

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 in the Board Room of the high school.

- Call to Order** President Weissglass called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. A roll call indicated the following members were present: Fred Arkin, Jennifer Cassell, Thomas F. Cofsky, Dr. Steve Gevinson, Dr. Jackie Moore, Sara Spivy, and Jeff Weissglass. Also in attendance was Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Official, and David Ruhland, Director of Human Resources; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.
- Closed Session** At 6:42 p.m., Mr. Weissglass moved to enter 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); seconded by Ms. Spivy. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- At 8:20 p.m., the Board of Education resumed its open session.
- Visitors** Doug Wiley, Supervisor of Finance, Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; John Stelzer, Athletic Director; Tom McMullen of the HAY Group; and Kevin Peppard, community member.
- Personnel Recommendations** Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the personnel recommendations, which included new hires, resignation, and tenured teacher, as presented; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- It was noted that one of the psychologist recommended in the report had worked at the high school.
- Non-Affiliated Compensation** Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the Non-Affiliated, including Administrative Compensation, for the 2015-16 school year as presented; seconded by Dr. Moore. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- Student Handbook** Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the Student Handbook for the 2015-16 school year as presented; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. Discussion ensued.

Because some of the members had not yet had the opportunity to review the handbook and based on the discussion, Mr. Weissglass moved to table the approval of it until the June 25, 2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. Arkin. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. Any questions that arose from their further review should be directed to Dr. Isoye with a copy to Ms. Kalmerton. However, some questions noted were as follows:

- 1) With regard to credit recovery options, why was the language on community service stricken?
- 2) Why are students not allowed to go to the library for group work? Where can they go?
- 3) Why are appeals not allowed for unexcused absences?
- 4) Why are the only key words in the section regarding cyberbullying “exclusionary discipline?”
- 5) Why is the Board of Education receiving this at this time?
- 6) What changed on pages 51-56 on cyberbullying?
- 7) A question was raised about “N” grade on page 39.

While the Board of Education is responsible for reviewing and approving the Handbook, discussion ensued about the level of review needed for approval. The Board of Education is responsible for policy and direction and the administration is responsible for its implementation. Because the Board of Education had not reached consensus on a philosophy of discipline as yet, any changes to the implementation regarding discipline might have unintended consequences.

The District is required to deliver a handbook to the students within 10 days after the beginning of the school year. Some Board of Education members felt the delay in approval would be worthwhile and, perhaps, an electronic copy could be made available sooner. Further consideration would be given in the discipline policy, restorative justice, etc., and it was suggested that a statement be added to the effect that that the school is working toward revamping its discipline policy and working toward a Restorative Justice model. Note: the PTAC Committee made no recommendations for amendment of the Code of Conduct.

Mr. Weissglass added that the Handbook includes actual statements of Board policy, as such. He did not believe that the Board of Education could make new policy within the process of approving the Handbook.

## **Adjournment**

At 8:49 p.m., Mr. Weissglass moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Jeff Weissglass  
President

Sara Spivy  
Secretary

Submitted by Gail Kalmerton  
Clerk of the Board of Education