

The Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, November 19, 2009, in the Board Room.

Call to Order President Millard called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: John C. Allen, IV; Jacques A. Conway (attended electronically at 11:59 p.m.); Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy Leafé McCormack, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were: Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; Elizabeth Turcek, Student Council Representative; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: Kay Foran, OPRFHS Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; Liz Robinson of Citizens' Council; Linda Carlson, Joe Kostal, John Codne, Bill Young, Ann Petrolunas, Maria Lombardo-Nitsche, Pat Pearson, Leigh Remack, Amy Stanis, Christina Smith, Jack Lanenga, Chris Ledbetter, Devon Alexander, Jessica Stovall, and Paul Wright, OPRFHS faculty members and employees; *Trapeze* representatives; Adam and Forrest Jackson, Andrew Godbold, Christian Robinson, Ericka Ball, Bianca Bonfim, Angelica Garland, and Rachel Avcioglu, students; Bridgett Bonfim, John Bokum, Arlene Hospenthal, Kara Jackson, Trent Jackson, Carol Kelly, Stephanie Lawrence, Keino Robinson, Helen Thurman, Kimberly Werner, community members; and Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

Student Recognition The Board of Education recognized the following students for representing OPRFHS at the Minority Student Achievement Network:

Adam Jackson	Angelica Garland
Forrest Jackson	Ericka Ball
Andrew Godbold	Bianca Bonfim
Christian Robinson	Rachel Avcioglu

The students thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to attend the MSAN Student Conference in Chicago and the opportunity to create an action plan to address racial inequity and the achievement gap.

The students stated that the conference affected them positively and, in turn, they hoped to affect the school positively. Five speakers addressed the conference; they affirmed and inspired the students to get their education and go forth in their careers.

All of the students attending the Conference were there to bridge the gap. One female student spoke of being the only African-American student in an honors class. She will prove that no matter what a teacher may think, she will exceed in every class she takes.

One male student, an athlete, embraced freshman year, the dreams of being a professional, etc., but ended up putting the rules to the side and not doing what was expected of him. He felt into the trap of school was not cool, even though his parents were very successful. He did not make the connection until he went to this conference last year. After listening to another inspiring speaker, he knew it was up to him to put himself in the position he wanted in the future. He decided to carve out his own life and this conference helped him see that.

Another female student, being half-white and half-Brazilian, takes predominately honors and AP classes, and while she can identify with being white, she misses her ethnic background. She felt the school was diverse and it was important to create fluidity through the classrooms, not just during lunch and PE.

Another male student originally thought the conference would be boring and instead he found it to be a life-changing experience; it was good to communicate with all types of students with different experiences. Being half-black and half-Mexican, he felt the pain of both sides. The students were not at that meeting to complain about racism at the school; they know they have to change. The students who attended this conference have to expand this conversation to different groups and it will make a difference.

Two male black students, whose friends were mostly white, never felt they could complain to their friends making bad or inappropriate jokes. However, the conference taught them that they could address those issues. While their friends were not racist, the jokes still hurt.

The students distributed an outline an action plan for the Board of Education.

The District and Board of Education thanked the students for forging a trail. Ms. McCormack too was fortunate enough to attend the MSAN Annual Conference in June and she appreciated their development of an action plan; it was inspiring to her.

Visitor Comments

Arlene Hospenthal, resident of 1136 N. Highland, Oak Park, and SEA member, addressed the Board of Education.

Ms. Hospenthal asked that SEA have a role in process for selecting a Special Education Director, because it has had a long history of working with schools on this type of the selection.

John Bokum, 30-year resident of Oak Park and parent of four OPRFHS graduates, addressed the Board of Education.

Mr. Bokum spoke in support of Dr. Weninger as the District's superintendent. Dr. Weninger was hired to address some challenging topics and he should be allowed an opportunity to push forward with those ideas. Dr. Weninger hired the principal, he addressed student discipline, the achievement gap, and Special Education's growing \$11 million budget. The Board of Education is the gatekeeper and it has a responsibility to put aside its differences and allow Dr. Weninger to complete his job. Dr. Weninger always puts the students first.

Status of FOIA Requests

Dr. Lee reported that there were two FOIA requests; one resolved and one pending.

Board of Education Comments

Mr. Finnegan spoke about the takeover of Park National Bank by the government noting that it was one of the biggest events that has happened in Chicago since the demise of the firm Arthur Anderson. He stated that the owner of the bank, Mike Kelly, was one of the finest gentlemen anyone could ever meet. He noted that Ken Trainor of the *Wednesday Journal* has mentioned a number of coalitions in which citizenry could get involved; he hoped that they would.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that she would like to attend the Beyond Diversity Conference to be held December 4 and 5 at the Sutton Place Hotel in Chicago and sponsored by the Chicago Specific Education Group. The cost of the workshop is \$340, the same as the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Conference, for which money has been budgeted. She was excited to be able to bring information back to the Board of Education. Ms. McCormack noted a desire to attend this conference as well.

Ms. Patchak-Layman had attended the Oak Park Village Board meeting Monday, November 16 to listen to the conversation about TIF, but there was also mention of an intent to raise parking fees for students next year. If the school pays the fee upfront for the passes and then be subject to the Village's parking administrator, the savings on the passes would be thirty (30) percent. She was uncomfortable with a public school, serving both communities, administering a program with different fees attached to it. She also believed that the Village was looking to an additional increase January 11, 2010.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that the start of the Baldrige Assessment Process had been delayed until after January 2010. After having made a request for the steering committee to be composed of the chairs of criterion teams, Dr. Millard had instructed her to talk with Dr. Todd Bloom about that suggestion. She did and Dr. Bloom did not think it would be a problem. She wanted further discussion on this program.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted continued concern about the Parent Visitation Day scheduled last month. She felt that allowing parents to visit only the classes of their own children was too restrictive. Research today suggests that in order for students to have conversations with an adult about education and schooling, they need not to have an immediate involvement with them. The Parent Visitation Day gives parents an opportunity to see what opportunities there are for their children. The ability for parents to drop in to see what was occurring was one of the high school's proudest moments. One of the most frequent requests children ask of their parents is not to visit one of their classes. She wanted this re-evaluated and brought to the Board of Education, as they too were current and past parents and they had concrete ways to work out any difficulties.

**Board of Education
Agenda Changes**

Mr. Allen asked that Consent Item VIII. E. Superintendent Search Firm Contract, be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed after closed session.

Student Council

Ms. Turcek reported that the Tradition of Excellence Award Winners would be honored on November 20 and Student Council officers were excited to honor them. The students who participated in the MSAN Conference inspired her to do more.

Ms. Turcek was proud of what Student Council had accomplished this year:

- 1) Held a fundraiser for Little City, which works to create living communities for the mentally challenged;
- 2) Sold T-shirts reflecting that all students enrolled at OPRFHS belong to the school and that no matter the size of the city or the inhabitants, change can happen;
- 3) Planned to host a blood drive on Tuesday, November 24 (one pint of blood can save up to three lives);
- 4) Gave money for the purchase of plastic recycling bins, computer applications, etc., and
- 5) Planned to conduct a survey to get student feedback about the school (oprfstudentcouncil@gmail.com).

Principal report

Mr. Rouse stated the following:

“On behalf of the entire Oak Park and River Forest High School community, we would like to sincerely thank Districts 90 & 97 and our community private/parochial schools for their participation in – and the success of -- our newly formed 8th Grade Huskie Transition Tours this past week.

“Thanks to their generous collaboration, 830 of our communities’ 8th graders were able to experience OPRFHS first hand, glimpsing the great opportunities

that lie ahead and conquering any concerns about walking these halls next year as Class of 2014 Huskies.

“This opportunity for our future Huskies would not have been possible without their support and organization. We know these efforts took time, effort, and resources in the midst of already ‘full plates.’ Thank you for your belief in the value of this program and your commitment to making it work. We hope the experience will also help keep students focused on the importance of finishing strong as invested and involved eighth graders!

“The Athlete Signing Ceremony is tomorrow morning at 7:15 am in the Student Activities Center Conference Room. He congratulated the following eight (8) senior athletes who received signing letters of intent to play at NCAA Division I or II institutions. Their names are as follows:

Marisa Belpedio-Western Michigan University-Softball
Ben Brooks-University of North Carolina-Wrestling
Leah Bry-Butler University-Softball
Chris Dardanes-University of Minnesota-Wrestling
Nick Dardanes-University of Minnesota-Wrestling
Jeff Dirkin-Rollins College-Basketball
Lauren Flannery- Winona State University-Softball
Kristin Wirtz-Northwestern University-Field Hockey

“The 2009 Tradition of Excellence Assemblies and Brunch will be held tomorrow. We will have all school assemblies during periods 2A and 2B. We are proud to honor the following Oak Park and River Forest High School graduates:

“Thomas Lennon Actor/Comedian/Writer/Director 1988
Tom Lennon is currently an actor/comedian who writes for and stars in the popular T.V. Show *Reno 911*. He has a long list of successful acting, writing, directing and producing credits, including *Night at the Museum*, *Herbie Fully Loaded* and the current comedy film, *17 Again*.

“Warren Buckmaster Developer/Innovator 1948
In 1977, Warren Buckmaster developed the first solar home. He then developed an energy-conserving tract of homes in Hemet, California, called Blue Skies Radiant Homes. His concept for home energy efficiency was a precursor to today’s green initiatives and he has been featured nationally in televised documentaries, newspapers, and magazines.

“Aaron Parchem Olympian 1995
Aaron Parchem represented the United States at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Pairs Figure Skating. Aaron was the first African-American male figure skater to skate in the Olympic Games

“For those that are wondering...this is our 27th year for Tradition of Excellence Awards and we have had 101 recipients.

“Next Tuesday, November 24 is our first Student of the Quarter Award Program, in which 17 of OPRFH’s Finest Students and their parents will be recognized for their academic achievements. The celebration will be held in the third Floor Library beginning at 7a.m. with a Continental Breakfast followed by the recognition ceremony.”

Mr. Rouse wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Enrollment Projections Mr. Cariscio and Mr. Lanenga presented a chart showing the enrollment projections for the next three years. He stated that the three-year projection shows that next year’s enrollment will be the same with a slow decline over the next four years. Using a worst-case scenario, the enrollment data for 2009-2010 was considered and it shows that enrollment goes up for two years, then slowly declines to near 2010 levels after five years. The uncertainty of enrollment usually evens out in July. However, this year, it did not. This year the higher enrollment was much unexpected.

District Reports

Citizens’ Council—Liz Robinson, Co-chair of Citizens’ Council, provided the Board of Education with a written summation of the topics discussed at its November 12 meeting.

One of the subjects was communication. Kay Foran, Mike Cariscio, and Sheila Hardin, OPRFHS Faculty Member talked about breadth of vehicles available for students. A suggestion after the meeting was that of establishing an advisory committee. Next month Citizens’ Council will have a drug forum planning session.

Concert Tour Association—Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that CTA continued its discussion about the GPA discussions in which the CTA chair had participated and its premium musical event, e.g., the orchestra and jazz band playing an original piece of music at the Illinois Music Educators Association in January in Peoria. This is a very prestigious event. Hopefully, the administration can attend this event.

APPLE—Mr. Rouse reported that APPLE would host a circuit of division heads to talk about programs, services, and resources for students and parents. Dr. Millard noted that at last month’s meeting a librarian explained the opportunities at the library for students to be involved, e.g., research, studying, etc. They were also made aware of what was available at the public library. Norb Teclaw of the Percy Julian Executive Board also attended.

Faculty Senate—Mr. Hunter thanked Mr. Finnegan for attending the Faculty Senate executive meeting. It was a joy to have him talk about the Board of Education’s goals and its workings. It was well received.

Mr. Hunter remarked on the sophistication of the students’ discussion of the MSAN conference. The complex issues illustrate the qualities of the families and the teachers leading these students. He hoped the local media could witness this presentation. Good things happen at OPRFHS and AYP does not measure the complexity of discussions in which these students are engaged. Mr. Hunter continued that some elements of the community fail to grasp the complexity of the achievement issue; it is not something easily fixed. A more honest discussion needs to occur in the public’s view. The students who reported on the MSAN Conference painted a great view of what life can be and what life is at OPRFHS.

The Tradition of Excellence is another measure of the students’ sophistication. He remembered Tom Lennon when he was a student at the high school; his character on TV is not his real person. He hoped tomorrow’s Tradition of Excellence events were as successful as in the past.

ED-RED—Dr. Lee reported that ED-RED’s discussions have been on the events in Springfield. Currently, the shortfall of money ranges from \$11.2 billion to \$14 billion.

PTO – The PTO’s next meeting is Tuesday, December 2 and it will continue the discussion on communication and the summer bridge program.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Weninger provided the following information:

Ms. Foran and he attended a meeting at the Village of Oak Park regarding the census. The District has agreed to: 1) target efforts, 2) explore web links after January 1, 3) provide census information to parents by promoting it on the website, electronic messages, and put information in the newsletters, 4) explore the use of tag lines on any mailings to the parents, community and alumni groups, and 5) hang up posters, etc. The building was offered as a place for April counting needs and the District will communicate with Fenwick and Trinity High Schools. It means money for the schools and the Villages of Oak Park & River Forest.

The Regional Office of Education will conduct a Compliance Office review on December 10.

The Baldrige Assessment Process will start after January due to consultant priorities and other scheduling conflicts.

District 97 and District 200 were participating in a research study out of USCLA. Gail Sunderman, the researcher, will interview administrators Ms. Foran, Ms. Bishop, Mr. Prale, Ms. Hill, Dr. Weninger, and Mr. Edgecombe as well as Board of Education members Dr. Lee and Mr. Allen.

In the season of thanksgiving, Dr. Weninger offered thanks to the Board of Education, the administration, the staff, the parents, and the community. He was personally grateful to be part of OPRFHS and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Consent Items

Mr. Allen moved to approve the consent items as follows:

- Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated November 19, 2009 (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting);
- September 2009 Treasurer's Report;
- Monthly September Financials; and
- Two-year contract for Employee Assistance Program services with Workplace Solutions, as presented.

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

Policy 6130

Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 6130, Objections to Instruction Materials; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and one Nay. Mr. Allen voted nay. Motion carried. Mr. Allen was concerned about academic freedom being maintained and objected to any allowance of censorship.

Policy 6131

Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 6131, Objections to Materials in Library Collection; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and one Nay. Mr. Allen voted nay. Motion carried. Mr. Allen was concerned about academic freedom being maintained and objected to any allowance of censorship.

Policy 5119

Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 5119, Home-schooled and Nonpublic school Students, as presented; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Policy 5127

Mr. Finnegan moved to amend Policy 5127, Alternative Credit, as presented; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and two nays. Motion carried. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay.

Ms. Patchak-Layman felt that parents of eight-grade students taking advanced courses at the high school should have the opportunity to consider whether or not their children's grades should be applied to their GPA when they get to the high school.

- Policy 6135** Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 6135, Bookstore, as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Allen was absent for this vote.
- Policy 6150** Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 6150, Adjunct Programs, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Allen was absent for this vote.
- Policy 6220** Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 6220, Tutoring and Therapy, as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in in five ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Allen was absent for this vote.
- Policy 6400** Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 6400, Instructional and Recreational Materials, as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried
- Policy 6500** Mr. Finnegan moved to amend Policy 6500, Education of Children with Disabilities, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- Policy 10, 12, and 30** Dr. Millard moved to amend Policy 10, Introduction, Policy 12, American Flag, and Policy 30, Policy Changes, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- Policy 100** Dr. Lee moved to amend Statement of Philosophy of Philosophy, as presented; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- Policy 101** Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 101, Human Dignity and Diversity, as amended; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in four ayes and one nay. Mr. Finnegan and Mr. Allen voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman objected to the policy as presented because she did not believe the language was strong enough. She felt being committed to a process was not action and the language, as written, was not strong enough. Ms. McCormack concurred.

Dr. Weninger explained that the word “process” was not an addition. The Board of Education had asked for legal advice about the ramifications and the advice was that it would be more comfortable inserting the phrase, “ the ultimate goal...” Without that disclaimer, it opened the door to lawsuits.

Dr. Lee did not support the disclaimer. He asked, “What do we have to lose by going in new direction as opposed to a safer direction? What do we have to gain? We could lose as a result of the fear of frivolous or unfrivolous lawsuits.” The first step is for the District to commit to it. It was his opinion that if one refrains, one is less like to do it.

Both Mr. Finnegan and Mr. Allen felt that while the District would not lose a lawsuit because of this language, it could be sued often. Mr. Finnegan noted that what the District does and how it follows through is what is most important. He felt there was agreement in the goals, but he worried frivolous lawsuits and what that could do to the District’s time and budget. Mr. Allen concurred. He lacked faith in the court system because he has seen the travesties that can occur. The attorneys bring up a valid point and he did not see how the District would lose by inserting the word “process.” The Board of Education has fairly demonstrated its commitment to the process over the last two and one half years. It is not a matter of being sued, but every time a suit is filed, the District has to react to it and it affects the people named, including teachers. That has a damaging effect. While the District will not gain anything, it will risk much. This is a discussion about negating the liability. He did not want to ignore it because of being protective; he just wanted to be smart about it.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that the Board of Education had been categorized as not taking a stand and not letting the community know what is important to this Board of Education. This statement is what she would want the school to be now and in the future. Mr. Allen stated that no one could say that this Board of Education had not taken a stand or made a commitment since the three of them had been elected to this Board of Education. Dr. Millard concurred.

The last sentence of the third paragraph will read as follows:

“OPRFHS is committed to an inclusive education for all students where racial and predictability are eliminated in student achievement and success.”

Policy 101-A

Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 101-A, Gender Equity, as presented; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried

**Policies for
First Reading**

Dr. Lee moved to approve Policy 5116, Alternative Educational Programs, Policy 3800, Hazardous Materials, and Policy 3810 Green Cleaning Policy, as presented, for First Reading; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked that Policies 3800 and 3810 be sent to the Environment Club for its review of these policies.

Gifts and Donations Dr. Millard moved to accept with gratitude the gifts, 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.

Preliminary Levy Dr. Millard moved to approve the Preliminary Levy as presented, and to approve for display as required; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Witham reported that that levy reflected a .1 CPI and she took into consideration that the Village of Oak Park is in default of the TIF. She was unsure if there would be a settlement. If that would occur, OPRFHS would be able to realize that impact.

Ms. Witham noted that a Village Trustee had asked that approval to end the River Forest TIF on December 31, 2009 be included on the next meetings agenda. She attended the River Forest Joint Review Board meeting. If so, \$63,000 would be released but the Levy was not set high enough to realize it. The Levy could be amended, if necessary.

Personnel Recommendations Ms. Patchak-Layman asked that this be discussed in closed session.

Mr. Finnegan noted that one new hired was an OPRFHS graduate and a great student.

Update on Division Mr. Edgecombe, referencing the report in the packet, updated the following information:

- 1) Director of Human Resources: The student and the SST member were yet to be identified and the update; and
- 2) Mathematics Division Head: The division representatives had been identified.

Mr. Edgecombe stated that while there was no cutoff date to receive applications, the vetting of them would begin for the Human Resources Director November 30 and for the Division heads December 6.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked why there was not a process in place to allow for those who were not in the respective division to participate on this committee as a way to bring more perspectives to this process. She had hoped for more independence. Mr. Edgecombe noted it was because of their natural involvement with parents, faculty, and students. While this is a collaborative process, the chair must assure that the committee has diversity and who best fills the roles. Discussion had occurred at the

Board of Education level about the composition of the committees and one of the assurances was that no single employee group would have a majority of members on an interview team. As to the selection of those individuals, the principle is one of openness, transparency and inclusiveness. Mr. Edgecombe trusted the faculty to know who would best represent the remaining part of the faculty in that process.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked about the composition of the Special Education Committee. At this point, only Instructional Council members have been selected. The District could have considered having a member of SEA participate in this Committee, but the process has become so prescriptive that it did not allow for deviation or discretion as it was implemented. Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that Teacher Assistants are very involved and they need to have representation on this committee.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that she had grave concerns about the process. While there was discussions on this topic, there was no vote. Mr. Allen stated that the Board of Education spent three months reviewing the document and by the end of the last meeting, it was agreed upon that this was the document the administration would use to proceed. To say in late November that there were more issues and problems would delay the hiring process and the District would lose good candidates. Ms. Patchak-Layman responded that the intent was to have an open and transparent process and these are benchmarks. She asked how parents and students would be able to participate on the committees. Mr. Rouse reported that the Math Division suggested the importance of having the ability to solicit students, including those who have struggled in achieving success. He hoped that there was trust in administrative staff and in the teams created so that they were able to do their work.

For the Special Education Director position, Mr. Prale reported that input was received from 25 to 30 individuals who shared information, representing about forty percent of the entire department, including teacher assistants. All of the comments were categorized and emailed to the entire Special Education Division. Mr. Prale reiterated the District's commitment to a fair, open, and ethical process. The parents are found by working with members of the community who will act in the best interest of the school and the students; people who are known to be honorable, confidential and have variety of experiences; the faculty is instrumental in providing that information. They are asked to suggest names. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if parent groups were specifically asked for suggestions.

Dr. Weninger stated that he had contacted three CEO's for the Human Resources position and asked for suggestions. A director of HR of an international corporation also agreed to participate.

Mr. Finnegan echoed Mr. Allen's comments and lauded the efforts of the faculty. They cannot be locked down in a fashion that does not allow them to do their jobs. He asked how the District would honor the work that these committees will do. He stated that the process is vitally important and asked what happens to their recommendations. Is the committee's choice a final step? Mr. Edgecombe explained that there were two rounds of interviews. The first round will make a recommendation to second round committee. The second round committee will make a recommendation to Superintendent. The Superintendent may engage in a final conversation and then make a recommendation to the Board of Education. Each division knows that each step in the process is only a recommendation until it gets to the Board of Education.

Mr. Edgecombe stated that the Director of Human Resources position was advertised in or on the IASA Job Bank, *Education Week*, the Top Job Search for *Education Week*, MONSTER.com, the Society for Human Resource Managers, and individual outreaches were made to individuals in the Chicago area. Last Sunday, Dr. Weninger attended a Michgian State Alumni Association event whose purpose was to invite alumn educators and provide them with a resource for advertising positions. Michigan State is the number one ranked education school in the country.

Presently, forty (40) applications had been received for this position.

Course Proposals

Dr. Millard moved to approve the course proposals for the 2010-2011 school year as presented; seconded by Mr Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Hill answered questions regarding a comparison of what is covered in integrated Chinese to that covered in 5/6 Spanish. She stated that they were comparable skills that a student would be learning in any of the language programs, although it was hard to compare as students were being taught a new script and pronumications. Teachers continually seeking professional development and offer students an appropriate level of the course.

Ms. Patchak-Layman was concerned about dropping the woods class because the teacher moved on to something else and the class was not continuing in the curriculum.

Divisional Restructuring Update

Mr. Prale provided an update on the divisional restructuring in the packet. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Finnegan asked if teaching two classes was a workload that the Fine and Performing Arts Division Head could accomplish. Mr. Prale responded that it was. Not all Division Heads teach two classes, some only teach one. Others do not have department heads to assist.

Ms. Patchak-Layman referred to an editorial in the Trapeze about restructuring. She asked if he had met with the students since then to help them understand how their concerns would be addressed. Mr. Prale noted that he had not after, only before the article. Dr. Weninger had met with the editorial staff two times and answered their questions, but there has been no further information. Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested that more students had read about it and she felt a follow-up might be appropriate. Mr. Prale felt the editorial was fair, informative and information would be included in the Academic Catalog, and the Counselors would be made aware of it.

Approval of Minutes and Destruction of Tapes

Mr. Allen moved to approve the open minutes of October 22, November 3, 10, and 12, 2009 and the Closed Session Minutes of October 22 and November 10, 2009, and Declared that the Audiotapes of the closed sessions of March 2008 be destroyed and a declared that the closed session minutes from January 1, 1989 through November 2009 remain closed; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Motion carried. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay because of the destruction of the tapes.

Board of Education Dates

Mr. Allen moved to approve the Board of Education dates for the 2010 Calendar Year as noted below; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Thursday, January 28, Thursday, February 25, Thursday, March 25, Thursday, April 22, Thursday, May 27, Thursday, June 24, Thursday, August 26, Thursday, September 23, Thursday, October 28, Thursday, November 18, and Thursday, December 16

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked the Board of Education to consider holding two evening Board of Education meetings per month and that the approval of these dates be tabled. Dr. Millard stated that the discussion would not preclude approving these at this meeting but would add it to the PEG Committee meeting agenda for discussion.

Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the District charged the companies who do test prep rent for the use of the District's facilities. How were they solicited for the mailing list? Was preferential treatment given to one by allowing parents/students to register online through the OPRFHS website and the other not? Why was there a difference in pricing?

Ms. Hill responded that EXCEL Edge had been in the building for years. Revolution Prep replaced a company that is no longer in business. She sought a replacement for SAT for juniors in the spring and for ACT prep for seniors in the fall. Revolution Prep was chosen because of its strong scholarship program; its mission is to give all students an opportunity by extending financial assistance. It was also willing to offer courses at times prescribed by the District and offer particular courses. Ms. Hill did not prefer either of these companies. The companies themselves determined the practices as to how students are registered. Revolution Prep, while two times more expensive, also offers two times as much contact time between the student and the teacher, both in practice and in testing time. Dr. Weninger noted that it was appropriate to use these companies because they benefit students under the child benefit theory. No other Board of Education members had questions about this or sought further information.

Regarding Baldrige, Dr. Millard will ask other Board of Education members individually if they would like to see the structure of the steering committees changed per Ms. Patchak-Layman's request.

Closed Session

At 10:25 p.m., on November 19, 2009, Dr. Lee moved to go into closed session to discuss 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); 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; and Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); 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. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 1:36 a.m. on Friday, November 19, 2009, the Board of Education resumed its open session.

Student Discipline Mr. Allen moved to expel Student EXP 11-19-09-05, for the duration of the 2009-2010 school year, expelled Student EXP 11-19-09-05 through the 2009-2010 school year but held the expulsion in abeyance contingent upon 1) placement in an alternative educational setting; 2) successful completion of the alternative educational placement with at least 90% attendance and passing of all classes; and 3) substance use/abuse (drug and alcohol) counseling through community agencies; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried. Ms. Patchak-Layman wanted to explore other educational alternatives.

Dr. Millard moved to expel Student EXP 11-19-09-06, for the duration of the 2009-2010 school term but held the expulsion in abeyance contingent upon placement in an alternative educational program which may include Harbor, Ombudsman, or school developed program; successful completion of currently enrolled in courses with credit earned and completion of high school graduation requirements; enrollment in and completion of substance use/abuse program through local agency (e.g., Thrive Counseling, Township Youth Services, etc.) and verification of same; and social probation for duration of the 2009-2010 school term including but not limited to all co-curricular activities/events (athletic and activity), prom, post prom, and commencement; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Superintendent Search Firm Dr. Lee moved to table the approval of the Superintendent Search Firm contract with School Exec Connect; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in four ayes and two nays. Ms. Patchak-Layman and Dr. Millard voted nay. 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 Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment At 1:40 a.m. on Friday, November 20, 2009, moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Dietra D. Millard
President

John C. Allen, IV
Secretary