

June 25, 2015

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, June 25, 2015, in the Staff Café and in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

Call to Order

President Weissglass called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A roll call indicated the following Board of Education members were present: Fred Arkin, Jennifer Cassell, Thomas F. Cofsky (arrived at 9:00 p.m.), Dr. Steven Gevinson, Dr. Jackie Moore, Sara Spivy, and Jeff Weissglass. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Official; David Ruhland, Director of Human Resources and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant Clerk of the Board.

Closed Session

At 7:07 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2015, 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 Dr. Gevinson. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:38 p.m., the Board of Education resumed open session.

Joining the meeting were Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Official; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Dr. Gwen Walker-Qualls, Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services; David Ruhland, Director of Human Resources; Karin Sullivan, Director of Communications and Community Relations; and Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair.

Visitors

John Stelzer, Athletic Director; Tom Tarrant, Gary Miller, Mel Kolbusz, Chris Ledbetter, Mary Haley of the League of Women Voters; Chisomije Nwoko, Norma Abdur-Rafia, Komiyah Martin, Myia Jones Vanessa Griffin Taylor Arends, Sandra Cox, Hannah Hassan, Samantha Linde, and other athletic students.

Student Recognition

The Board of Education recognized and congratulated the following students and coaches:

Kenneth Brown-Boys Track-High Jump-State Champion
Irwin Loud-Boys Track-3200 Meter Run-2nd place
Track –Boys’ Head Coach-Tim Hasso, and Assistant Coaches Kevin Allen, Danielle Dobias, Jason Dennis, Tim Gamble, Abel Reyes, Jessica Stovall, Jose Sosa

Komiyah Martin, Myia Jones, Chisomije Nwoko, and Norma Abdur-Rafia- 4X200 Meter Relay –State Champions
Vanessa Griffin, Myia Jones, Chisomije Nwoko, Norma Abdur-Rafia 4x 400 Meter Relay-3rd place
Head Girls Track Coach-Tom Tarrant and Assistant Coaches-Chris Baldwin, Tim Gamble, Nicholas Michalek, Tamara Robinson, and Tyrone Williams

CLASS 4A State Tournament Baseball – 3rd Place

Christopher Atwood
Evan Bell
Brian Branand
Blaine Burkett
Scott Christie
Joseph Cundari
Dali Durazo
Alex Ewell
Ryan Fish
John Fitzgerald
Graham Nagle-Deamer
Connor Nelson
Samuel Paulson
Logan Rey-Talley

Jeremy Gaines
Dominic Gerace
Andrew Hennings
William Johnson
Griffin Kelty
Jackson Lewis
Luke McMahon
John McMullen
Ryan Molina
Cameron Moore
Patrick Rumoro
John Stannard
Eugene White

Head Coach- Chris Ledbetter and Assistant Coaches-Joe Parenti, Virg Gerin, Tim Dennehy, Larry Gray

Class 4a State Tournament Softball – 3rd Place

Taylor Arends
Sydney Babbington
Sandra Cox
Ireland Flannery
Chardonnay Harris
Hannah Hassan
Samantha Linde
Coach-Mel Kolbusz and Assistant Coaches-Gary Miller and JP Coughlin

Maeve Nelson
Sofie Pedersen
Mackenzie Powell
Emily Richardson
Caitlyn Santiago
Nina Steele
Ellie Ziegler

The Board of Education then returned to the Board Room.

**Public Hearing
Education Fee
Hearing**

Mr. Weissglass called a public hearing to order on the Driver Education Fee at 8:05 p.m. Receiving no oral or written comments, Mr. Weissglass closed the hearing at 8:07 p.m.

**Public
Comments**

None

**Status of FOIA
Requests**

Ms. Kalmerton reported that 5 FOIA requests were received and resolved.

**Faculty Senate
Report**

Ms. Hardin reported that it was a calm closing to the school year and that summer school was in session and teachers were enjoy the summer.

Superintendent

Dr. Isoye congratulated the June 2015 graduates. He noted that the ticket system and the number of tickets allocated will be evaluated for next year. Dr. Isoye reported that the staff celebrated the milestones of people in the District with 20, 25, and 30 years of service, those faculty members that received tenure and those who were retiring. Dr. Isoye noted that summer school was up and running. The summer musical will be Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Coat on July 10, 11, and 12. He also thanked those Board of Education members and administrators who were at A day in Our Village. Electricity will be out in the old part of the building on Friday, June 26, and thus there will be limited access with few people in the building.

Consent

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the following consent items:

- Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated June 25, 2015
- Treasurer's Report
- Monthly Financials
- Personnel Recommendations including New Hires and Resignation
- Renewal of Contract with Securatem
- Prevailing Wage Resolution
- Resolution to Approve Driver Ed Fee
- Addendum to Space Sharing Agreement with River Forest Community Center
- Renewal of Annual Property, Casualty, Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance
- Institute Dates and Draft Agendas for 2015-16 School Year
- Policies for First Reading
 - Policy 3:40, General School Administration
 - Policy 3:50, Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent
 - Policy 3:60, Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal
 - Policy 5:40, Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
 - Policy 5:120, Ethics and Conduct
 - Policy 5:270, Employment At-Will, Compensation and Assignment
 - Policy 5:290, Employment Termination and Suspensions
- Policies for Amendment
 - Policy 4:45 Insufficient Checks and Debt Recovery
 - Policy 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program
- Open and Closed Session Minutes of May 27, 28, and June 16, 2015 and a declaration that the closed session audiotapes of October and December 2013 be destroyed.

seconded by Mr. Arkin. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Certification of June 2015 Graduates

Mr. Weissglass moved to certify the 2015 Graduates, as presented; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Tradition of Excellence

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the Tradition of Excellence Award Recipients as presented; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

NOMINEES

David Shurna, class of 1991, for service, is the co-founder of Global Explorers which provides life-changing travel/immersion experiences for students, teachers and families. He has also been professionally involved in environmental education, leadership development, wildlife conservation, environmental protection and international culture and travel. He has been a contributing writer for Explore! Magazine.

Michael Powell, class of 1994, for Coach/Motivational Mentor, is nationally recognized as a wrestling coach and motivational speaker. He has lead the OPRF wrestling program to over 4 state championships, 10 individual state champions and 31 individual all state wrestlers. A state title holder himself as a student

athlete, Mike also has been nationally honored as coach of the year and recently, inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. His personal success stories have been featured in Sports Illustrated and in sport documentaries.

Dr. Frank Lemkey, class of 1994, Scientist, has been NASA'S Director of Microgravity Scientist for the past two years but his work in material science for decades precedes this accomplishment. Frank is responsible for designing the optimal microgravity experiments which are performed in the US Space Station Laboratories. As a Harvard graduate, he has also been professor at numerous Ivy League Colleges.

Anne Sweeney, class of 1991, Activist, cofounded Heshima Kenya, a Chicago nonprofit organization in 2008 with operations in Nairobi, Kenya. The organization works to protect and empower refugee girls and young women, including their children, who have been displaced in Nairobi. She is also a frequent speaker on the needs of refugee women and children.

ALTERNATE

Richard Gloor, class of 1955, Realtor/Community Philanthropist, is president of Gloor Realty Company, Member of Local, State and National Real Estate Boards, President of Oak Park Board of Realtors 1974-1975, Charter Secretary Oak Park Development Corp; former president of OPRF Rotary. Founding director of Community Bank of OPRF, honorary board member of Oak Park Regional Housing Center, and member of Retail Rehab Committee of the Village of Oak Park.

An alternative name is provided in case one of the recipients cannot attend the ceremony.

Use of Stadium

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the use of the stadium by Riverside-Brookfield High School (RBHS) on August 17, 24 and 31, and September 7, 21 and 28, 2015; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Cofsky was absent from this vote.

The construction work that RBHS is completing on its stadium will not be completed until October. Because RBHS had allowed the use of its pool at no cost to OPRFHS' diving team, OPRFHS is reciprocating this favor. No conflicts exist with any other OPRFHS activities and lights will not be used.

Student Handbook

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the Student Handbook for the 2015-16; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. Discussion ensued.

Noted was the fact that peer mediation was phased out because of lack of participation. However, while it was previously listed as an activity, Student Intervention Directors (SIDs) do utilize peer mediation.

The Long-Term Facilities Plan Committee will determine the ultimate use of the library. Considerations will include whether it should be one or two floors, contain a library/media center, have group space, etc. Presently, the second floor is being used for multiple purposes, i.e., Board of Education meetings, etc. No

large-scale structural changes have been made at this time. Currently, the student balcony is used for group work.

Appeals of “N grades” will now be made automatically by the school, rather than only as a result of a parent appeal, as it is more equitable. Grades will not change until the end of the semester. SIDs manage attendance and make the final decision in collaboration with teachers. More clarity in the Handbook was requested about this process for parents. One member felt an academic decision should be made by the principal and a future discussion was desired. This might be added to the document on student discipline for a Board of Education discussion.

One member remembered the block club approach used previously as being successful in deterring tardies, as it had to do with relationship building. Its success was dependent on teachers being in close physical proximity to each, establishing relationships with each other, and coordinating their locations in the hallways. The administration felt Plasco Track had been positive in getting students to school, which affects overall climate. The block club approach will be discussed in another venue. One member had a major philosophical question about the tardy policy and wanted to explore alternatives.

Only with parent permission and by meeting certain school criteria can students be allowed open campus; it is a privilege. Students must provide the police with their IDs, if asked, when out in the community during the school day. The police will then call the school for the status of the students. If the police have questions, they work with the school.

While a suggestion was made to add “or other Restorative practices, such as expulsion and suspensions”, first a change would have to be made to the Board of Education’s policy to accommodate this suggestion.

A concern was raised about not having cross references to certain disciplinary issues in the handbook relative to the section on “Jeopardizing My Education and Change of Placement categories on page 27. It no longer refers to Class 4 or 5 infractions.

A concern was also raised about directing the FAQ to parents and guardians, as opposed to students, as it weakens the expectation aspect for students. A suggestion was to list it as “Questions Your Family May Have”.

A suggestion was also to include cross referencing or indexing.

Dr. Moore moved to add at the end of the semester the SID will “Determine” whether or not a student grade is changed and that determination will be based on input from the classroom teacher and counselor feedback, seconded by Dr. Gevinson. Dr. Moore withdrew her motion.

Complaint managers should be listed on page 53, i.e. Kris Johnson and Phil Prale.

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

Student Discipline None

Board of Education Goals 2015-16 Mr. Weissglass presented the Board of Education with a draft of Board of Education goals for the 2015-16 school year; they reflected conversations he had with Board of Education members. Board of Education members noted their appreciation of his work and discussion ensued.

Comments/questions:

- 1) How will the Board of Education look at these goals in relation to the Strategic Plan? Is an administrative timeline needed?
- 2) How can one explain the difference between these goals and that of past goals that were more specific? Last year the goals were that of the Strategic Plan with emphasis on the action steps. This year, while continuing with the Strategic Plan, the Board believes it needs to be looking at, discussing, or building a plan/philosophy. The Strategic Plan should not always be an “add-on”. These six goals support the Board’s work in terms of what has been strategic.
- 3) How can the Board of Education determine what to include and what not to include of the Strategic Plan? Mr. Weissglass gave much consideration to having on the implementation of the Strategic Plan as its goal. The financing of the pool project, the decision, the engagement of the design, and a board study of the District’s equity policy and procedures came out of discipline retreat memo from the Board of Education and are embedded in the goals. Things that the administration and school community work on are embedded in the Strategic Plan and are high priorities. Mr. Weissglass included some of these because otherwise there would not have been any instructional items in the goals.
- 4) This is ambitious and could be overwhelming work. While a suggestion was to remove some of the administrative items because of the overall ambitiousness of the goals, Mr. Weissglass was reluctant to remove or downgrade any of them.
- 5) The Board of Education should decide whether to move these things to a small or large committee and how people are considered for the committees. The ongoing goals are valued and are statements of reality. The Board of Education goal update included things that the administration was doing things were not in the goals. The key word is “develop and undertake.”
- 6) The goals are a great balance of keeping the theme of the Strategic Plan becoming specific and a strong alignment to committee structure.
- 7) Emphasis should be placed on systemic-wide alignment of communication and measurement, i.e., a system-wide knowledge and useful tools, etc. It is about engaging everyone at all levels with alignment of the Strategic Plan, not just the specific statements in the Strategic Plan.
- 8) Emphasis should be placed on continuing to build relationships with the Early Childhood Collaboration, Districts 90 and 97, and Triton, especially the sharing of data in order to have an idea about the child’s whole experience. Whatever legal concerns may exist about the sharing of data should be revisited. OPRFHS has engaged in collaborative relationship with Triton as students may enroll in a course there. Another piece could be looking at the relationships with different entities and providing capstone

experiences. It is about branching out and providing expertise and support in different and more expanded ways.

- 9) Include something about being a welcoming culture.
- 10) What are the improved finance metrics?
- 11) Include something that would look outward, i.e., increase community participation, i.e., pool design and financing would include communication education and engagement, etc.

The next step is to discuss/adopt the goals at either the June 30, July 14 or August 18, 2015 Special Board meeting. Mr. Weissglass asked that any additional comments be sent to him and to Dr. Isoye.

**Baseball Dugouts
Football Bleacher
2016 Construction
Project**

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the athletic construction project for 2016-17, as presented; seconded by Mr. Arkin. Discussion ensued.

The Finance Committee voted 2 to 1 to bring this forward for Board of Education approval because one person objected to this proposal not being included in the other summer projects presented to the Board of Education. The delay occurred in bringing this to the Board of Education, because the location of the pool had not yet been decided. It is now being brought to the Board of Education for approval due to safety concerns, i.e., the netting is not tall enough to keep foul balls from going onto the tennis courts, stadium fields, roofs of the homes on Linden Avenue, cars, etc. While no one has been hit by a foul ball, it is a possibility. New dugouts and sidewalks were recommended because adding the taller poles, going from 35' to 55', will affect the location of the dugouts. Replacing the dugouts will allow for more visitor bleachers as well.

One member felt that the Long-Term Facility Committee, which will commence in the fall, should assist the Board of Education in decisions such as these as to fixing/redeveloping athletic fields. Ms. Cassell volunteered to be on that committee. Questions arose about the capacity of the field and whether or not the IHSA or West 40 had standards for these and whether replacing the grass with turf would have caused this question.

The Board of Education withdrew the motion and asked that the administration provide an alternative proposal relative to safety at a lower cost. The add-ons will be addressed by the Long-Term Facilities Planning Committee.

Preliminary Budget

The Finance Committee unanimously supported the presentation of the Preliminary Report be moved to the Board of Education as an informational item.

PD Report

The Instruction Committee recommended that the Board of Education be provided with the Summary of Professional Development Activities for 2014-15 as an informational item.

Testing Coordinator

The Instruction Committee recommended that the Board of Education be provided with the report on testing processes and procedures as an informational item. One member highlighted the fact that the recommendation was for 80% of this position's responsibilities would be to coordinate testing for students with accommodations.

- Board of Education Goals 2014-15** The Policy Evaluation and Goals Committee recommended that the Board of Education be provided with an end-of-year update on its goals for 2014-15. While one member wanted to have more narrative in the future, it was unclear as to what format should be used.
- Residency Report** The Policy Evaluation and Goals Committee unanimously supported that the report on residency be moved to the full Board of Education as information only. It was noted that the number of questionable cases had increased because of the implementation process. One Board of Education member acknowledged that the process was positive.
- District Reports** The Alumni Association provided the Board of Education with information regarding its summer enrichment grants. It was noted that the *Wednesday Journal* ran an article about all of the students involved in these programs.
- Adjournment** At 10:15 p.m., Dr. Gevinson moved to adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting; seconded by Ms. Spivy. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Jeff Weissglass
President

Sara Spivy
Secretary

Submitted by Gail Kalmerton
Clerk of the Board