

February 9, 2012

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, February 9, 2012, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

Call to Order

President Millard called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Valerie J. Fisher, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John Phelan. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Dr. Tina Halliman, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; and James Paul Hunter Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Nomination for Secretary

Hearing no objection, Dr. Lee was nominated to be Secretary Protempore in Secretary McCormack's absence.

Visitors

The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: Kay Foran, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; Laura Pauli of PMA Financial Network, John Bokum, community member; Nancy Leavy of the League of Women Voters' representative; Terrie Rayburn of Parents 4 Student Success, and students Peter Slattery and Natalie Hardwicke.

Public Comments

John Bokum, 629 Home, Oak Park, commended the Board of Education, the faculty, and the administration on the new Faculty Senate contract, which afforded the school the time to work on a strategic plan. He thanked Dr. Isoye for his vision in making it possible to have the flexible hours. He also expressed his hope that the Board of Education would consider freezing the tax levy for the next year or two instead of maxing it out. He noted that Ms. Patchak-Layman had always stood up for the taxpayers and Dr. Lee supported it once or twice. He encouraged to Board of Education to keep up the good work in stretching its finances out as long as possible before seeking another referendum. He suggested that Board of Education members and administration attend different community meetings to explain what it is doing.

Reports

Student Council – Mr. Hendrix reported that Student Council was working on raising funds for Project Smile by holding a Crush Can event. Sending a specific flavor of Crush to another student would indicate a level of affection, e.g., purple meant friendship, orange meant a crush, and red meant boyfriend/girlfriend. Students could pay \$1 or \$2 for a can depending on whether they wanted it to be anonymous or not. The recipients of the cans received a cutout during the day and they were able to retrieve their cans after school.

Mr. Hendrix reported that students were interested in the District exploring the idea of allowing those students who got A's in both quarters the option of not having to take finals, as do some other schools.

Superintendent Report Dr. Isoye reported that the School continues its work with racial equity through its conversations about race. The District equity leadership team met with Pacific Education Group to continue its work at the District level.

Mr. Prale attended in his stead the ongoing meetings with the Village of Oak Park and other agencies in regards to emergency preparedness.

A subcommittee of the OPRFHS Scholarship Committee continues to determine its next steps to strengthen its work to secure donors for funding scholarships and how to support the students through gifts granted to graduating seniors.

Dr. Isoye reported that Management Council continues to discuss technology, how the individual entities operate, their systems, and how they can increase collaborative efforts.

Dr. Isoye reported that OPRFHS hosted the third annual Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Summit. Area educators discussed STEM education and explored various programs and initiatives that participants could bring back to their schools for potential implementation. State Senator Don Harmon was part of the welcome address. United States Senator Dick Durbin spoke about the work in STEM education and fields. Dr. Ross Powell from NIU talked about his research in the Antarctic and Mr. Jason Tyszko, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, talked about the current movement in Illinois in regards to STEM. Mr. Bill Grosser was instrumental in spearheading the work to get the summit to OPRFHS.

Dr. Isoye reported that OPRFHS hosted a meeting that focused on technology and curriculum for the northern and western suburban chairs for physical education and driver education programs. OPRFHS faculty had the opportunity to share and demonstrate how they incorporate many of the ideas discussed that day. Dale Craft, Division Head for Physical and Driver Education, was instrumental in spearheading the work to make this day a success.

Dr. Isoye, as well as Board of Education members Dr. Millard, Mr. Finnegan, and Ms. McCormack, attended a reception for Triton's president Dr. Granados, hosted by community leader Mary Jo Schuler and Dominican University President Dr. Donna Carroll. The meeting was about how Triton serves both the Oak Park and River Forest communities.

Dr. Isoye reported that he and Board of Education members Dr. Millard, Ms. Patchak-Layman, and Mr. Phelan, as well as Ms. Smith, attended the ED-RED dinner at which Charlotte Danielson, researcher on teacher evaluation systems, was the keynote speaker. The importance of her work and great interest in the state is due to legislation in regards to evaluation systems for principals and faculty.

Dr. Millard announced that the Board of Education stands readily accessible to the public. If they do not receive a response to a request, she invited them to contact Ms. Kalmerton who would forward the information to the Board of Education.

Athletic Uniforms

Board of Education members received the responses to the solicitation of bids from the three vendors for athletic uniforms for the 2012-13 school year. Team uniforms

have a revolving four-year replacement schedule. The administration recommended the following awards:

- The Boys Soccer Away Jersey as well as the Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Girls Cross-Country, Girls Tennis, Girls Lacrosse and Girls Volleyball products to BSN Sports/Salkeld Sports;
- The Boys Cross Country products to Boathouse Sports; and
- The Boys Soccer Home Jerseys and Football products to Advantage Team Sales.

The final design of the products occurs after the bid is award, but all vendors are provided preliminary specific information in order to go forward. It was the consensus of the Board of Education members to approve this recommendation at its regular February 23, 2012 Board of Education meeting.

PTAB

The Board of Education received the annual request for it to consider a resolution that would give the administration, in conjunction with its law firm, Franczek, Radelet, P.C., authority to file a request to intervene in Appeal Proceedings for the re-assessment of property, primarily commercial property, within the District, as intervention must occur within 30 days of notice. It was the consensus to approve the PTAB Resolution at its regular February 23, 2012 Board of Education meeting.

PMA Investment Update

Ms. Laura Pauli of PMA presented an update on OPRFHS's investments. Ms. Pauli reviewed the components of OPRFHS's investment program:

Risk Management Program (safety)

Investment objectives/policy

PMA Credit Analysis

Cash Flow Analysis (liquidity)

Formal Organization of Projected Inflows and Outflows

Investment Strategy to Maximize Interest Income

Bid Management (Yield)

Competitive Trade Execution Platform and includes over 1,800 banks in the national network provider and over 20 securities dealers.

Ms. Pauli presented an analysis on both the District's revenues and expenditures and a graph depicting the total funds balance included targeted liquidity, current investments, short term investments, long-term investments (greater than one year), optimized investments (less than one year), and short-term borrowing.

Ms. Pauli explained its bid management program, which gives PMA the ability to offer all statute allowable investments per Illinois State Statute including, but not limited to registered money market fund pools, savings deposit accounts, US treasury and agency securities, certificates of deposits, municipal securities, and investment offers further defined per the District's investment policy. She commended the District for being diligent in maintaining its stance to its investment objectives.

In judging the performance of these investments, one must look to the District's investment policy, which has a benchmark of receiving a return of a governmental agency yield or better. Currently, the governmental rate is .05 percent, and yet the

District is receiving .27 percent. The focus today is not necessarily on the rate of return, but who is able to collateralize the debt. One vehicle that the District might consider, with an amendment to its policy, would be that of investing in municipalities for a portion of investment portfolio in the 1 to 3 year range.

Because PMA is aware of the District's timeline of expenditures, it makes investments based on when the funds are needed and is then able to invest other monies in longer-term vehicles.

**Review of
Institute Day
January 2012**

OPRFHS held a second semester Institute Day with professional development activities for certified and non-certified staff on January 23, 2012. The theme was Supporting Students and Fostering Student Achievement. Certified staff participated in an opening session with speakers Dr. Isoye, Mr. Rouse and heard a presentation on the connections between RtI efforts and ongoing professional development within Teacher Collaboration Teams (TCTs) by Chala Holland, Assistant Principal for Instruction and Kristen McKee, RtI and Reading Program Coordinator. A second session was organized by division and staff addressed division specific ways and means of supporting students and fostering student achievement. The final session included breakout sessions for faculty and teacher assistants on topics such as a literacy (how it is embedded in the curriculum), assessments (formative and summative), Steven Strategies of Assessment for Learning, usage of Mastery Manager, and technology. Ms. Hill thanked Ms. Holland and the other presenters for their expertise and their hard work in this endeavor. The day was well received as evidenced by the evaluation summary results and individual participant narratives. On April 24 and 25, teachers will have additional staff development time to rotate through some of these same sessions and thus gain exposure to the same practices. In a number of the sessions, teachers created projects that they would use with their teams and in their classrooms.

Noncertified staff participated in a session titled "Communicating Successfully in Stressful Situations" which the Office of Human Resources had been coordinated with the District's Employee Assistance Provider. Anecdotal feedback was that the session was meaningful and well presented.

**HARBOR/
Ombudsman
Semester I Update**

Board of Education members reviewed the report showing credits earned by students attending Ombudsman and HARBOR Academy for first semester of the 2011-12 school year. Students are placed at these alternative sites because of referrals from the Pupil Support Services (PSS) Team in order to provide additional academic support, after other interventions have occurred, or as part of the expulsion process. Twenty (20) students attended either HARBOR or Ombudsman. One student graduated and another left the off-campus placement due to nonattendance. The report indicates that many students experienced academic success at HARBOR; some of the students enrolled at Ombudsman were less successful due to poor attendance. Accompanying data charts were included.

Typically, younger students, freshmen and sophomores, are recommended to HARBOR, because it provides a small school environment, a social worker, PE facilities, and several teachers. It offers a wider range of activities and interaction of activities than Ombudsman. If a student would need a different environment from what HARBOR could provide, he/she would be recommended for

Ombudsman, an electronic resource. OPRFHS pays the tuition for students at both schools. It was suggested that the District track students who attend these schools in order to learn what happened with these students when they first arrived at OPRFHS.

While OPRFHS is not at this time planning a school-within-a-school program, it is providing more extended time in core areas, providing CRISS training to more teachers, discussing alternative advisory models, and exploring how space can be used differently by students, e.g., pods, etc.

The data presented continues to be disaggregated and reviewed.

**January 2012
Graduates**

The Board of Education received the names of those students who graduated in January 2012. The Board of Education will certify these students under the Action portion of the agenda. These students have the opportunity to walk in the commencement ceremony in June.

Strategic Planning

Dr. Isoye presented the Board of Education with a copy of the RFP to be sent out regarding the strategic plan for its review. Discussion ensued.

The RFP will be published and posted on the website. Additional information about the school should be included, e.g. school profile. Once proposals are received, the administration will put the information into a matrix and the Board of Education can determine a weighted rating scale on the different areas of interest, e.g., diversity experience, familiarity with *The School Code of Illinois*, etc.

The administration expected the firms/consultants to recommend the timeline for the strategic plan, e.g., 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, etc.

Dr. Isoye stated that in whatever form a strategic plan is presented, either implementation or a plan for implementation, the follow-through would be the responsibility of the Board of Education and the administration. In preliminary conversations last year with some companies who do strategic planning, the District was advised that the cost could be approximately \$40,000. Hiring a local company could lesson travel expenses.

When vendors ask questions about the RFP, those questions and answers are included under Section 5 and posted on the website so that all vendors have the benefit of them.

It was the consensus of the Board of Education to move this RFP forward with the addition of information about the school, e.g., school profile, etc.

Consent Items

Dr. Millard moved to approve the consent items as follows:

- Approval of the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated February 9, 2012;

seconded by Dr. Lee.

The Board of Education was informed that the Village of Oak Park is considering the District's request for reimbursement of its barricades.

A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Personnel
Recommendations**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the personnel recommendations, as presented; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Smith shared a comment from Mr. Grosser's letter of resignation. "I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the Oak Park and River Forest Communities and have strived to bring "Those Things that are Best" to the students, teachers and community over the past four years."

Ms. Patchak-Layman thanked Mr. Grosser for the work he had done on the STEM Program and Pathways to Learning, which culminated in the STEM Summit and sharing this with the community.

**Certification of
January 2012
Graduates**

Dr. Lee moved to approve the certification of January 2012 Graduates, as presented; seconded by Mr. Phelan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Textbook Bids

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the adoption and purchase of textbooks, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Closed Session

At 8:58 p.m., on Thursday, February 9, 2012, Dr. Millard moved to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing 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); seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education reconvened its open session at 10:00 p.m.

Adjournment

At 10:01p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2012, Dr. Millard moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Dr. Ralph H. Lee
Secretary Protempore

By Gail Kalmerton
Clerk of the Board