

The Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, October 22, 2009, in the Board Room.

Call to Order President Millard called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: John C. Allen, IV; Jacques A. Conway; Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy Leafe 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 (arrived at 8:30 p.m.); Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; 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; Iris Zaldivar, Chair of Citizens' Council; Jack Lanenga; Iris Edgecombe, Linda Cada, Daniel Greenstone, Jason Dennis, Joe Kostal, Neil Weisman, Paul Noble Joe Kostal, Catherine Marshall, Colleen Biggins, and Peter Nixon, OPRFHS employees; Burcy Hines, Rebecca Baiman, Michael Frank, Charlotte Goldman, Nora Jasinski, Daniel Knickelbein, Isabel Neylan, Margaret Stadtwald, Genevieve Stevens, Russell Ternary, Environmental Club Students; Trapeze representatives, and Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

Student Recognition The Board of Education recognized the OPRFHS Environmental Club Members for receiving the Green Award Honorable Mention from the Village of Oak Park on their efforts to promote environmental awareness within the high school community and improve the overall sustainability of the building. The Environmental Club's sponsor is OPRFHS faculty member Cindy McGuckin and the student members are:

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rebecca Baiman | Lara McDonough |
| Mariah Bender | Alexander Merchen |
| David Campbell | Isabel Monaghan |
| Carson Cornelius | Isabel Neylan |
| Michael Frank | Margaret Stadtwald |
| Charlotte Goldman | Genevieve Stevens |
| Jacqueline Henry | Russell Ternary |
| Nora Jasinski | Christopher Wilson |
| Daniel Knickelbein | Jonathan Wilson |
| Ellen Lipo | Erin Wynn |

Visitor Comments Faculty member Naomi Hildner thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to address it. She asked the Board of Education to be cognizant of what the faculty was simultaneously dealing with at this time, e.g., academic achievement, RtI, Courageous Conversations on Race, the Literacy 1 to 5 Program, Learning Team Programs, the Baldrige Assessment, as well as higher class size, fewer support personnel; more and more after-school committees,

coaching, snowball, etc. She asked the Board of Education to prioritize all of these worthwhile initiatives because there was not enough time in the day for them to be accomplished. Having just received the schedule for the Baldrige Assessment, she found that she will not be able to participate because she is now the RtI Coordinator for the English Division and as such will be going monthly to other schools. The Courageous Conversations on Race take teachers away from teaching for 11 hours. She suggested creating a way to balance all of these initiatives so that something actually gets accomplished.

Jill Haas, 818 N. Euclid, Oak Park, made the following statement to the Board of Education. “My name is Jill Haas. I am the parent of a 2009 graduate and a present sophomore at OPRF. While it may not be possible to turn back the clock and reverse Dr. Weninger’s decision to retire, I would like to go on public record and make it clear to this school board how disappointed I am that you created an atmosphere, which allowed this to occur. He was hired to bring about the kind of changes, which you challenged him to do. Not many people like change. Change is hard, especially for those that enjoy the status quo. I understand that Dr. Weninger has made some uncomfortable decisions and he may be unpopular with some ‘stakeholder groups.’ However, you cannot have change without a little discomfort. Dr Weninger has brought about many positive changes by making tough decisions, including improvements in the achievement gap, disciplinary procedures, and the school’s data systems. I fear that further progress will be stalled with a long selection process and the acclimation of a new superintendent. Furthermore, this search process will likely be arduous and expensive because of the unrealistic goal of finding a person who is a strong leader who can elicit change and that ‘everybody likes.’ As has been reported, a present sticking point is the proposed hiring procedures for mid-level administrators. I do not understand how you cannot see the benefit of the model that Dr. Weninger proposed. I am afraid as a school board you have lost sight of your constituency. It is the community, the parents and the students. It is not the teacher’s union. I would like to thank personally Dr. Weninger for making Oak Park and River Forest High School a better institution. We wish him well and we wish he weren’t leaving.”

Mike Gibbs, resident of 520 Monroe, River Forest, IL, made the following statement.

“I speak to you tonight as a voter, not as past president of the Huskie Booster Club or as River Forest Village Trustee.

“Thank you for your service to the OPRFHS community and for giving me this opportunity to speak with you tonight. I am Mike Gibbs of 527 Monroe River Forest, Not renewing Dr. Weninger's contract is a mistake. School District 200 must be thought of as a business—a business that produces well-educated student citizens of Oak Park and River Forest. Dr. Weninger is the CEO of the company. The school board is the board of directors. The

voters are the stockholders.

“The employees of the high school are the employees of the company. I cannot think of any other situation where the employees oversee the actions of the CEO. Too often, in our community, the squeaky wheel will get the grease and school policy is made to eliminate the squeak. I feel that not renewing Dr. Weninger's contract is an extreme reaction to address the concerns of the individuals that have not been able to or are unwilling to forge a relationship with their boss.

“This Board of Education hired Dr. Weninger to make the necessary changes to the ways things are done at OPRFHS. He was hired to shake things up. Now, instead of supporting your superintendent, you seem to be more interest in the feelings of the people that have been shaken. I am concerned by comments made by this board regarding the current situation.

“Comment...’I think he has done a fine job, I just have a problem with a few things he has done.’

Response...Can't you work this out?

“Comment...’His subordinates don't like him. I've spoken with them.’

Response...You do not seem to have spoken with the people you represent.

“Final Comment...’We need a superintendant that can work with all the stake holders’

Response...Have you ever heard the phrase, you cannot please all the people all the time?

“The term ‘stakeholder’ is troubling to me. There is only one group of stakeholders the Board of Education should strive to please—THE VOTERS. They put you in this office; they will keep you or replace you when the time comes to do so.

“The Weninger-era Board of Education meetings have been dull compared with previous superintendents. Parents have not lined up to share their displeasure with the Board of Education. For goodness sake, the *Wednesday Journal* has stated that Dr. Weninger has done a good job and it does not like anyone. I can only wonder from whom the Board of Education is getting its advice.

“Finally... we all know he is not retiring. Do not embarrass yourselves and insult our intelligence with this public relations spin. What message do you send to any potential candidates? The Board of Education will let the superintendent go out on a limb at the same time they are passing out chain saws. Please reconsider Dr. Weninger's extension. OPRFHS needs him to finish his job; we do not need to be an apprenticeship program for other

schools to find their superintendents. Thank You

Sally Gibbs, an OPRFHS graduate, addressed the Board of Education. She stated has stayed extremely involved for the last 10 years; she chaired six out of the ten 10 Booster auctions and raised over \$1 million. She expressed concern over the future of her six-year old twins. Her involvement in past years with the high school's leaders was the impetus for her speaking to the Board of Education.

Having worked with several administrative staffs, Dr. Weninger's announcement made her concerns greater. The staff is fearful of their jobs and greater workload. Ms. Hildner said that this was highest-class size, but it has been higher in previous years. That is a misperception. It is the rumors that have been started among stakeholder groups and unhappy teachers that have allowed the Board of Education to be at the point at which it is now. Dr. Weninger is the CEO. Change is needed and OPRFHS needs him to finish what he started. It will take the next superintendent one to two years to make any progress. She thanked Dr. Weninger for the time he provided. He had walked the streets at 12:00 p.m. after the night game to make sure all was well. She hoped the Board would reject his retirement notice.

**Board of Education
Comments**

Ms. Patchak-Layman reiterated her concern that the parent visitation days had been removed from the calendar event and no replacement had been forthcoming to provide the community, current parents, and eighth-grade parents with the opportunity to see the school in action.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that the Board of Education has received the dates and times for the Steering Committee and Criterion Teams for the Baldrige Assessment. Because the dates varied from the initial contract, she asked if the assessment would cost more.

Ms. Patchak-Layman referred to an article that appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* this week over access to public information, highlighting a number of school board and other public body members who were unable to fulfill their duties because they were not granted access to information. She has often felt the same during the past two years as those who were profiled in the article and she hoped that would not continue. When Board of Education members request information, there should not be a screening method to determine whether the information is needed in order for him/her to have the information.

Mr. Allen appreciated the citizens' comments made earlier in the evening. Approximately one year ago, a River Forest Trustee attacked the school. Mr. Allen spoke at Village of River Forest meeting and defended the teachers' contract. One of the facts Mr. Allen had at that

time was that the teachers received a 4 percent raise but it was, in fact, a 6 percent raise and he wanted to make that correction publicly.

Mr. Conway congratulated both the soccer and golf soccer teams.

Mr. Conway stated that one of the more important comments he made was not included in the *Wednesday Journal* when he was interviewed that Dr. Weninger put students first. After being in public service in Oak Park for 20 years, Mr. Conway stated that the children are not the Village's priority. Adult issues always get in the way of the children. He appreciated how Dr. Weninger had continually put students first in his administration and in his actions.

Dr. Millard reminded everyone of the second football game under the lights and she thanked the Boosters for its support.

She made the following comments: "With the recent announcement of Dr Weninger's retirement from the District next June, there are those who question whether this District and this Board are committed to address the achievement equity within the building that we have stated as our top priority. As the Board of Education president, she lets the community remain the top priority. There is no change to its focus. That will be the focus of the search for a new superintendent to build on the current programs and make the changes that are needed to accomplish that goal, e.g., educational equity and their long-term success. We need each of you to participate. While few people will stand up other than to talk, not work. The Gibbs have done the work. She will guarantee that she and Dr. Weninger will continue to lead the school with the goals for the year with the goals established. There will be no slack off period. We need every one if we are going to make student academic success a reality. To those of you who spoke, I received no phone calls. We are glad that you came and ask you to for your help in the future."

**Board of Education
Agenda Changes**

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked that Item F. "Ratification of Written Assurance of Provisions of Policies and Procedures for Special Education" be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Discussion ensued about whether the Board of Education needed to vote formally on Agenda Item VII A. Divisional Restructuring. The majority of the Board of Education members understood at the previous Instruction Committee meeting and that this did not need to come for a vote. The administration was only providing follow-up information and that there was general concurrence that the recommendation would go forward as presented.

**October 1 Housing
Report/Enrollment
Data**

Mr. Carioscio recognized his colleague, Jack Lanenga, as he was responsible for the numbers. Mr. Carioscio shared a PowerPoint distilled from the numbers in the October 1 Report. Each slide referenced the data packet.

Statistical Information relative to the following:

- Number of students by grade, gender, and those identified needing special education services. There are 3,264 students with 80 receiving services outside of the building.
- The associate school student enrollment sources for freshmen;
- Historical associate school grade enrollment by District;
- Division enrollments and class size;
- Historical Average Class Size, Semester One (23.3 – 2009-10);
- Historical Registrations by student per year (6.52 all classes and 5.05 academic courses);
- Division/Department Student Enrollment Totals by Percent by Year from 2005-06 through 2009-2010; and
- Division/Department Program Enrollments, Sections, and FTE 2008-2009 to 2009-2010.

**Student Transfer/
Withdrawal Report
2008-09**

Mr. Rouse presented the Student Transfer/Withdrawal Report 2008-09 as follows, created by Mr. Wilson.

During the 2008-2009 school year:

- 142 students were withdrawn or transferred from OPRFHS.
- About twice as many African-American students were withdrawn or transferred than White students.
- About twice as many male students were withdrawn or transferred than Female students.
- 39 students were withdrawn with no plans that were known of to continue pursuit of a high school diploma.

Dr. Weninger added that ninety more students enrolled this year than anticipated over last year.

**School Profile &
State Report Card**

Mr. Rouse pointed out the added information on the school profile this year. The 2009-2010 profile contains the following changes:

- Only cost per pupil is included;
- Phone numbers and email addresses for counselors are included;
- Specific graduation requirements are listed;
- Enrollment of graduates in 2-year and 4-year institutions is reported separately;
- ACT and SAT scores are given by quartiles instead of the average score;
- Subtest scores for ACT and SAT are reported instead of only composite scores;
- AP scores of 1 and 2 are included; and
- All courses which are weighted (Honors and Advanced Placement) are combined.

Mr. Conway stated that students should be preparing for college the first day of high school. The high school should be 1) educating students on the process, and 2) exposing students to fields with which they might have an interest, etc. His experience is that students and families do not find out about important information until it is too late, i.e., the senior year. The writing element is very important and he asked for a program that would make it mandatory for students to write college essays.

Mr. Finnegan concurred noting that if a student had a low GPA after the first two years, it was almost impossible to think about college. Students must anticipate that they will go to college on the first day of high school. Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that Mr. Conway had made this same comment previously and the Board supported it. She asked where this could be discussed and who would be responsible for it. Dr. Weninger responded that while it could be discussed at an Instruction Committee meeting, presently many priorities exist, and he would ask the Board of Education which ones to accomplish. Mr. Conway suggested asking the community to assist with that challenge, as valuable professionals could take a lead with the school's direction, e.g., take students to college fairs, etc.

Ms. Zaldivar, an alumnus and chair of the Citizens' Council, stated that it takes a partnership to get students to do something. Having teachers say something is just not enough. It is her job as a parent. Parents have to be informed of this on the first day.

Mr. Prale responded that every junior student takes a college entrance exam, the ACT. The college counseling strand is a part of its curriculum and includes a discussion about the exam. Counselors do a good creating a four-year plan and talking with students about their college aspirations. Postcards were in the mail right now inviting families to attend college information night for parents and students at the high school.

Triton Evening School Report

Mr. Rouse presented the Triton Evening School Report written by Mark Wilson, Assistant Principal for Student Services.

Nine students were withdrawn from OPRFHS with the plan to enroll at Triton's GED preparation program. For the Board of Education's information, below is a description of the Triton High School Completion Program.

Triton High School Completion (H.S.C.) Students interested in attending Triton's High School Completion (HSC) program have three options.

General Education Development (GED)

Students who want to take the General Education Development (GED) exam may attend Triton's GED preparation classes which are offered to prepare

students for passing the high school equivalency examination. It is not required to take GED classes in order to take the GED test. However, it is strongly recommended to take these classes to give confidence and to increase the student's chances of passing the test the first time.

Evening High School (EHS)

With approval from the high school principal or guidance counselor, students under 21 can complete courses in the Evening High School (EHS) program. The program offers high school and/or college courses that may apply toward high school graduation at the student's current high school. Student over 21 with at least three years of high school credit can take EHS and/or college courses to receive a high school diploma from a partnering high school in the area.

Adult High School (AHS)

AHS students must be 21 years of age or older, must reside in Triton's district, and must have their official high school transcripts evaluated at Triton.

Mr. Rouse thanked Mr. Wilson and counseling department for providing this concrete information.

FOIA Requests

Dr. Millard reported that no FOIA requests were received.

Principal's Report

Mr. Rouse reported the following

“As indicated in our August Newsletter, this year OPRFHS will be developing alternatives to two popular programs: the Eighth-Grade Shadowing and the Parent Visitation Day. Below is an update on those alternatives:

“In lieu of the former eighth-grade shadowing program, a new program will be introduced that will strengthen articulation efforts between the associate schools and OPRFHS by adopting an eighth grade transition activity that benefits all parties, especially incoming freshmen. In previous years, individual eighth graders and their families have been able to arrange, with the District's oversight, a day of shadowing with a high school student. As enjoyable as this opportunity has been for some, the benefits of this experience and information obtained have proven to be uneven and inconsistent. Also, as previously structured, a majority of eighth grade families chose not to attend. For these reasons, a formal transitional event has been planned for all eighth graders in collaboration with the middle schools this coming year. It will be called the Huskie Transition tours.

“During the second week of November, each middle school's eighth grade student and eighth grade teachers will come to OPRF via a bus for a three-hour transitional activity. This will consist of a 45-minute informational assembly about the high school's programs and services, followed by a tour of

the building, and a snapshot of some of the classes that incoming freshmen would take. Benefits to this new activity are as follows:

- All eighth graders will have the opportunity to experience the high school along with their peers and teaching teams on a special day set aside for just their school, as opposed to the previous less-structured individual shadowing opportunities.
- This new approach will avoid the piecemeal disruptions to and the impact on the classroom throughout the school year by setting aside four days each year to formalize this experience and make the visit more manageable, meaningful, and purposefully informative for the students.
- It will also provide an experience for students considering parochial and private schools prior to their having to take the January placements tests and to bring parent awareness of the high school and help market the January 12, 13, and 14 enrollment meetings.

“Dates for The Huskie Transition Tours are as follows:

- Tuesday, November 10 Brooks Middle School
- Wednesday November 11 Roosevelt Middle School
- Thursday November 12th Julian Middle School
- Friday November 13th Private Schools (Grace/St. Luke/Ascension/St. Catherine/St. Lucy/St. Giles/St. Edmund/ t. Vincent/ Ascension School)
- The HTTs will be followed by a Parent Night/Q & A Session on Tuesday November 17.

Parent Visitation Day (PVD) Update

Feedback the last couple of years from both parents and teachers has led the District to conclude that PVD, as currently devised, has run its course. The District is currently working out the logistics to provide a more structured experience for both teachers and parents, which will include limiting the experience to current OPRFHS students and to registered incoming eighth grade parents of students with special needs, per new Special Education Law regulations. To maintain the positive, safe, learning environment, parents of current students will be allowed to visit only the classes of their students. The District anticipates finalizing this new structure within the next couple of weeks, with a target of having a Parent Visitation Day during the spring semester.

Mr. Rouse reminded all that Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled as follows: Wednesday, November 4 from 4:30-7:30 PM and Thursday, November 5 from 11:15 – 7:30 PM.

Parent Teacher Conference signup began Thursday, October 15, at 9 AM, and will close Wednesday, October 28 at 11:59 PM. Some stats as of last Friday are as follows:

- 427 families signed up for conferences in the first hour;
- 871 families signed up as of 3:30 PM Friday, October 16;
- 2,647 conferences have been scheduled for Wednesday evening;
- 14 teachers are completely booked and 26 more teachers have four or fewer time slots available; and
- 2690 conferences have been scheduled for Thursday.

Because only so many slots for conferences are available and teachers have approximately ninety families each to see, some families may not be accommodated. However, teachers will make individual arrangements with parents. Because parents now have access to the online Gradebook, teachers have an opportunity to ask questions of the parents, e.g., what can they do better to help the students.

Mr. Rouse thanked Lana Geselbracht for her work in managing the parent/teacher conference process.

In conclusion, Mr. Rouse congratulated Dr. Weninger on his retirement and wished him the best in all of his future endeavors. He thanked him for believing in him and providing him with the opportunity to serve under his leadership as the Principal of Oak Park and River Forest High School. He thanked him for being patient, understanding, and, most importantly, supportive of his work. His passion, dedication, and relentless work ethic are the best. He stated that he would be missed.

Mr. Conway asked if the Outreach Coordinator would contact those families needing the counseling session but who had not yet signed up for it. Mr. Rouse responded that these families had been identified and a meeting was scheduled to give them a tutorial on registering for the conferences.

Citizens' Council— Iris Zaldivar, chair of Citizens' Council, provided a list of the future topics to be considered by Citizens' Council for the year. They were:

Communications	Security and Safety
Substance abuse (may have an abuse forum)	Special Ed
Associate schools	Foreign Language
Community School	Code Enforcement
Partnering	Is the Bar at the right level?

The dates of the meetings are posted on the website.

The topics already addressed were 1) transfer enrollment statistics, 2) associate school articulation, and 3) a tour of the science labs.

Mr. Conway felt having a forum on substance abuse was a good idea and he suggested including the community as this is not just a high school issue. Ms. Zaldivar concurred. Mr. Conway stated that many parents feel helpless and are embarrassed to talk about this subject. Mr. Finnegan suggested taking a template, PowerPoint presentation, etc., to other venues, e.g., associate schools, religious institutions, etc., in order to share this information.

Faculty Senate— Mr. Hunter had no report.

Alumni Association—Mr. Finnegan reported that the Alumni Association is planning its golf outing in the spring. Dr. Millard stated that the Alumni Association was hosting a reception for the students who participated in its summer enrichment programs on Monday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.

CTA—Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that CTA had hosted its Huskie Music Fest last Thursday, October 15. Usually this event is held on a Friday; they hoped that next year it could again be scheduled for a Friday as more students can attend then.

APPLE—The October 6 APPLE meeting was well attended. The English and Math Chairs spoke about opportunities of which parents may be unaware.

ED-RED—Dr. Lee reported that on November 6, ED-RED would hold an informational session, giving a wrap up on veto session and a discussion on pension reform legislation.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Weninger provided the following information:

- OPRFHS was officially notified by the Regional Office of Education that it is scheduled for a full-fledged audit on December 10; it will involve every administrative aspect of the school.
- October 23 will be the second Friday Night Game under the Lights.
- A SNAC meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 27.

Responding to Ms. Patchak-Layman's concern about an increased cost for the Baldrige assessment, Dr. Weninger stated that the breadth of the contract had not been extended, but just that the dates had changed. The assessment will begin in December rather than in October due to Dr. Bloom's ability to accommodate OPRFHS's schedule. The contract will not cost more; however, a slight increase may occur, as Dr. Bloom will facilitate the first three Criterion Team meetings rather than just the first as scheduled in order to make people more comfortable with this process. The school will have to pay for his time and travel costs.

Dr. Weninger reminded the Board of Education of the conference sponsored by Dominican University: Equity, Excellence, and Access: Closing the Achievement Gap. Dr. Weninger will attend. Mr. Wilson and a PSS Team will talk about OPRFHS's counseling model and the three-prong approach of counselors, deans, and resources managers. The featured speakers are Dr. James Banks, Dr. Max McGee, and Dr. Fetus Obiakor, an internationally known speaker now at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Under Dr. McGee's leadership, Illinois Math and Science Academy has established a field office to disseminate pedagogy in all areas, but especially in the areas of math and science.

Dr. Weninger reported that he attended the Governing Board meeting of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN). OPRFHS's advantage of being a member in this organization is that it has access to central programs and research through the Wisconsin Center of Education Research. The Governing Board learned of a series of grant initiatives to which it applied. He delineated the grants and spoke of how widely MSAN is working as a group, e.g., investing in Innovation Fund Grants (stimulus money of between \$5 million \$30 million, and \$50 million). MSAN's Executive Director, in working with research and grants, should have an excellent chance of getting some of this funding for MSAN.

OPRFHS & Evanston Township High School hosted a student conference in late September. Dr. Weninger complimented both students and teachers on their performance at the conference. It was a powerful experience. Spontaneously, from all of the students, there was a request to change the name of the organization. They felt minority student achievement had a negative connotation. Each MSAN-member superintendent promised to 1) hold small group sessions with students who attended the conference about that and ask them for name suggestions; and 2) charge the Research Practitioner's Council to begin an electronic chat space on Facebook and to ask students to communicate on that topic. Both groups will report in February as to its final name.

Dr. Weninger reported that he had groundbreaking news. An organization called Midwest Educators of Color Association (MECA) was introduced to MSAN. This organization's purpose is to provide employers with minority candidates and its concentration is only in the Midwest. OPRFHS is now a member and will be accessing this service.

Dr. Weninger unveiled a plan to replicate part of OPRFHS's history—constructing a park-like setting at the north end of Scoville incorporating a stone formation that was attached to the building prior to the 1967

addition. He shared a PowerPoint presentation showing a rendition of this idea.

Collaboration on Early Childhood Care and Education—Dr. Lee reported that because the Collaboration on Early Childhood Care and Education operates in the nonprofit sector, he had been recruited to do fundraising because there were obvious concerns as to the state’s budget.

Consent Items

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

- Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated October 22, 2009 (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting);
- Resolution Authorizing Executive f Certain Vouchers in connection with Employee 403(b) and 457 Benefit Plans;
- August 2009 Treasurer’s Report; and
- Monthly August Financials;
- FY’ 09 Audit Report; and
- Summer 2010 Construction;

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

Written Assurance of Provisions of Policies and Procedures for Special Education

Dr. Weninger stated that the Written Assurance of Provisions of Policies and Procedures for Special Education certifies that the policies and procedures were ratified and adopted by the school board. It is strictly an assurance to ISBE that OPRFHS is following policies and procedures outlined in administrative code. Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that accepting this document would be saying that annual data collection reporting requirements to the State of Illinois and that parents were being notified were taking place. She needed to see verification of this fact before she could certify it. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked for a listing of reports going to the state. The other Board of Education were satisfied with the information provided and could support the approval.

Mr. Conway moved to approve the Written Assurance of Provisions of Policies and Procedures for Special Education; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Policy 6160 & 6131

These policies were remanded back to the Policy, Evaluation and Goals Committee by the Superintendent.

Policy 6133

Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 6133, Consultation with Parents and Teachers; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman reiterated her desire for the guidelines to be developed with parents involved in the Title I Program because she felt this should be a shared activity and not developed by just the

Superintendent or his/her designee. She read this as those parents being the recipients of the guidelines.

Policy 6134

Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 6134, Instructional Materials; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Policy for
First Reading**

Dr. Lee moved to approve Policy 5119, Home-schooled and Nonpublic School Students, Policy 5127, Alternative Credit, Policy 6135, Bookstore, Policy 6150, Adjunct Programs, Policy 6220, Tutoring and Therapy, Policy 6400, Instructional and Recreational Materials, Policy 6500 Education of Children with Disabilities, Policy 10, Introduction, Policy 12, American Flag, Policy 30, Policy Changes, Policy 100, Statement of Philosophy, Policy 101, Human Dignity and Diversity, and Policy 101-A, Gender Equity, for first reading; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

It was announced that Policy 3030, Stadium Lights and Athletic Field(s) will remain on the Policy, Evaluate, and Goals Committee docket until after the first full year of lights. The District continues to gather information from a variety of community members via the SNAC Group.

**Public Hearing
For The Issuance
of Working Cash
Bonds**

Mr. Allen called the Public Hearing to order at 9:36 p.m. on the Issuance of Working Cash Bonds. Receiving no written or oral comments, Mr. Allen closed the public hearing at 9:37 p.m.

**Personnel
Recommendations**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the personnel recommendations, as amended 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.

**Presentation of
2009-10 Certified
Staff Seniority
List**

Per *The School Code of Illinois*, the District must annually post a list of certified faculty by earned seniority. This information is of importance in Board of Education determines that a reduction of certified faculty is in the best interest of the District. In such an event identified, individuals would receive notice as specified by *The School Code of Illinois*.

**Presentation of
Probationary
Teachers by
Division**

Mr. Edgecombe provided the names of certified probationary teachers. The School Code of Illinois requires teachers new to the District to remain in probationary status for a period of four (4) consecutive full-time before tenure can be granted. There are sixty-five probationary teachers.

**Presentation of
Faculty/Staff
FTE Report and**

Mr. Edgecombe presented the Faculty/Staff FTE Report and Employee Profile Information for FY 2010. As of October 1, 2009, FTE rose 3.0 at 228.3 from the 2008-9 level of

Employee Profile As of October 1, 2009, noncertified employees dropped by 9.53 at 178.84 225.3 from the 2008-09 level of 188.37. As of October 1, 2009, administrative FTE dropped .2 at 15.4 from the the 2008-09 level of 15.6.

Activity or Summer Camp Account Payments Mr. Edgecombe reported that this was the first time that the District has requested the Board of Education's approval on payment of funds to those working on volunteers basis. These individuals are paid from summer camps or activity accounts and do not receive as much as the stipend level.

Mr. Finnegan appreciated the transparency and agreed it was good to give these people some remuneration, but he hoped it was not at the expense of not being able to buy equipment.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the students fundraising knew how the funds were being used. Ms. Witham stated that they did. Activity accounts, by definition, are accounts in which the District holds money on behalf of students and parents. These stipends are to pay people who work during the season. Dr. Weninger noted that many schools have the situation where the funds do pay for those coaches.

Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested that this practice be documented somewhere under Finance and suggested that it might be in policy.

Ms. McCormack moved to approve the Activity or Summer Camp Account Payments as presented; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Salary Compensation Report Dr. Millard moved to accept the Administrative Salary Compensation Report per Public Act 096-05454; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Superintendent Contract Addendum Mr. Conway moved to approve the Superintendent's retirement from the District, effective at the end of the day June 30, 2010, and the Addendum to the Superintendent's Contract of Employment, as presented. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Divisional Restructuring Per the request at the Instruction Committee meeting to continue the discussion on divisional restructuring, Mr. Prale presented a memo with the requested information relative to teacher input and distribution of tasks. As more discussion occurs, it will be shared with the Board of Education.

Ms. Patchak-Layman appreciated the information and felt that additional conversations will give better solutions to the concerns being raised by faculty and students.

Dr. Millard asked if this was still fluid. From her readings and from conversations, she did not believe this was absolute. Mr. Prale stated that this gives the opportunity to continue the discussion about the position currently held by Don Vogel and to talk about the administrative functions that he performs; that is the status today. This model compels the District to rethink and rewrite those job descriptions and tasks. The Administration has been challenged to take a hard look at its structure, just as it had with clerical support. It has allow the administration to make tough decisions and when it has additional needs, it will ask for the funds for them.

Mr. Finnegan liked the fact that if freed up money for teaching. Dr. Weninger noted that the District had to think more broadly than just additional FTE. It needed to revitalize and grow programs that are floundering.

Mr. Finnegan was concerned for those Division Heads who have not had experience across a broad range. Dr. Weninger used the example of Mr. Prale who does not have experience in many of the curriculums, but he evaluates all Division Heads. Mr. Prale added that this was a testament to the individuals in these roles now. Mr. Boulware has done a wonderful job of bringing an esprit de corp and creating a welcoming attitude for those teachers. Those teachers are pleased with his support in general. Mr. Vogel has 30 years of experience and a champion of this building and has great influence.

**Approval of
Minutes and
Destruction of
Tapes**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the open and closed minutes of September 24 and October 13, 2009 and the Closed Session Minutes of September 24 and October 13, 2009, and Declared that the Audiotapes of the closed sessions in February 2008 be destroyed; 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.

Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Patchak-Layman wondered if conversations were occurring about the use of lights and the activities scheduled Monday through Thursday. Originally, the request was for only practices to take place Monday through Thursday, but it seemed many more games were occurring. She asked 1) if there were activities around games that used loud speakers, and 2) whether SNAC was discussing this. When Dr. Weninger responded affirmatively to both questions, Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the policy discussions would incorporate these items. Dr. Weninger noted that the SNAC conversations were not limited just to Friday night games. He stated that he could not speak to how the policy would be written, as he will not be here for that discussion. Dr. Lee suggested

forwarding any complaints from neighbors received by the Board of Education to the Superintendent.

Responding to Mr. Conway's concern about the HR job description, Dr. Weninger noted that it would be rewritten to broaden the scope of the search.

Closed Session

At 10:35 p.m., on October 22, 2009, Mr. Conway 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 11:28 p.m. on Thursday, October 22, 2009, the Board of Education resumed its open session.

Student Discipline

Mr. Allen moved to expel Student EXP 10-22-09-03, for the duration of the 2009-2010 school year, but to hold the expulsion in abeyance 1) pending placement and successful completion in an alternative setting and 2) counseling services; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Millard moved to expel Student EXP 10-23-09-04, for the duration of the 2009-2010 school year but to hold the expulsion in abeyance pending placement and successful completion of graduation requirements in an alternative setting and satisfactory behavior, and placement on social probation, which includes no participation in commencement activities; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Closed Session

At 11:30 p.m., on October 22, 2009, Dr. Lee moved to go into closed session for discussing 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. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 12: 01 a.m. on Friday, October 23, 2009, the Board of Education resumed its open session.

Adjournment

At 12:02 a.m. on Friday, October 23, 2009, Mr. Conway 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