

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL
201 North Scoville Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302

INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Tuesday, October 16, 2012

An Instruction Committee of the Whole Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2012. Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 7:56 p.m. in the Board Room. Committee members present were Terry Finnegan, Valerie Fisher, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy McCormack, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, John Phelan, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Tina Halliman, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Lauren M. Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Karin Sullivan, Director of Community Relations and Communications; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors included John Stelzer, Athletic Director; Cindy Milojevic, Director of Student Activities; Dale Craft, Summer School Director; Robert Zummallen, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Vernecia Davis, University of Illinois doctoral student, and Julie Lam, student of Lewis University.

Participation Data Co-Curricular 2011-2012

Mr. Stelzer and Ms. Milojevic presented the annual Co-Curricular Participation Report. The District challenged itself to increase student participation in extra or cocurriculars activities by 7% from the previous year, and it did so.

The total number of non-duplicated students participating in at least one co-curricular activity during the 2011-12 school year was 2,259. Seventy-one percent of the student population of 3,189 participated. By comparison, during the 2010-11 school year, 2,056 students were involved, representing 64% of the student population. The national average for participation in high school activity programs is 60%. Data sets included in the report were:

- Co-curricular Program Participation
- 2010-11 Activity Program Participation
- 2010-11 Athletic Department Participation
- Results from 2011 Cocurriculars Participation Survey

Mr. Phelan applauded the 7% growth but he also wanted to determine who had been turned away in order to understand what the District could do in order to be able to assist them. In response to that, the Committee learned that students were surveyed as to why they were or were not involved. Approximately 2,133 students responded. Of that number, 1,631 or 76% were involved, and 502 or 24% were not involved. The top three reasons given by 54% of the students not involved included having a job, being a caretaker, or being involved in activities outside of OPRFHS, such as church activities, etc. Students took the survey anonymously.

In response to a question from Ms. Patchak-Layman, the Committee learned that the Percy Julian Symposium is not a club or an activity, as it is funded by an outside organization. Ms. Milojevic and the Technology Club leadership are working to allow more opportunities for science and engineering.

When asked if the number of sports teams and the number of students participating in the sports teams had increased, the response was that it is a constant and complex balancing act. At this time, the school is operating at around 95% of its capacity. For most teams, a single student could be added. However, safety, security, trainers, coaches, facilities, and the finite amount of space must be considered. More students have been involved in outdoor sports because of the installation of the stadium lights. Dr. Lee thanked them for a great report.

Summer School 2012 Report

Mr. Craft reviewed the highlights of the annual Summer School Report. Even though the massive amount of construction occurred in the building during the summer, the Summer School program provided 1,093 students with 1,372 academic and enrichment opportunities over the span of 15 to 24 days. The curriculum included the following:

- 10 sections of Health Education • 6 sections of Art Foundations • 4 sections of Consumer Education • 3 sections of Applied Keyboarding • 8 courses in English to support academic performance • 4 credit-recovery classes in History • 11 sections of math that would allow students to fulfill a credit due to failure or to advance their course work • Enrichment courses in photography, wheel throwing, computer animation, and musical theater • 3 lab science classes • 3 field study opportunities to Florida, Africa, and the Galapagos Islands.

Each counselor with given four \$90 grants to be used for Summer School tuition and 32 students utilized 35 grants. Nineteen students received \$1900 for their participation in The Oak Park Youth Township's Work/Study Volunteer program. They performed 380 hours of volunteer service in the Oak Park and River Forest Communities. Financial assistance amounted to over \$5,000 to students with needs.

The program's budget had a small surplus of \$2,364. The summer musical, Footloose, ended with a \$3,295 surplus. Expenses were maintained at the same level and classes canceled if enrollment fell below a reasonable level. The Summer School budget finished positively for the fifth year in a row.

Mr. Craft thanked the summer school teachers for their work, as some had worked as much as 8 hours per day. He credited Ms. Bishop with doing an excellent job as the Dean of Discipline. By the last day of summer school, every student had served his or her detentions. All but 11 students passed their courses.

Ms. Hill designed a survey about the abbreviated schedule and days. The results show that all of the stakeholders were pleased with it. Mr. Craft also thanked Lisa Evans for her help with survey and Linda Hayes for her help in managing this program throughout the year.

Discussion ensued about next year's schedule. Mr. Craft did not know the magnitude of the construction projects scheduled for next summer. Mr. Prale stated that discussions would occur with the Divisions about possibilities for teachers and students. The survey and the teachers' comments both showed that the four-hour blocks of time, which were common to all courses, worked remarkably well. Food Service was available as well.

Preview of Academic Catalog Changes 2013-2014

As has been established in the last few years, the course proposals for the coming year were brought to the Board of Education for a first review. The administration pointed out that a significant change next year would be the representation of Special Education classes in the Academic Catalog. No longer will there be a separate section for Special Education courses. They will be included with the regular education division sections. The English Honors options may change as discussions continue among the school community. DLT will make the final recommendation on the course proposals to the Board of Education at the November meeting. It will consider staffing, professional development, facilities, etc.

Ms. Fisher was very pleased with the moving of Special Education classes into the divisions. Dr. Halliman emphasized that the overall goal was to insure that students are in their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE): Even if the class is self-contained, it must be aligned with the general curriculum. This will alter the mindset of faculty and parents. The counselors are the primary voice to the parents, and they are in full agreement with this change.

A clarification will be made in the description of the PE Class on Strength Training. This class is intended for juniors and seniors who are varsity athletes. It will be used in lieu of athletic study hall.

A question arose about the Math sequence. Would this sequence allow students to be ready for the ACT? The answer was yes, and more clarification will be forthcoming.

School Profile and Report Card

Mr. Rouse presented the School Profile for the 2012-13 school year and the 2012 School Report Card as informational items. No discussion occurred.

Faculty/Staff Report and Employee Profile Information for 2012/13 Annually the District brings for the above named report. This information is based on October 1, 2012 data.

Ms. Patchak-Layman was disappointed that the numbers of teaching staff and diversity had not changed in three years. She also questioned the number of administrators listed and asked for clarification as to that number.

Additional Instructional Matters

Dr. Lee asked the Committee members to give him feedback on the inclusion of time limits for each item on the agendas and the enforcement of those time limits.

Adjournment

Dr. Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Amy McCormack
Secretary