The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, September 28, 2017, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

Call to Order

President Moore called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. A roll call indicated the following Board of Education members were present: Fred Arkin, Matt Baron, Jennifer Cassell, Thomas F. Cofsky, Craig Iseli, Dr. Jackie Moore, and Sara Dixon Spivy. Also present were Dr. Joylynn Pruitt, Superintendent; Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Official; Brenda Horton, Director of Human Resources; Michael CariOScio; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant Clerk of the Board.

Closed Session

At 6:41 p.m. on Thursday, September 28, 2017, Dr. Moore moved to enter 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 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by PA.93—57; seconded by Ms. Spivy. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:35 p.m., the Board of Education resumed the open session.

Visitors

OPRFHS faculty and staff Brandi Ambrose, Toni Biasiello, Linda Carlson, Ginger Colamussi, Lisa Faulkner, Naomi Hildner, Meghan Kennedy, Heidi Lynch, Christine Mondragon, Eric Reeb, Jessica Stovall, Ryan VenHorst, Laura Young, Matt Kirkpatrick, Aaron Podolner, Tom Kennedy, Ben Cain, Amy McGrail, Kevin McKittrick, Faith Nelson, Kelsey Kaiser, Ryan VenHorst, Jim Messer, John Costopoulos, and Allison Hennings; ISAT Board members Dr. William Fillmore, Norbert Teclaw, Nat Pozorski, and Daphne LeCesne; community members Eika Bachner, Adam Bader, Ebony Barney, Stacey Belmont, Kelly Benkert, Nick Berg, Karen Brammer, Debra Bullock, Victoria Bynum, Evalen Catrambone, Mark Christensen, Carrie Cotter, John Duffy Debbie Seneca Eyasu, Janet Ferguson, David Fischer, Gearah Goldstein, Noam Green, Karin Grimes,

Public Hearing

At 7:39 p.m., Dr. Moore called this Public Hearing to order on Thursday, September 28, 2017, for the Oak Park and River Forest High School 2017-2018 Budget. This budget was placed on display for public inspection on August 23, 2017, for 30 days per state code. Notice of this Public Hearing appeared in the Wednesday, August 23, 2017, edition of the Wednesday Journal Newspaper. At this time, I ask for any written or oral comments to be received.

Mark Christianson, member of Committee for Equity and Excellence in Education (CEE) took a moment to express his appreciation for the outstanding job the Board of Education was doing. CEE had submitted a written statement to the Board of Education regarding the budget. Dr. Pruitt-Adams responded initially and meaningful conversations were occurring. The statement was submitted as a reminder that as the year begins lots of activities and he asked the Board of Education to remain focused on the Strategic Plan. A meeting had been requested with Dr. Pruitt-Adams and the implementation team to provide resources to the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Duffy reinforced CEE’s concern about the amount of resources being allocated to the Strategic Plan. He reiterated CEE’s commitment to the high school and he thanked Mr. Christiansen for his remarks, as this process has just begun. He asked the Board of Education to be vigilant and committed as some people will try to block change and it will take resilience to make a difference.

At 7:48 p.m., Dr. Moore closed the public hearing and the Board of Education recessed to move into Room 293E. The meeting reconvened at 7:57 p.m.

Recognition of

Science Division Head Matt Kirkpatrick introduced those teachers of science and technology that were being honored at the meeting for helping to grow the Percy Julian Symposium, as Dr. Pruitt-Adams and the Board of Education. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that from his six years of experience with the Percy Julian Symposium, sponsored by the Institute of Science and Technology (ISAT), he has seen participation grow from 20 students and one teacher to 100 students and 10 teachers. Next year, through the ambitious instruction and innovation and the growth of teachers, over 500 students may be participating. He introduced the ISAT board members: Dr. William Fillmore, Norbert Teclaw, Nat Pozorski, and Daphne LeCesne.
Dr. Fillmore on behalf of the ISAT Board was thankful for the leadership that had been provided and the joint effort to move forward the Percy Julian Symposium significantly over the last 2 years in 3 ways: 1) accessing first-rate mentoring, research, and presentation; 2) being pro-active, logistical, and technical and providing other resources necessary to running the symposium, and 3) providing the opportunity and enabling teachers to bring their best creativity, innovativeness, and experience to help shape students’ development. These things were made clear in the number of displays at the symposium. He thanked Mr. Kirkpatrick for providing the opportunity, creating the space and lending the support of others, the teachers. This is an extreme act of leadership.

Mr. Fillmore recalled an incident in 1974 of a young man when asked what he had done for humanity responded that he had stopped for a woman crossing the street in mid-block, that woman was Faith Julian. Mr. Fillmore got to know this young man this summer at the River Forest Tennis Club and he was excited to talk about how he got the first Percy Julian Award. Mr. Fillmore continued that monies were made available from the Kevin Washington Foundation, an OPRFHS dean and science teacher, who allocated $100,000 in his foundation to be used for this kind of purpose. He was most grateful to him for that generosity.

The science teachers being honored were: Aaron Podolner, Tom Kennedy, Ben Cain, Amy McGrail, Kevin McKittrick, Faith Nelson, Kelsey Kaiser, Ryan VenHorst, Jim Messer, John Costopoulos, and Allison Hennings.

Dr. Moore noted that members of the public were allowed 3 minutes for their comments about policies and procedures at the high school and to keep students at the center. No child should go away feeling less than because of public comments.

Dr. Pruitt-Adams clarified that the district is not adopting a new policy, but rather adhering to an Illinois mandate that all schools have an Equal Educational Opportunities Policy. The District’s Policy number is 7:10 and it broadly protects sex equity and prohibits discrimination against a student for any reason, including gender identity. What is currently missing is an administrative procedure noting specific measures to guide the implementation of this policy. By developing a procedure for this policy, the District will remove barriers and provide support for all students.

**Public Comments**

Laura Young, teacher, thanked the Board of Education for its support to have safe space for students to go school.

Naomi Hildner, a teacher, welcomed the Board of Education and thanked them for volunteering their time for the benefit of District 200. The nature of public education requires that equity should be the guiding principle, and that is reiterated in the Strategic Plan. The same definition of equity makes the statement that transgenders need to feel comfortable: it is District 200’s obligation. Yet, knowing
the courage and intellect of these students, it is not only liberating but it has proven a boon for all.

Debbierenecca Eyasu thanked the Board of Education for what the school currently has. People should not have to adjust to the environment; the environment should adjust to people, i.e., wheelchairs, LGBTQ, and transgenders. Presently, the district has girl, boy, and coed bathrooms and that works. However, the policy does not acknowledge those rights and while the present Board of Education may agree with those rights, a future board may not. An ironclad policy is needed to protect all students. Students can now vote on what they want to wear at graduation, choose either roses or boutonnieres and the color they want to wear. Schools rules should be fixed to accommodate everyone. Laws protect special education students and everyone should be included and protected. She asked that the Board of Education continue to make OPRF an all-inclusive and all-protective school.

Kareem Muhammad thanked the Board of Education for protecting his rights. Special Education students ask for the rights of all other students in the same way.

Lisa Pintado, a student, supported the Board of Education for implementing more transgender policies.

Gearah Goldstein thanked the Board of Education and the community for the outpouring of support for gender-expansive and transgender students. She trains people/organizations on anti-bias and transgender policies throughout the state, and she loved coming before boards that show a commitment to the students who need them as they need the support of the boards the most. As a transgender woman, she dreamed of coming to a board and asking for the equality and equity that all students have. Some people may have their own beliefs on what it is to be transgender, but transgender experiences are not the same. The LGBT community is not asking for something they do not have, they are asking for the rights that others have.

Ms. Goldstein was honored to be at this meeting. Her son is studying aeronautics. Transgenders are supported in every major hospital, the top 500 corporations and other entities. Schools lag behind in equity because of a lack of funding. This Board of Education has been tasked with many important things, and one is to allow children the school they need. Without the support of the school, her community fails to progress, especially when the president of the country tells transgenders they do not have the right to exist. She offered her help with resources. District 113 passed a policy and procedures and her superintendent offered to talk with this board about passing a written policy that protects this population.

Sheela Raja, mom of a freshman and a student at Longfellow, thanked the Board of Education for supporting transgender students. She is a clinical psychologist. She
wanted the suicide rate of LGBT people to be 0 because they felt a part of everyone else. She thanked the Board for being part of that.

Jes Scheinpflug uses the “they and them” pronouns, has a bachelors and masters degrees in social work and asked other speakers to identify their pronouns. Scheinpflug was terrified to be at this meeting because of what had happened to him/her because of who he/she was during high school. For the general population in 2015, the suicide rate was 4%; it is much greater for transgenders. The poverty rate of transgenders is 4 times the general population’s rate and discrimination in the workplace is at 90% for transgenders. Training is needed. Security guards say, “Can I help you, ma'am?” While this is polite, it is not right. Addressing this in a policy would make things better and more comfortable for all. A 17-year old Allie Lee was murdered last week and some were comparing that murder to that of Matthew Shepard, who was murdered in the 1990’s because he was gay. People wrap their heads around it in the same way--”why would my existence standing in a place make someone want to murder me?” Please, make the school a safe place.

Noam Green uses the pronouns “they and them” and went to Oak Park schools mostly and graduated in 2009. Now Green is the Director of Youth Formation at St. Episcopal Church in Oak Park. Green was not out in high school because of a lack of information on transgender and binary in health classes. God loves everyone including transgenders. With a shaven head, people used names such as lesbian or dike. Walking into this building was traumatic even now. Green asked the Board of Education to take steps so that people have information.

Sheila Hardin uses the pronouns” she/her.” She read the following statement: “The faculty of Oak Park and River Forest High School wants to voice our support of Board’s proposal to enhance policy 7:10 and the administration’s plans to develop procedures to ensure that every student, specifically our transgender students, have access to a safe and equitable education where no child is harassed or made to feel uncomfortable because of who they are.

“Public schools have a public purpose; to support and educate every child that walks through our doors. Those of us who have chosen to work in a public school did so with a desire to carry out that mission. The Faculty is committed to having positive, fair interactions with our students, which will help our students feel safe and be successful in school. Every student deserves to attend a school where they can fully engage in the educational experience.

“Although OPRFHS has made a commitment to racial equity, the faculty continually strives for equity in all areas, including gender equality. Increasing the scope of our Policy and procedures demonstrates support of all of our students.

“In 2007, Educational Leadership published 10 roles of a teacher. Obviously, instructor and facilitator were on the list but what stood out to me were the last two: Learner and Catalyst for Change. Teachers are lifelong learners who model continual improvement as we search to learn everything that will help our students
achieve. This is especially true where we see that improvements need to be made; teachers are always looking for a better way and will stand up for change when change is needed.”

Sabrina Tellez uses the pronouns “she, her, and her’s. She has a freshman transgender daughter and who transitioned socially in kindergarten. It took many years to have an administrative procedure which ended up not being public or strongly worded, or enforceable. To find out that OPRFHS does not have a strong policy protecting nonbinary and transgender students is shocking. She urged the Board of Education to move to do so. The training of teachers and students is necessary. More bathrooms are needed. These students need support now and lives do count. This is not conceptual. She thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to speak.

Brandi Ambrose uses the pronouns “she and her”, She is a community member, parent, and faculty member and is proud of the community that supports these students. This is a diverse community. Thousands of stories help to make change and she wanted to be a part of that change. That is the reason she moved to this area. All students deserve to feel welcome. She thanked the Board of Education for helping to make this change.

Kelly Benkert uses the pronouns she, her, and her’s, is an Oak Park resident and is a licensed foster parent with children attending Hatch, Brooks, and OPRFHS. She and her partner moved here two years ago because they wanted to be closer to the family. They choose Oak Park because of the reputation of inclusiveness and diversity. While she had heard that many gay families live here, many examples exist of the community not living up to its reputation. As a queer couple in their 30’s who have been together for 13 years, their status has been defined by others, some legally. To both she and her partner’s amusement, she carries a Washington State ID and a Domestic ID. She had forwarded some of the most recent court decisions through email. Court cases are being filed and won monthly. The tide is turning toward fairness for trans students. The Board of Education has the power to act now. She asked it to demonstrate that it values these students’ contributions. She provided the comments of 750 people who believed that the policy did not support transgender students.

Amanda Massee supported transgenders as it was a constitutional right and it should be enforced. She spoke about the Perkins & Will contract that the Board of Education is being asked to approve later in the evening. It was disconcerting to her that a gentleman that works there and his wife also supported the pool issue. It seemed to be a conflict of an interest. She had been shocked that this fact had not come forward in the interest of transparency. She asked that this agenda item be tabled as 13 architects responded to the RFQ. They were vetted down to 3 firms and Perkins & Will was recommended. She felt the Board of Education needed to look at this closely as she felt it was one-sided.
Ginger Colamussi uses the pronouns “she and her”. She is a social worker and a prevention and wellness counselor and the co-sponsor of the LGBT Club. Through personal and professional experience, she knew the needs, challenges, and risks experienced by many as well as how significant differences in policies and procedures can affect LGBT lives. She is also on the Gender Equity Committee and she urged the Board of Education to stand strong in the face of any hate and opposition by creating the most comprehensive school policies possible, as the students are counting on it.

Tammy Schulz, the mother of a 10- and 12-year old, was concerned about changing the policy regarding transgenders. She had submitted legal documents that reinforced the Board of Education obligation to maintain student privacy. She does not advocate for bullying and there may be more that can be done, but she asked that the Board of Education respect the rights of all students.

Sarah Schreiber supported passing the policy.

Linda Carlson, parent, and teacher, suggested that if the Board of Education members wanted to know what happens in the locker room, they should ask the PE teachers and the students for the truth.

Cynthia, read a statement, noting her strong support for transgender students. They are unique individuals with unique personalities and splitting them into two groups does not speak to diversity and inclusion which is the backbone of Oak Park and River Forest. She asked the BOARD OF EDUCATION to do what was right for the community.

Amit Draffus, a 4-year teacher, supported adopting the policy and stood to fight for the transgender and LGBT community.

Dr. Sassic, physician and educator, started a PA program and going through recruitment of its first transgender student. The faculty was reluctant to ask questions although that was the focus of the application. Personally, she was interested because her daughter came out when she was in college. When she did so, she was told that it was not important for her to hide herself from her parents. She recently married and Dr. Sassic has learned a lot from this experience. She believes that active listening to the testimony is important. She needed to understand the language and she has heard some that she had not heard before. She asked for a glossary of terms to be posted to the website in order to be more effective in listening.

Stacia Smith responded to an earlier speaker who spoke about court cases being won on privacy saying that the list is long of organizations, companies, associations who
support transgender policies. She asked that the Board of Education consider all sides. She was excited to see the support being given at OPRFHS. Active listening and understanding would be hopeful to the whole community. She had a transgender sibling and that experience has been transforming. She is now less judgmental.

Victorian Bynum, community member, parent, saw a TV show 2 years ago on transgenders and she remembered thinking that would be challenging. A year later her daughter, at 4, transitioned. Her daughter now attends private school. Ms. Bynum is terrified for her to start in public schools because of the lack of policies. She worries every day about her daughter being bullied, being placed in a category, or her not having the same opportunities or equity as her friends. Ms. Bynum is a teacher at an elementary school that feeds into OPRFHS. She has a full inclusion class. Being prideful on inclusivity in their program goes two ways: it means teaching students about being included in general education and teaching students how to be the recipients of special education students. They understand their peers. She feels the same way about this issue. Educators and community members must take responsibility.

Stacy Belmont, parent, a clinical psychologist, noted that one-third of her patients are from the LGBT Community. She supported those individuals. She has 4 children who do not yet know how they will express. However, her wife and she are dedicated to supporting them. She is terrified for students entering high school regardless of their sexual identity, etc. because high schools have a bullying tendency. A policy is not enough for someone of a minority population. She wanted to hear about the protections for minorities. A more expansive policy is needed.

A freshman student stated that she has a transgender friend and that transgenders deserve the right to use bathrooms and be referred to by the appropriate pronoun without being bullied.

The Board recessed at 9:08 and resumed at  in the Board Room

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<th>Status of FOIA Requests</th>
<th>Ms. Kalmerton reported that 7 FOIA had been received and 6 were resolved.</th>
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<td>Student Council Report</td>
<td>Matthew Vietzen, the new Student Council Board of Education liaison, noted that the Student Council agenda has been about homecoming. The tickets went on sale today. Last year 2,200 students attended. The officers are going to Morton West to meet with every Student Council officer in the West Suburban Conference to learn about student governments. He appreciated hearing earlier the public comments.</td>
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<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Dr. Pruitt-Adams congratulated Grace Farnham, Evan Friedman, Erica Ramos,</td>
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Announcements

and Isaac Schaider, who have been selected as National Hispanic Scholars by the College Board. The distinction is for students scoring in the top 2.5% of Hispanic and Latino students taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in this region.

Based their scores on the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), 39 students acknowledged by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. as Commended Students. They were among the 50,000 highest scorers out of the 1.6 million U.S. students taking the test.

The Marching Huskies won the title of grand champions/first place overall at the Geneseo Maple Leaf Classic Marching Band Competition. For the second year in a row, the Huskies took first in every category: best winds, best percussion, best color guard, and best drum majors. In addition, at the 38th Annual Stagg Jamboree Marching Band Competition, the Huskies took third overall. This was the first time in school history that Marching Band placed at the Stagg Jamboree.

A Place for All, the OPRF gay-straight alliance sponsored by Special Education teacher Amy Stanis and Wellness and Prevention Coordinator Ginger Colamussi, and Triton College's Common Ground were chosen to share the 2017 Founders Award from the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA).

English teacher and social-emotional learning coach Avi Lessing wrote the proposal that won OPRF a $25,000 Social-Emotional Learning Innovation Grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The funds will be used to create a web-based app to develop better communication across a student's educator network. Only 28 out of 300 applicants received the grant.

The Business Office, led by Chief School Business Official Tod Altenburg, received ASBO International's 2016 Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting, which recognizes achieving high standards in financial reporting and accountability.

Mr. Baron asked that the Architect RFQ be pulled from the consent agenda based on the public comments received.

Consent

Dr. Moore moved to approve the following consent items:
A. Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated September 28, 2017
B. Monthly Treasurer’s Report
C. Adoption of FY 2017-18 Budget
D. Gifts and Donations
E. Food Service Ovens Bid Results
G. Mass Transit Exclusion Board Resolution
H. Reimbursement of Board Member Expense
I. Personnel Recommendations including New and Lateral Hires, Resignations
and Leave of Absences

J. Policies for Second Reading and Action
1. Policy 2:100, Board Member Conflict of Interest
2. Policy 3:70, Succession of Authority
3. Policy 4:15, Identity Protection
4. Policy 5:120, Employee Ethics; and Conflict of Interest
6. Policy 5:300, Schedules and Employment Year
7. Policy 6:70, Teaching About Religions
8. Policy 7:100, Health and Eye Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

K. Policies for First Reading
1. Policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure
2. Policy 6:80, Teaching about Controversial Issues
3. Policy 6:210, Instructional Materials
4. Policy 7:20, Harassment of Students – Prohibited
5. Policy 7:725, Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment
6. Policy 8:70, Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

L. Open and Closed Session Minutes August 15 and 22, and September 19, and 21, 2017 and a declaration that the closed session audiotapes of January 2016 be destroyed

Mr. Iseli moved to approve Perkins & Will for architectural consulting services for Imagine OPRF in the amount of $21,000 as presented; seconded by Mr. Arkin.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Altenburg reviewed the process for identifying Perkins & Will as the firm that will consult the IMAGINE Group as an architectural perspective is needed, it will just be a resource to listen and illustrate opportunities. Many architects are participating in the IMAGINE Workgroup as well and that group will make recommendations on the facilities. Anyone can make a proposal to work on those recommendations. No conflict of interest exists because it is the workgroup that is doing the work and driving the ideas.

None of the individuals in question are part of the project. While one was a member of the company, he is not part of this process and will not provide adjunct services. That individual is more involved in higher education and the high school has the jurisdiction. The role of the team is to determine what needs to be done and the architect determines how that might be done. Neither Dr. Pruitt-Adams nor the cochairs had concerns about a conflict of interest.

A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Dr. Moore was absent. Motion carried.
Dr. Pruitt-Adams introduced Mike Poirier and Lynn Kamenitsa, the co-chairs of the IMAGINE OPRF workgroup, noting that at one time they were on opposite ends of the referendum and that they had brought that synergy to the work of IMAGINE OPRF.

Ms. Sullivan reported that an orientation meeting was held on August 26 and its agenda included introductions, the scope of the work, and providing binders with many key documents to review by the September 11 meeting. Committee members were given their preference as to what team they wanted to work on, e.g., academics, fine and applied arts, athletics, or extracurriculars. Ms. Poirier and Ms. Kamenitsa led the September 11 working session. Participants asked questions on the materials they had received. SLACK is a communication tool that allows everyone to interact. The meeting was very productive and dynamic. In addition, 4 small working teams, (special education, visual arts, building safety and security, and athletics) have been formed. Administrators serve as resources to the teams. Mr. Poirier and Ms. Kamenitsa are visiting the small working group meetings so that they can get a better idea of what is happening and determine how best to support them. October 23 is the next meeting with the full committee. Dr. Pruitt-Adams noted that the co-chairs have stepped up to the plate and are leading the charge.

Mr. Altenburg gave 3 building tours lasting 2 to 2.5 hours, and the co-chairs participating. Mr. Arkin, as one of the board liaisons to the work, thanked the co-chairs for their excellent leadership and organizational skills. The IMAGINE OPRF has 42 committee members and he saw no loss of focus nor preconceived notions for the endgame. He saw people working hard to begin the process by asking for research materials and for the analysis of previous work. He felt the result would be some extraordinary conclusion at the end of this journey. He gave a “shout out” to Renee Bell who was a co-chair and a superstar. Coaches and leaders of extracurricular activities will be surveyed.

Mr. Baron, another Board liaison, too saw the formation of the leadership. It was great to see that people did not want to leave when the meeting had concluded. It was also a great balance of people. The result will be the amount of insight that people will have in the long term. He appreciated everything that Mr. Poirier and Ms. Kamenitsa were doing.

November 15, 2017 is the first community engagement activity to inform the community about the work. Table groups will be set up in the South Cafeteria.

Early indication is that the members of the IMAGINE OPRF are very positive.

Ms. Dixon Spivy moved to approve the Resolution Recognizing National Merit Semi-Finalists and National Hispanic Scholars; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A
Semi-Finalist and National Hispanic Scholars

Compensation Report  The Board of Education received the Administrative/Teacher Compensation Report as an informational item.

Future Agenda  Understanding the funding scenarios and think about dedicating a portion of the fund balance.

Adjournment  At 9:50 p.m., Mr. Arkin moved to adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting; seconded by Mr. Baron. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Dr. Jackie Moore  Jennifer Cassell
President  Secretary