

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL
201 North Scoville Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302

INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Tuesday, November 6, 2012

An Instruction Committee of the Whole Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 8:18 p.m. in the Board Room. Committee members present were Terry Finnegan, Valerie Fisher, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy McCormack, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, John Phelan, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Tina Halliman, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Lauren M. Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Karin Sullivan, Director of Community Relations and Communications; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors: Mary Jo Haley, of the League of Women Voters.

Review of Course Proposals 2013-2014

The Board of Education had two prior reviews of the proposals. The proposals were sent to Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Student Council, and all of the Board-approved parent and community groups for review and feedback, which was shared with the administration.

Mr. Prale highlighted the following with regard to the course proposals:

1. Both the Literacy Support 9 and 10 and the Academic Strategies class will receive one full credit per semester rather than the current one-half credit per semester.
2. A section of Literacy Support 11 will be added to help juniors whose sophomore reading assessment data suggest that the student would benefit from additional reading enrichment.
3. A list of the Special Education courses to be deleted next year because there are no parallel general education courses will be presented at the regular November 15 Board of Education meeting.
4. Changes for a more consistent curriculum are being made, e.g., if an honors program is offered, it needs to be offered across the division.
5. The English Division is now proposing one class.
6. Fine and Applied Arts Division is recommending mostly name changes. In the digital imaging area, it is trying to build graphics design sequence.

Both Fine and Applied Arts and History create pressure on the electives, as they have the most offerings. As electives grow, they balance in these two areas and become competitive. This is a controlled market versus a free market, as only a fixed amount of activity that may occur.

7. Math will revise its Math Flow Chart showing the typical sequences to clarify opportunities in the mathematics at OPRFHS. Discussions have occurred with the feeder schools. It may revert to Algebra in the third track first and then consider Geometry for freshman next year, if the honor roll tracks can be combined. Math wants to reduce the number of tracks and get to a clear delineation of where students should be placed based on their skill levels. A final determination will be made at the November Board of Education meeting.
8. Math classes will no longer be associated with the year in school.

9. Extended Geometry will be offered for tiered-2 math students.
10. Blue PE was revised.
11. Advanced Strength Training Class will be added. This semester-long class is designed for junior and senior varsity athletes, who would have been enrolled in athletic study hall, in order to teach concepts and techniques that will allow them to design and implement their own fitness plan and learn the fundamentals of weight training, strength training, condition, and nutrition. Other schools offer this type of class. Note: more FTE may be required, as certified teachers in PE are required for this class. It is a coed class.

Ms. Patchak-Layman did not appreciate this class having a varsity pre-requisite, even though the requirements were delineated by ISBE policy. She felt OPRFHS had a disparity in the varsity teams between white and non-white athletes and other athletes who might be considered varsity athletes outside of this school. Other issues may arise when trying to make the distinction between academic and co-curricular activities. If the student were prohibited from being on an athletic team per the Code of Conduct, would he/she be removed from this class? It suggests that in other academic classes there should be a sequence: She was unaware of different levels within the athletic department.

Mr. Rouse stated that the granting of PE waivers is now current with the ISBE's policy that states only juniors and seniors participating in a recognized IHSA sport, are allowed PE waivers. There will not be an uneven effort as to who gets to participate in this class. Based on the progressive discipline model, students are not just removed from the team. First, they receive a 25% reduction in participation and the appeal process allows that time to be reduced by 50%. The only time students are removed for the remaining time they are in school is if something were to happen three or four times. Mr. Phelan reiterated that the state has designated that it must be for juniors and seniors who participate at the varsity athletic level. More information will be brought forward regarding the demographic summary on the Code of Conduct.

12. Science and Technology has a revision to the Integrated Lab Science.

Ms. Patchak-Layman was disappointed to hear that the Building Leadership Team had recommended discontinuing the Project Scholar program, as it had been touted in all reports as being a successful program for approximately 100 students. She felt it was important that the program continue, especially since only standardized testing scores were being shared from the junior highs to the high school during the transition period. More information will be provided about this decision to the Board of Education at another meeting. The administration explained that when the District schedules classes, it is a balancing act between students' desires and the number of FTE available as to whether or not a class/program would continue. Moreover, just because a course is offered in the catalog, it does not mean it will have sufficient enrollment for the class to run.

Committee members were encouraged to send additional questions and that this would be presented again for discussion and vote at the November 15 Board of Education meeting.

Additional Instructional Matters

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked that a review of the changes that have occurred since last year to the Percy Julian Symposium be given at the November 15 meeting or the December Instruction meeting with regard to the high school's involvement and student involvement, etc. Committee members were asked to send any specific questions they might have on this to him and a determination will be made as to when to bring this forward.

Dr. Lee remind the Committee members that if they had agenda items for this committee to contact him. He will then consult with Mr. Rouse and Mr. Prale as to when to bring them forward.

Adjournment

Dr. Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Terry Finnegan
President

Amy McCormack
Secretary