

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, November 12, 2009, in the Board Room of the high school.

Call to Order Dr. Millard called the meeting to order at 10:27 a.m. A roll call indicated the following members were present: John C. Allen, IV (attended telephonically), Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy Leafe McCormack, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also, present was Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board of Education.

Visitors Kay Foran, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; James Paul Hunter; Dr. Jacobson, Jacobson & McPherson; and Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

Visitor Comments None.

Superintendent Search Firm Presentation The Board of Education members heard a presentation from the superintendent search firm, McPherson Jacobson. The firms of School Exec Connect, Hazard Young Attea & Associates, and PROACT Search had made presentations at the Tuesday, November 10, 2009 Finance Committee meeting.

The Board of Education asked pertinent questions of the firm regarding its process, the candidate pool, its consultants, past searches, whether it should be an open or closed search, etc.

The Board of Education thanked Mr. Jacobson for his presentation and he departed.

The Board of Education then discussed the references Ms. McCormack had secured on each of the firms making presentations. Ms. Patchak-Layman added what she had found through a search of the Internet.

One of the most important factors in selecting the firm was that there would be nationwide exposure and that the best pool of candidates would be provided. Through a process of elimination, it was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education for Dr. Millard to seek answers to the following questions with the firm School Exec Connect:

- 1) Would other consultants be available to work on this search than the ones originally proposed?
- 2) Would it consider revising its consulting fee?
- 3) Would it guarantee a national search?

- 4) Would it guarantee that none of its consultants would become candidates?

If the responses were satisfactory, a contract could be presented to the Board of Education for approval at its regular November Board of Education meeting. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 30, at 6:30 p.m. to continue to discuss the process, including whether the search should be an open search or a closed search.

At the Finance Committee, it was reported that there might be pending legislation to eliminate the need for the superintendent to have a superintendent endorsement and a Type 75. However, no legislation could be found substantiating that information.

Adjournment

At 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2009, Mr. Allen moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Dietra D. Millard
President

John C. Allen, IV
Secretary