization but could be. VOIP would be at the top of Mr. Caroscio's list. District 200 is working with Districts 90, 97 on sharing technology costs, i.e. District 200 could be the hub, and phone extensions could be run from it. This is only a discussion point at this time.

Even though time and money are being spent on this technology now, the early response to the installation of it has been positive. Some of the items are timesavers (tools for data reporting), infrastructure items, etc.

Calendar for 2012-13 School Year

The Board of Education reviewed the 2012-2013 School Calendar, noting that additional changes may be made based on further requests for professional development days and needed waivers. Any modifications would be brought forward for Board of Education approval.

The highlights of the calendar include:

- Total days remain same, but there is a shorter first semester and longer second semester;
- First semester finals will be taken before winter break;
- First quarter ends October 19, second quarter ends December 18; and third quarter ends March 15;
- Staff returns from winter break on Monday, January 7, 2012 and students return on January 8;
- Spring break remains the same—the last week of March;
- The start and end dates are aligned with the feeder schools; and
- The calendar allows for an additional day of teacher attendance, which will be used for professional development.

Discussion ensued about teachers returning from winter break January 7, while students are not scheduled to return until January 8. Because students already have 10 days off, parents may take exception to that fact. Further discussion by the calendar committee and superintendents will occur. This will not alter the time for approving this.

It was the consensus of the Board of Education to approve this under the Action portion of the agenda.

Summer School 2012 Dates

The completion of several large Life Safety projects that need to be completed this year will make it difficult to use several areas of the building for several weeks during the summer. Previously, summer school classes and activity camps were held from the Wednesday after graduation through the third full week of July. As planning began for summer school, it became apparent that the following changes would have to be made:

- 1) Summer School will have two daily sessions
 - a. 7:45 to 11:45 a.m.
 - b. 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- 2) Drivers' Ed will run from June 11 through July 10, 2012 and have two daily sessions
 - a. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - b. 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- 3) Music Theatre Workshop will run from June 12 through July 16 with performances on July 13, 14, and 15.
- 4) The 8-to-9 Connections Program and the 2 semester summer Plane Geometry 1-2 Courses will run from June 12 to July 19.
- 5) Extended-year Special Education students will attend classes within the schedules according to the needs of the students and the concerns of the staff and parents. Every student will be provided educational services according to his or her needs.

While it was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members to approve the summer school dates under the Action portion of the agenda, discussion did ensue about families not having enough time to process this significant change. Ms. Patchak-Layman felt this was another issue of communication. The administration acknowledged this but said that if the Board of Education did not approve these dates, the entire plan would have to be reassessed. The bid opening is scheduled for December 9.

Ms. Fisher, too, was concerned about the compression of action items and she favored the older structure of committee and board meetings, but she recognized the needs of construction. Consideration had been given to hosting summer school off campus, but because so many students are freshmen, it was decided that it should continue to be held on campus if possible. Mr. Craft, director of summer school, was instrumental from the start of this planning and he recognizes that challenges of four hours of instruction. The District will also explore online options to deliver material in other ways.

The public will be made aware of this as soon as possible.

Sylvan Contract

The Board of Education reviewed the contract with Sylvan of Chicago Act it, which will provide supplemental educational services (SES) as required by the NCLB Consolidated Title I grant. Twenty-eight families identified this SES provider as their first choice for available services. The term of the contract is December 8 through June 30. It was the consensus of the Board of Education to approve this contract under the Action portion of the agenda.

Intergovernmental Agreements

The Board of Education reviewed contracts with both the Villages of River Forest and Oak Park which formalized a reporting process with police when an incident requires that level of attention. These contracts will document the District's practice. Alignment with the law is judicious on the part of all three parties. The agreements were reviewed by the District's attorney and the administration. These contracts will be brought to the Board of Education for action on December 21, 2011.

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

- 1) What was the impetus behind these agreements?
- 2) Is all reporting required by law or is it the District's practice?
- 3) Do alcohol and cigarettes need to be specifically mentioned?
- 4) Are parents notified after the fact or before the records are sent. Can parents say they do not want the records sent?
- 5) Would this agreement restrict the schools rights with respect to sharing information with police and parents? While Paragraph 8 says that is not the case, the school should be able to continue with its practice even though it is a party to this agreement.
- 6) IMPACT has assessed the drug testing of students and recently in Lake Zurich the Board of Education tried to enforce that, but there was a public outcry and the effort failed because of concerns about the reporting of findings to the police. The public was concerned about ruining one's future rather than in trying to help the student. What obligations would the school have to maintain its current practices? Would it place restrictions on the District's ability to

change in order to improve the Illinois Survey results through efforts like drug testing?

- 7) What happens with the information that comes to the school from the police department? If a student gets a ticket from the police for speeding, etc., is he/she consequence at school. What about bike riding or skateboarding in the wrong place, as they are municipal or county ordinances?
- 8) What are the parent and student rights and how do they interact with this policy.
- 9) Are curfew violations a violation of the District's 24/7 Code?
- 10) Does this agreement restrict the school's activity as it has a duty to students and parents with respect to the kinds of incidents in this agreement? Are their increased duties that are made a matter of a contractual agreement where before it may have been more informal? Will it increase certain obligations and reporting, etc.?

Dr. Isoye and Mr. Rouse will work with the District's attorney as well as the villages on these questions.

Consent Items

Dr. Millard moved to approve the consent item as follows:

- Approval of the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated December 8, 2011, as presented.

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

School Calendar 2012-13

Dr. Lee moved to approve the 2012-2013 School Calendar as presented; seconded Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Further discussion will occur regarding the return date of January 7 after winter break.

Summer School Dates

Dr. Millard moved to approve the 2012 summer school dates, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Sylvan Contract

Dr. Millard moved to approve the contract with Sylvan of Chicago Ace it for supplemental education services (SES); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

District Reports

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

Closed Session

At 9:55 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; 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.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 12:30 a.m. on Friday, December 9, 2011.

**Personnel
Recommendations**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the personnel recommendations, as amended including approval of the Separation Agreement for Rudy Velazquez due to retirement (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 12:32 a.m. Friday, December 9, 2011, Dr. Millard moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Mr. Phelan. Motion carried.

Amy McCormack
Secretary

By Gail Kalmerton
Clerk of the Board