

May 10, 2012

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, May 10, 2012, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

**Call to Order**

President Finnegan called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. A roll call indicated the following Board of Education members were present: Valerie J. Fisher, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy Leafe McCormack (arrived at 8:11 p.m.), Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John Phelan. Also, present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Lauren M. Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations and Treasurer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board and FOIA Officer.

At 6:41 p.m., on Thursday, May 10, 2012, Dr. Millard moved to enter closed session for the purposes 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; Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Ms. McCormack was absent. Motion carried.

The Board of Education reconvened its open session at 7:32 p.m.

Joining the meeting were Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research, and James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair.

**Visitors**

The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: John Costopolous, Norb Teclaw, sponsors of Percy Julian Symposium, Tim Keeley, OPRFHS Purchasing Coordinator; Tom O'Sullivan of Grand Prairie Bus Company; Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*; Nancy Leavy of the League of Women Voters, Cathy Yen, John Bokum Jr., Elizabeth Lippitt, Lisa Sorenson, community members; students Jacob Meeks, Mason Astill, and Jonathan Gilmer, students.

**Public Comments**

John Bokum, resident of 609 Home, Oak Park, thanked Dr. Millard for her service as president of the Board of Education and for being transparent in a difficult time. He then spoke about his child, Heidi, who when in the fourth grade was diagnosed with a learning disability. She struggled in high school. It was not until she identified with a female teacher that she started to excel. She continued to struggle in college but did earn a degree in early childhood education and she has taught in Korea, Mexico, at Francis Parker in Chicago. She just returned from a Global Summit on Childhood Education. He was very proud of her.

Jacob Meeks, resident of 813 N. Forest, Oak Park, thanked the Board of Education for doing a difficult job in the past weeks. He appreciated Dr. Lee's comments at the last Board of Education meeting, especially his comment that people, in effect, were asking the Board of Education to go against the recommendations of the

administration and that it should not do that. Mr. Meeks did not believe that this absolved anyone from looking at creative solutions to meet the needs of the staff and school. He did not feel that had been provided, and he asked them to move forward in a creative way that will make it much harder for this to happen in the future.

Jonathan Gilmore, 633 N. Grove, Oak Park, wished everyone a very happy Teacher Appreciation Week. He stated that people, including teachers, move into this community for the schools. Dr. Goldberg, a very qualified teacher, should be teaching at the university level, yet he chooses to teach at OPRFHS. In the past 7 to 10 years, it has been a top-down administration and the opinions of teachers and/or the students have not been valued. The parents and the students were even angrier. He urged the Board of Education to take further action.

**Student  
Acknowledgement**

The Board of Education honored the Percy Julian Symposium participants and their sponsors: Norb Teclaw, John Costopoulos, and Allison Hennings, a lead science teacher. The symposium has grown over its 13 years of existence. OPRFHS has a research club where approximately 100 students work with lead teacher Allison Hennessy at OPRFHS and people from various institutions. OPRFHS hosted this Symposium.

Students Pilar McQirter and Simedjar Jackson shared a PowerPoint presentation about their research: the Effect of Life Conditions on the Activity Level and Behavioral Responses in *Cassiopeia sanachana* for which they won the Xerox Foundation Community Involvement Award.

Junior Mathew Hennings won first place in the Junior/Seniors on his research on The Proposal of a Novel Ethnobotanical Pharmaceutical Agent Containing Hyprothiocyanate for the Purposes of Treating Multi-Drug Resistant Bacteria in Chronic Wound Infections. He planned to patent his findings. This summer, he will be working at the University of Illinois Chicago in the pharmacology department.

Mr. Costopoulos stated that OPRFHS received eight awards this year versus the one received last year. On May 23, a number of these students will be presenting at the Oak Park Public Library.

The Board of Education was very impressed with what these students had achieved.

**Pioneering Healthy  
Communities**

Elizabeth Lippitt, executive director of the Infant Welfare Society and cochair of the Pioneering Healthy Community Committee, addressed the Board of Education about the Pioneering Healthy Community Committee's charge. This initiative was started through a grant process from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJ) Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity. Its purpose is to address the childhood obesity epidemic through policy. Policies are important tools that impact the following:

- |                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Children's Environment/Nutrition | Education         |
| Food Supply Industry             | Marketing         |
| Transportation                   | Health Care       |
| Housing                          | Physical Activity |

In 2010, West Cook YMCA was awarded a grant as one of the 16 pioneering healthy communities in Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio. She presented the following

information. The childhood obesity rate doubled in children ages 2-5 from 5% to 12.4% in the last 30 years, quadrupled in children ages 6-11 from 4.2% to 17%, and tripled in adolescents from 4.6% to 17.6% in the last 40 years.

Ms. Lippitt presented graphs showing obesity trends by state (\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person) among US adults from 1985 to 2010. Illinois is the fourth state with the highest rate of obese 10 to 17 year olds, per data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health. Locally, according to the Cook County Department of Public Health, 63% of adults and 40% of children are overweight and obese. There is a much higher incidence in minority low-income children. At the Infant Welfare Society Children's Clinic over 30% of the children seen are overweight or obese. The health consequences of obesity are: 1) heart disease, asthma, arthritis, cancer, decreased lifespan, and depression. The medical cost of obesity is \$270 billion a year in the United States.

The RWJ charge to Oak Park is:

- Raise awareness to reverse trends in physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and obesity
- Develop policy and environmental change strategies to encourage physical activity and healthy eating
- Strengthen community capacity to initiate and sustain promising practices for healthy communities
- Identify cost-effective, practical solutions and tools that can be replicated

The Oak Park Pioneering Healthy Community Team is focused on:

- Establishing a culture of wellness for all citizens by refocusing policies, systems, and environment
- Educating and encouraging Oak Park's public, private, and not-for-profit organizations to implement best practices resulting in the adoption of good nutrition and lifelong physical activity by citizens of all ages
- Improving nutrition and increasing lifelong physical activity for all through improved coordination and creation of programs that link PHC goals to Oak Park's policy initiatives, systems, and physical environment

Its goals are:

- Aligning after school programs with New Physical Education Standards
- Increasing capacity of families to provide healthy food to children
- Motivating Children to Walk/Bike to School
- Increasing walking and biking activities in the Village
- Increasing Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for pre- and school-aged children.

Ms. Lippitt asked the District 200 Board of Education to help reduce childhood obesity by encouraging and supporting it. Dr. Isoye is a member of this committee

Dr. Isoye stated that the purpose of this is to reduced obesity. It is a complex question and it may influence future Board of Education policies. Ms. Lippitt stated more community members needed to be involved in the subcommittees. She asked that any names be forwarded to her. The Board of Education thanked her for the presentation.

**Faculty Senate**

Mr. Hunter was very impressed at how engaged students can be with different projects. Students and faculty took a lead in the endeavor, as well as the community.

**Superintendent Report**

Dr. Isoye congratulated the students and faculty who participated in the Percy Julian Symposium.

Dr. Isoye stated that the Board of Education’s number one goal focuses on equity and the elimination of systemic inhibitors. OPRFHS has made a commitment to be a part of MSAN. A group of teachers and administrators attended a mini-conference in Madison, Wisconsin where various strategies were presented. Some strategies OPRFHS already has implemented but others were new. These, in conjunction with the work the school is doing with regard to Courageous Conversations about Race and the learning strands, will allow the District to examine what it does that affects Goal 1.

Board of Education member were invited to help staff a table in the Day of our Village in Scoville Park on June 3.

Dr. Isoye reported that US News and World Report had just released its report, “The Best High Schools in the United States.” After looking at 22,000 schools, it ranked OPRFHS as 516 nationally and 22 in Illinois.

Dr. Isoye reported that was also National Teacher Appreciation Week. He recognized the work that teachers and staff do every day to help students be successful. While the District continues to strive to be better, it should be very proud of itself. He congratulated the faculty and staff.

**Intergovernmental Agreement with District 97 and OPRFHS Food Service**

It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education members to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with District 97 and OPRFHS Food Service for the 2012-13 school year at its regular May 24, 2010 Board of Education meeting. District 97 would like to continue this agreement for another year with a review the following year.

**Presentation of Copies/Print Management**

It was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members to approve the award of copies/print management to Gordon Flesch at its regular May 24, 2010 Board of Education meeting. This contract is from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017.

Mr. Carioscio stated that this bid was for the replacement of off-lease copiers, as well as for the purchase and implementation of District-wide print management software. Any savings obtained will be used to purchase software in order to cut down printing. The vendor selected also has the software tools. Gordon Flesch will help with the software setup; it will be managed internally. The information will be used to change behavior, control jobs, etc.

**Voice Over IP Bid**

It was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members to approve the award of the VOIP bids as follows:

Telephone and Equipment Bid to AT&T  
Network Switch Bid (base infrastructure) to Valcom

The bid allowed for a split-award, one for the VOIP-specific hardware and software and one for the necessary network switching upgrades to accommodate this project implementation. Awarding the contract this way will allow the District to benefit from the competitive pricing that network-switching vendors allow. The software will be collaborative. It will integrate with Microsoft Outlook and monitor the phone traffic in the building. Power will be supplied via the high school and, thus, it is hooked up to the backup power and generator system. The cost for the increased redundancy of the system had been included in the long-term plan.

**School Treasurer's Resolution**

It was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members to approve the Resolution appointing Cheryl Witham as School Treasurer at the May 24, 2012 Board of Education meeting. The responsibilities of the Treasurer include the investing and tracking of investment funds and reporting monthly to the Board of Education. The School Treasurer is insured on behalf of the school district.

**Presentation of Special Education Bus Bid**

Mr. Finnegan had informed the Board of Education that it would be making the decision as to which company, Lakeside or Grand Prairie, would be awarded the Special Education bus contract. Ms. Witham and her staff had fully analyzed the bids after allowing Grand Prairie to renegotiate and they had sought Dr. Halliman's views on both firms. The staff had listened carefully to the Board's conversation and felt that there was a strong sense to give Grand Prairie every chance to win the bid based on its extraordinary commitment that helped OPRFHS meet the students' needs during this school year. Mr. Finnegan had asked the Board of Education members to state their opinions in order to determine which firm would be awarded the contract. He did not favor either firm, as he had found them both to be good suppliers with track records of success and commitment. He wanted to keep both firms desirous of OPRFHS's business. Mr. Finnegan also appreciated DLT's decision to leave the final decision to the Board of Education. Neither would be a wrong choice. He applauded both companies for the work that they had performed in the town and in the District. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Lee noted that both companies had excellent records and he had not seen an indication that one should be chosen above the other, with the exception that OPRFHS has had more experience and a greater relationship with Grand Prairie than it has had with Lakeview. He was unconvinced of the fact that having had a history of good experience with one company should be held against the other company. That could be a valid factor in choosing between them in a private institution. In the public arena, however, he was not convinced that having a good relationship with one company was something of value if the records of the two companies were the same. One bid was slightly lower than the other one was. While the difference was not that significant, in the public arena being the lowest bidder should count for something. Going with the low bidder is important when there are quality considerations, but he saw no differences in the quality being represented. He saw it as the Board of Education's obligation to go with the lowest bidder in the absence of any other distinguishing features, other than having a longer standing relationship with one company. He questioned whether spending public money on longer relationships would be considered of more value.

Ms. Witham reported that when a change needed to be made in the Special Education transportation system a couple of months ago, the District only approached its current vendors, R&D and Grand Prairie, not Lakeview.

Dr. Millard reported on comments from people who had experience with both companies, Grand Prairie and Lakeview, because their children had started in District 97. They preferred Grand Prairie because of their children's experiences, in general. Grand Prairie was far more graciousness and willing to adaptive in personnel. Another parent also preferred Grand Prairie, but the parent had said that her daughter loved the high school more than she had District 97.

Mr. Phelan felt that the price of the bid was a factor and a greater factor for different things, i.e., copier paper, floor tile, etc. What struck him about this decision was that the District has current, favorable experience with a vendor in an area that could not be more important to the District—the safety of the most vulnerable students. The courtesy comments are important, but the review of third parties never rises above the status of reviews from third parties. For him, the services being asked and the students to whom they are being provided made a very big difference. Proven relationships could be important. He understood that the District was spending the public's money and that the difference was small.

Ms. McCormack noted that they were both wonderful companies and options and she wanted to hear other's comments before making a decision. She understood the value of continuity of service from District 97. She respected the comments made by Mr. Phelan and Dr. Lee's opinion.

Ms. Patchak-Layman was struck by the greater number of mechanics that Grand Prairie had in relation the number of its bus fleet, which would be important in order to have continued bus service. The concern she had with the Lakeview application was the confusion between Lakeview and Polar Express and being intertwined. It was difficult for her to separate those and understand what each company was doing what. It was another level of hierarchy that she did not see with Grand Prairie.

Ms. Fisher appreciated the benefit of the District having two positive experiences.

Dr. Millard was impressed at how quickly Grand Prairie had responded to the high school under urgent and needy circumstances. Although there may be evidence of that with Lakeview Bus Company, OPRFHS has positive evidence with Grand Prairie. Last year, the Board of Education chose the lowest bidder and was very disappointed with that service. She liked Grand Prairie's track record. The District must feel secure that the service being provided is safe. She supported awarding the contract to Grand Prairie in spite of the fact that it cost more money.

Mr. Finnegan stated that continuity did play in favor of Lakeview, but that was not determinative, because OPRFHS has good experience with Grand Prairie at OPRFHS. Both companies were looked at in a positive light and he felt good about either company, as the District has received positive reviews from within the District and/or the feeder districts. The Board of Education voted under the Action portion of the agenda.

### **Prevailing Wage Rates**

It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education members to approve the Resolution regarding Prevailing Wage Rates for the 2012-13 school years as presented at its regular May 24 Board of Education meeting. Approving this resolution is required by the state, which sets a fair bar for employees' wages.

**Amsco Energy Data  
Data**

Mr. Zummallen reported on the benefits of building improvement that began in 2009 and he reviewed the improvements to HVAC, Mechanicals, Lighting, and Plumbing that were listed in the packet (past, current, and future). He also reported on the energy reduction usage because of the lighting and mechanical upgrades and the estimated savings of each, which combined is approximately \$47,000 and did not include the reduction of the repairs, staff costs, outside service calls, etc. The school has also reduced its CO2 emissions by 370 tons over the last three years which means 51 homes off the electrical grids, two railroad cars filled with coal, or 80 cars off the road.

The packet also contained an article from the EPA on “How does Indoor Air Quality Impact Student Health and Academic Performance?” that spoke to the influence and effect that lighting has on academic performance and air quality. The District has created a cleaner environment for students, the hallways are brighter, and people within the building are happier. Another article was included about the influence of light on student achievement at The University of Georgia that addressed the effects of lighting and indoor air quality. OPRFHS has accomplished much of what the article reported.

The Board of Education appreciated Mr. Zummallen efforts. Ms. Witham stated that Mr. Zummallen had done a great job of bringing a long-term plan to the District, new ideas, and keeping track of the savings.

A question was raised about the humidity level at the school and Mr. Zummallen responded that the building stays at the 40% range throughout most of the building and that he has not noticed humidity being low in any areas.

**Summer 2013  
Maintenance  
Improvements**

It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education members to approve the 2013 summer maintenance projects at its regular May 24, 2012 Board of Education meeting.

The projects included:

- Tile abatement and replacement on the first floor.
- Bathroom renovations of the old building and Fieldhouse. Including the replacement of the outdated vertical lines and installing low flush fixtures to save on water usage.
- Replacement of turf on South Field. The product has improved greatly since its first installation and looks and feels like real grass.
- Replacement of air handlers and chiller plant which will reduce the number of fan units, provide more comfortable working environments, and be a cost saver.
- Masonry restoration which includes tuck-pointing
- Update of ten wiring closets, which will provide additional space for growth, ventilation, power backup, air-conditioning, and security.

The environmental impact of our building improvements has a positive effect on the learning environment. The District benefits from annual cost savings for electrical, natural gas and maintenance.

Mr. Zummallen did not believe that summer school would be disrupted this year. The Friends of the Library's Book Fair would be held in the south half of the Fieldhouse with access to the alleyway doors.

When asked if the proposed amount for this work of costing \$6.2 million would leave any additional dollars for future projects, Ms. Witham noted that this work would be paid out of the Capital Projects Fund. The District had budgeted for emergency funds in the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The District is waiting for the pool consultant's report and the District has a placeholder for pool work in 2016. The consultant was provided with all of the architectural drawings, he had met with Mr. Craft, and he knows the area of the building.

Ms. Witham stated that Mr. Zummallen has laid out an annual timeframe for doing Life Safety projects. As work is being completed for 2012, planning occurs for 2013, allowing more time for the trades and the staff to review documents before they go out for bids. It allows for better planning within the building as well. The accuracy of that means less change orders, getting the best trades and best prices, fewer delays in the construction process.

**Regional Safe Schools** It was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members to approve the Regional Safe Schools Intergovernmental Agreement at its regular May 24, 2012, Board of Education meeting, pending confirmation of a new location. The renewal rates are the same as in the past.

**Non-Affiliated Employees Salary Increases** It was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members to approve the FY 2013 Salary Increases for Non-affiliated Employees at its regular May 24, 2012 Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked for a breakdown of administrative versus non-administrative non-affiliated employees.

**Food Service Employees Salary Increases** It was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members to approve the FY 2013 Salary Increases for Food Service Employees at its regular May 24, 2012 Board of Education meeting.

**Strategic Plan Update** The Board of Education was presented with a series of questions to respond to regarding the next steps of the strategic plan.

1. What are the Board of Education's expectations for this experience?
  - To focus on a limited but important number of issues.
  - To focus on the learning environment, academic issues, and long-range educational plan (5+ years).
  - To review the vision/mission of the District. Where OPRFHS should be in ten years? To explore what students will have when they complete four years at the high school.
  - To consider the Board of Education doing the strategic plan itself or hiring an outside facilitator versus not using a strategic planning firm.
  - To bring order and direction toward a common overall purpose, i.e., student achievement.
  - To explore ways in which the school may adapt, when needed, more quickly.



2. Who does the Board think should be on the team and should all of the Board of Education members be a part of the process from the start?

Board of Education members were open to either all participating and to expediting the process as much as possible or to one or two Board of Education members taking the lead. It would depend upon whether a firm was hired or an outside facilitator were hired. An outside facilitator would need to be a good listener and be able to interact with members of the entire community, e.g., students, teachers, staff, etc. There should be much outreach. A facilitator would have to be able to put into a coherent fashion what people were thinking and about what the District was learning. A suggestion was made to speak with District 97 about combining efforts and doing a plan together.

Discussion ensued about the strategic plan in the late 90's. The results after two years included restructuring the credit system, changes to the calendar, providing for staff development opportunities on Wednesday afternoons, etc. Ms. Fisher, having participated in that strategic planning process, preferred a more focused, short-term and immediate approach. Dr. Millard and Ms. Patchak-Layman agreed that the focus of the work should be students, whether they are going to go to high-end colleges, the military, etc. It will require much buy-in from the community. Dr. Millard too hoped for a short process, perhaps August to May. Mr. Phelan felt faculty and student buy in was critical and the watchword for him was balance. While he felt the Board of Education could conduct the meetings and that smaller groups could work more effectively. However, if smaller or larger groups were used, it may risk that the reports is so narrow or so broad that no action occurs. He felt a facilitator was needed to lead because of the many viewpoints on this subject. He felt the people involved should be parents, community members already involved in the school, students, Board of Education members, etc. Whatever recommendations are received for whatever length of time will be assessed as the school moves forward.

Mr. Finnegan summarized the conversation by saying that the Board of Education was open to an outside facilitator and doing a limited scope. He wanted to see a common definition for student achievement.

**Consent Items**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the consent item as follows:

- The check disbursements and financial resolutions dated May 10, 2012;
- seconded by Mr. Phelan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Personnel Recommendations**

Dr. Lee moved to approve the personnel recommendations, which included new hires, status of personnel currently on leave, and termination; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Smith reported that those students were still being hired for the bookstore, athletics, and sports camps.

**Award of Xerographic Paper Bid**

Mr. Finnegan moved to award the copy paper bid to Contract Paper Group for the Contract Paper Group for the 2012-13 school year; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call voted resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. The contract value is \$63,984.40.

The Board of Education had discussed this bid at its May 10 Board of Education meeting and the questions that were left unanswered were provided in the packet.

**Award of Office  
Supply Bid**

Mr. Finnegan moved to award the Office Supply Bid to Staples as the lowest responsible bidder; for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 with the potential of two additional one-year terms; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Award of  
Special  
Education  
Bus Bid**

Mr. Phelan moved to award the Special Education transportation bid to Grand Prairie for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Dr. Lee voted nay.

**Student  
Discipline**

Mr. Finnegan moved to expel student EXP 05-10-12-2 through May 2014 but to hold the expulsion in abeyance contingent upon completion of an alternative program with a review of the student's progress in August 2013; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one abstention. Ms. McCormack abstained because she was absent from the closed session discussion. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Open and Closed Session Minutes of April 11, 12, 16, and 26, 2012, a declaration that the Closed Session Audio Tapes of June 2010 shall be destroyed; and a declaration that the Closed Session Minutes of January 1, 1987 through May 1, 2012 shall remain closed; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**District Reports**

Mr. Finnegan and Dr. Isoye had a well-received meeting with the chairs of the Board-sponsored parent groups. It was an opportunity to learn what the others were doing and how to support each other. The group will reconvene after each of the groups has had its first meeting.

The Concert Tour Association will present its strategic plan, including a name change, to its membership on May 14 and it will give a 10-minute update to the Board of Education at its regular May 24, 2012, Board of Education meeting.

**Adjournment**

At 11:12 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2012, Dr. Millard moved to adjourn this meeting; seconded by Mr. Phelan. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Amy McCormack  
Secretary

By Gail Kalmerton  
Clerk of the Board