

November 19, 2015

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, November 19, 2015, in the Staff Café and in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

Call to Order

President Weissglass called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. A roll call indicated the following Board of Education members were present: Fred Arkin (arrived at 8:29 p.m.); Jennifer Cassell, Thomas F. Cofsky, Dr. Steven Gevinson, Dr. Jackie Moore, Sara Spivy, and Jeff Weissglass. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant Clerk of the Board.

Closed Session

At 7:16 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2015, Mr. Weissglass moved to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing lawfully closed meeting minutes, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21); seconded by Ms. Cassell. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:30 p.m., the Board of Education resumed the 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; Mr. Ruhland, Director of Human Resources; Karin Sullivan, Director of Communications and Community Relations; Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; and Hattie Grimm, Student Council Liaison Representative.

Visitors

Jason Dennis, Assistant Principal for Instruction; and Victor Ancieta and John Bokum, community members, Mary Haley of the League of Women Voters; and Robin Randall of Legat Architects.

**Public
Comments**

John Bokum, 629 S. Home, Oak Park, IL, reiterated his idea to use Scoville Avenue between the fields south of Lake Street and the Park District fields for a parking structure. He felt it was an alternative to on-street parking, noting the Park District, Village and the high school could utilize it.

**Status of FOIA
Requests**

Ms. Kalmerton reported that 4 FOIA requests were received, and 3 were resolved.

Student Council

Ms. Grimm reported on Student Council's Tradition of Excellence event. The students were impressed and inspired by the awardees, especially Coach Powell. It was the intention of Student Council to present a diverse group of honorees in order to appeal to a variety of students. Student Council will next focus on charity drives,

including the Adopt-A-Family program. HuskiePalooza is November 20, 2015, at a cost of \$5 per student.

**Faculty Senate
Report**

Ms. Hardin commended Student Council on its work with the Tradition of Excellence awardees and program. Faculty State is looking forward to the staff development day on Wednesday, November 25, and reminded the Board of Education members of the breakfast that same day. She thanked Ms. Hill for her work in scheduling the day's professional development events.

**Superintendent
Report**

Dr. Isoye reported the following:

Congratulations to Student Council on its work with the Tradition of Excellence.

- Italian teacher Rafaella Spilotro won the national 2015 Coccia-Inserra
- Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Teaching of Italian (K-12). The selection criteria for the award include planning and preparation, involvement outside the school, and instructional innovations.
- Baseball coach and PE teacher Chris Ledbetter was chosen to
- Receive a 2015 Area Coach of the Year Award for the spring season by the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association. The award recognizes coaches who led their teams admirably while achieving excellence during the past season.
- Math teacher Mark Pappalardo was named Diving Sectional Coach of the year.
- Science teacher Clyde Lundgren was chosen as Swimming Sectional Coach of the year.

Students of the Quarter are: Kevan Casson (math), Thomas Herner (visual arts), George Brennan (business education), Majesty Gunn (English), Taylor Varnado (science), Oluwatosin Adeyemi (world languages), Samantha Linde and Erik Osterkil (physical education), Mera Iniguez-Rojo (world languages), Will Dunne (athletics), Michaela Fritsch (family and consumer science), Kenzo Murray (counseling), Emma Mascaro-Romine (special education), Joaquin Lopez (student intervention services), and Amaris Flores (student activities).

The following students participated in the Huskie Speech Team's first tournament of the season: Max Freeman took first in extemporaneous speaking and original oratory (novice/JV), Lily Alexandroff, second in extemporaneous speaking, Maeve Doody and Flynn Osman, second in humorous duet acting.

OPRFHS was certified as a School-Yard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation due to the efforts of the OPRF Environmental/Biology Club. A plaque designating this accomplishment has been installed by Buildings & Grounds on the wall at the back of the club's "Herban" Garden, toward the south end of the Mall.

Music students Sage Degand, Rachel Kaufman-Levine, and Jacob Schaidler were selected to perform with legendary trumpet artist Doc Severinsen and 60 other students from across Chicago and Indiana in The Q&F All-Stars Concert Band concert on November 20, 2015.

Thirty-two music students earned a spot in the Illinois Music Educator's Association District I All-District Band, Choir, Orchestra, and Jazz groups. They have an opportunity to be selected for the state. The Marching Huskies were selected to perform at Disney World's Thanksgiving Day parade as such will join 750 of the top high school bands in the country, along with the world-renowned Boston Brass.

Hanna Blankemeier, Genna Curry, Alex Gill, Samm Neilson, and Natalie Ungaretti. Will compete at the state's sectional tournament. At last weekend's sectional tournament, girl swimmers set school records in the 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, and 100 free relay, Kevan Casson, Jilly Cronin, Katie Girardot, Ellie Kennedy-Wood, Sophie Lever, Lizzy Silber, and Nora Sullivan contributed lifetime best performances at the girls' swimming and diving sectionals.

Henry Harper, Kimathi Johnson, and Mahal Schroeder competed in the state meet earlier this month.

Consent

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the following consent items:

- A. Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated November 19, 2015
- B. Monthly Treasurer's Report
- C. Donations and Gifts
- D. Personnel Recommendations, including New Hires and Resignations
- E. Policies for Amendment
 1. Policy 2:160, Board Attorney
 2. Policy 5:170, Copyright
 3. Policy 7:40, Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students
 4. Policy 8:80, Gifts to the District
- F. Policy 4:20, Fund Balance Policy
- G. Open and Closed Session Minutes of October 14, 22, and November 10, 2015, and a declaration that the closed session audiotapes of April 2014 be

destroyed and a statement that the Closed Session Minutes from May 1, 2015, to November 10, 2015, shall remain closed.

seconded by Ms. Cassell. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Long-Term Facility
Planning Process**

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the Legat Architects (Legat) Contract Amendment 8, as presented; seconded by Dr. Moore. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Altenburg and Mr. Prale are the administrative liaisons to Legat on this project. On September 24, 2015, the Board of Education discussed with administration its goals for the long-term facility planning process. At that time, the following four BOE goals provided direction to administration to 1) propose a plan for the building space recaptured by the relocation of the swimming pools to another structure, 2) confirm and accommodate increasing student enrollment, 3) upgrade the overall learning environment, accounting for highest yield learning technologies and practices, and 4) keep the total scope of the projects at or below \$20 million dollars. Projects would proceed during a one- to five-year timeframe, preparing the District for the next projects over the following five years. The process would identify project costs and sequences and consider how to frame projects in smaller elements or to tackle them simultaneously. The whole Board of Education is receiving this report at this time because it had previously received it. The District and Legat are being fiscally conservative with the District funds, noting that while the cost is listed as not to exceed “X,” it is anticipated that the cost may be less. This is for five years of planning.

Ms. Randall’s specialty is to lead these types of projects, i.e., help to set goals, create a calendar, etc. Mr. Altenburg and Mr. Prale plan to bring a rendering forward in the April timeline.

Discussion ensued about the committee composition and schedule. The first meeting is scheduled for December 3. The composition of the committee will include 2 Board of Education members, 2 students, 3 faculty, 2 division heads, the Buildings and Grounds Director, and others. The committee wants perspectives of different groups.

Caution was given not to create a vision that is not grounded in the Strategic Plan. While this is 5 years of planning, the effect will last 20 to 40 years. While the Board of Education had given general parameters of \$20 million as noted in the planning memo, as that was consistent with the debt capacity, given that the prior estimate given two years ago was \$50 million, it should be treated as a firm guideline. That plan focused on utilization, shared space, adult- or teacher-oriented space and students, room sizes, square feet, etc. The charge of this committee will be to 1) recapture pool space in the field house, 2) upgrade the overall learning environment, 3) keeping the total scope at or below \$20 million and 4) preparing for the next 6 to 10 years. One member suggested reflecting on the process that was used to develop the previous plan because it had not made sense educationally. Legat is taking its guidance from Mr. Prale and Mr. Altenburg. The

previous plan focused on transforming the school. This time, it will be about the four areas described earlier. Legat's role will be the "guides on the sides;" it is the facilitator of the community, the leadership, and the long-ranging planning group. The vision process is specific to the facilities.

The subsequent five-year plan should include consideration of the Fieldhouse, although structurally sound now, because of increased enrollment and an inadequate wrestling room. The District earmarks \$4 million per year for capital items, and that \$4 million could be channeled into longer-term projects. Also, a decennial review will be completed soon. Mr. Zummallen has been very proactive in keeping the building maintained. In December, construction will be brought forward for 2016-17 school year.

Legat is presently working on 3 master plans: 1) LaSalle (\$95M referendum in a high school district); 2) quad cities elementary school, a school district in New Lenox; and 3) Glenbard (Mr. Altenburg attested to the work being done in Glenbard). In addition, Ms. Randall is consulting on 2 projects outside of Cleveland, specifically on how to move forward.

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

Student Discipline

None

IGOV Assembly

Dr. Gevinson reported on the October 29 I-GOV meeting. The third assembly of the taxing bodies is scheduled for January 23. The topics will include taxing bodies' revenue, expenditures, community data snapshot, debt, etc. Everyone is encouraged to participate. The Board of Education must have a quorum in order to take part in this assembly or designate a committee if only 3 members participate.

The high school will take part in a committee about building an Oak Park community center.

It was the consensus of the Board of Education to include a line item in its budget of \$2,000 to pay for secretarial expense for I-GOV.

Parent Teacher Advisory

The Parent Teacher Advisory Committee (PTAC) is a Board of Education committee that is to be convened every year to discuss student discipline. Students who participated in the student-led retreat sponsored by Chicago VOYCE called "Raise Your Voice" will provide a full report to the Board of Education in December. This year, its charge will be to have a different level of engagement, i.e., the transformation of student climate and student discipline, etc., and charged to make recommendations to the Board of Education regarding the Code of Conduct and to develop recommendations relative to Restorative Justice, aligning it directly with the Strategic Plan. Ms. Spivy, Mr. Weissglass, Mr. Ruhland, Mr. Rouse, Dr. Isoye and Cathy Gustafson, have met. Ms. Gustafson will help run some of the meetings and guide the

process. The timeline is to convene for 18 months, starting in December. This will be a huge time commitment for the members. The scope of the committees will mirror those of the Pool Site Committee and the Finance Advisory Committee in order to make sure that all of the voices, internally and externally, were being heard.

Dr. Isoye read Ms. Gustafson's biography, highlighting her work as an independent consultant who works for schools regarding organizational change, coaching, facilitation, conflict resolution, standard-led learning assessments, and racial equity work. Her charge will be to build consensus from the group.

In addition, the school is talking with John Diamond and Amanda E. Lewis, authors of the book *Despite the Best Intentions*, about working with a group larger than PTAC, to see if they could facilitate a different type of conversation.

Dr. Isoye is also talking with Decoteau Irby, UIC Department of Education Policy Studies Working and working with Verona Public Schools just outside of Madison about the research he has been doing for the last three years.

Discussion ensued about the composition of the PTAC membership. Suggestions included:

- 1) Include someone who has successfully implemented Restorative Justice practices at both in the planning stage of this committee and participated in the actual committee.
- 2) Provide an educational component so that the committee members understand Restorative Justice. Note: the District will reach out to Dominican University, as it has been doing work in this area. Find someone from a District, who is doing this successfully.
- 3) Students both in the planning process and on the committee, i.e., students who participate in Chicago VOYCE, mentors, etc.
- 4) Student Intervention Directors because of their knowledge of the discipline.
- 5) Faculty Senate selects its members to be on this committee.
- 6) A couple of Board members. The role of the BOE members would be to provide input, engage in the conversation but not to vote. These are open meetings, and other Board of Education members could attend if they so choose. This would allow those on the committee to preserve and participate in the evolutionary process of what is being developed. Board member presence would not affect the majority.

The desired size of this committee would be 11 to 15 members. The question was asked if other recommendations were needed before a decision was made. One member asked who would make the decision on the membership and how would they be seen and who would decide that. In addition to a facilitator, a suggestion was made to appoint a chair to administer and manage the work.

Discussion ensued about whether the BOE should make a commitment to Restorative Justice practices and a timeline. A Board goal states that it will develop actions and practices and, thus, it is charging PTAC to make the recommendations on how to move forward.

A retreat on Restorative Justice for the BOE was requested. In addition, one or two sessions of PTAC, depending upon the agenda, might be helpful for the entire Board of Education to attend.

School Report Card Continued discussion will occur at the December Instruction Committee meeting regard ACT scores and college readiness.

CTIP Update The Instruction Committee unanimously recommended that the update on the Classroom Technology Implementation Plan is forwarded to the full Board of Education and was included in the packet.

District Reports Monthly reports from the embedded into the agenda from PTO/Parents 4 Student Success, Huskies Booster's Club, and APPLE.

Adjournment At 9:20 p.m., Dr. Moore moved to adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting; seconded by Mr. Cofsky. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Jeff Weissglass
President

Sara Dixon Spivy
Secretary

Submitted by Gail Kalmerton
Clerk of the Board