

September 8, 2009

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, in the Board Room of the high school.

**Call to Order**

Dr. Millard called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A roll call indicated the following members were present: John C. Allen, IV, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy McCormack, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also, present were Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal (arrived at 9:18 a.m.); Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board of Education.

**Visitors**

Kay Foran, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; Janel Bishop, Assistant Principal for Student Health and Safety (arrived at 9:20 a.m.); Ron Dibbern, Residency Confirmation Officer (arrived at 9:20 a.m.); and James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair.

**Check Distribution List**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the check distribution list dated September 8, 2009 (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.

**Center for Psychological Services Contract**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the Center for Psychological Services Contract, as presented, with the condition that the District continued to research services available and make a report at October Finance Committee meeting; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Independent Workers' Contracts**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the Independent Workers' Contracts, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Finnegan felt it was important to honor the statements made by Ms. Cada at the Finance Committee meeting regarding the importance of relationships and continuity for students. While it is good to have minority staff, he cautioned about moving against staff recommendations.

The threshold for which a full-time staff person would be hired instead of contracting these services out would be the cost of a certified employee.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked for an accounting as to how many independent services the District engages.

**Visitor Comments** None

**Process and Procedures for Residency Verification**

Mr. Rouse reviewed the information that had been provided in the packet regarding residency confirmation procedures. Residency is determined by the nighttime abode of the parent. Discussion ensued.

Because three quarters of the 300 to 350 cases initially referred to the residency confirmation process are cleared, families under investigation would initially not be notified. Should the investigation progress, the families would be contacted and asked for clarification. If the responses are unsatisfactory, a residency hearing would be scheduled and parents would receive notification to attend.

Usually about a dozen anonymous tips are received about students who do not live in the District but attend the high school.

In Dr. Millard's experience, every case is unique. The District needs to be clear and above board so that services are provided to the students and be good stewards of the District. After hearing the presentation, Mr. Finnegan felt assured that the District in its processes was being a good steward of the taxpayers' funds.

Due to an emergency, Mr. Allen had to depart and it was announced that the Human Resources Committee meeting would be moved to Thursday, September 10, after the PEG Meeting.

**Closed Session**

At 10:08 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, Dr. Lee moved to go into 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 and Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11); seconded by Mr. Finnegan.

Ms. Patchak-Layman objected to going into closed session to 1) talk about a restructuring of divisions as that was an administrative conversation for open session, and 2) placing a person in a position without posting the position violated the District policy. Dr. Weninger stated that everything was related to a personnel matter.

A roll call vote resulted in four ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay and Mr. Allen had departed.

At 11:38 a.m., the Board of Education resumed its open session.

**RWD Contract**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the contract with RWD & Associates, Inc., for the 2009-2010 school year for \$47,502 for residency confirmation services; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

At 11:40 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, Ms. McCormack moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting to an adjourned session after the Human Resources meeting which will follow the Policy, Evaluation and Goals Committee on Thursday, September 10, 2009; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll all vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Dietra D. Millard  
President

John C. Allen IV  
Secretary