

December 21, 2011

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Wednesday evening, December 21, 2011, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

**Call to Order**

President Millard called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Valerie J. Fisher, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee (arrived at 9:32 p.m.), Amy Leafe McCormack, Sharon Patchak-Layman, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and John Phelan. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Lauren M. Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; Jeff Hendrix, Student Council Liaison Representative; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

**Visitors**

The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: Kay Foran, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator, Robert Zummallen, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Mike Bengston of Henry Bros., Robert Wroble of Legat Architects; Steve Larson of Ehlers Consulting; Terry O'Grady of Pekron Consulting; Mamie Andry, community member; Terrie Raeburn, chair of Students 4 Success (AKA PTO); and Bill Dwyer of the *Pioneer Press*.

**Public Comments**

None

**Board of Education Comments**

Dr. Millard noted her appreciation to Ms. McCormack for her initial involvement with the TIF negotiations, to Ms. Fisher for her involvement in the mediation and to Mr. Phelan for creatively constructing the settlement agreement.

Ms. Patchak-Layman received a flyer from Seguin Services, which recognized Georgia Hunter, an OPRFHS graduate, and her family, and included some very nice comments about OPRFHS and the work that occurs between Seguin and this family. Ms. Patchak-Layman hoped that the high school would cooperative with Seguin as much as possible as it was a main social services agency to help students transition from the high school.

**FOIA Requests**

Dr. Millard reported that no FOIA requests had been received.

**Introductory Reports**

Student Council – Mr. Hendrix reported on Student Council's annual holiday party, whose theme was that of "ugly sweater" was being held that evening with a scavenger within the building being a main activity.

Faculty Senate Report—Mr. Hunter reported that holidays were sometimes strange for teachers as the students were wound felt school was a safe place and for some of them, going home did not offer them that same feeling. He wished all a happy holiday season.

Superintendent Report –Dr. Isoye reported that he met with Ann Cothran, the Director of the DVR to talk about the changes in the funding streams at the federal

level with Perkins money. The DVR Board of Control works to support STEM and career pathways programs.

Dr. Isoye reported that the Holiday Tea was held December 13 and it had an excellent turnout. This is a wonderful tradition supported by the Board and retirees are invited back to visit with friends and colleagues at OPRFHS. The faculty alumni worked to endow a scholarship and through their efforts since the spring, they raised \$25,000 to reach the minimum limit to endow an annual scholarship. The retirees truly love this place.

The three superintendents are finalizing the agenda and plans for the tri-Board meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

Dr. Allan Alson, Amy Hill, and he have been conferencing to finalize the ongoing board retreats this year. The focus will continue to be on student achievement data.

The subgroup of the Scholarship Committee is exploring ways to revitalize the work of the Scholarship Committee. Outside resources have been contacted to see what assistance can be obtained to strengthen the work of supporting students as they graduate.

A breakfast was held for the executives of Oak Park and River Forest governmental agencies and non-profit groups. This was an excellent opportunity to connect, reconnect, or meet some of the leaders in the area.

He wished the students, the faculty, the staff, the administrators, and the Board of Education a wonderful winter break.

Ms. Hill, on Dr. Isoye's behalf, discussed student achievement data with an area realty group to help them understand state assessment and AYP.

Mr. Prale attended a Chicago School Policy Forum to which Franczek Radelet invited OPRFHS.

## **World Language Division**

Claudia Sahagun thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to present an overview of the programs in the World Languages Division as well as its goals.

The languages taught are Chinese, French, German, Italian Japanese, Latin (eight sections), and Spanish. Seventy-three percent of the student body is enrolled in a foreign language, indicating an incremental and steady growth in World Languages. Colleges look for this kind of training. World Languages has twenty-six teachers who participate as coaches, sponsors, on many school-wide committees and in the national exams for German, French, and Latin. Several are part of the National Endowment for the Humanities, AP readers with College Board, presenters of TPRS at Northern Illinois University and UIC. One teacher supervises the yearly publication of student works in Latin. Teachers also conduct exchanges with Italy, Japan, and Germany and trips to Spain, Ecuador, Peru, and France.

The goals of the division are as follows:

- 1) every student should take a language;
- 2) Use common targets and common formative assessments to determine patterns of students meeting expectations and students who still need to meet expectations;
- 3) Look at vocabulary retention and its related structures in all level courses and communicate instructional practices that aid with all student achievement and continuation and growth of the language;
- 4) Infuse literacy instruction and strategies to reinforce and support English goals as all are trained in reading comprehension strategies and use them extensively with the readings; and
- 5) Support the use of Mastery Manager, CRISS training, TCT Leaders/Training, and CCAR/DELT participation.

Ms. Sahagun stated that the language labs are used weekly and have been retrofitted with new software. World Languages' commitment remains to the use of the labs and resources have been added. The labs are used as an after-school drop-in for students as well.

Discussion ensued about whether interest had been expressed in having a program in which a second language would be used in teaching other courses. Only Emerson Elementary School provides a second language program. Middle schools do not. High school students with a second language are generally placed at the middle level of classes and have the opportunity to advance further. Continuing articulation occurs through the World Language meetings with the three middle schools in Oak Park and River Forest. No specific requests for a dual language immersing level have been received.

Middle school students choose to enroll in either band or a foreign language. If a student takes language through his/her middle school years, that preparation usually allows that student to be placed in a second year language class when they get to high school. When a student comes to the high school already knowing a second language, i.e., Spanish, they are usually placed in a higher-level Spanish class. Ideally, it should be Spanish literature and composition.

Exchange trips are opportunities for students to learn directly another language and the culture and for students in those countries to come here and do the same. The Japan, Italy, and German trips were originated by OPRFHS teachers based on their individual relationships with other schools in those countries. While exchanges have been offered to Spain, Ecuador, France, and Peru, it is challenging to find schools who are interested in the same type of exchanges. Those countries who OPRFHS to host their students for three or four weeks during the school year would be challenging for both the OPRFHS students and teachers in the building. OPRFHS's Japan and Germany exchanges occur during the summer for approximately three weeks.

**Preliminary Levy Hearing**

At 8:07 p.m., Ms. McCormack called a public hearing on the 2011 Levy to order. Receiving no oral or written comments, the hearing was closed at 8:08 p.m.

**Summer 2012 Abatement**

Mr. Zummallen reported that asbestos removal for the summer 2012 would include:

- Floor tile and mastic removal in the first floor coordinators
- Thermal system insulation removal in the West Pool Area, Basement Under the West Pool, First Floor and mezzanine Level Locker Rooms, Library and Room 390, and Mechanical Room 498
- Spray-on insulation, ceiling tile, lights and grid work removal in the corridors and classrooms on the East and West Sides of the third floor
- Spray-on insulation removal in Room 398
- Clean-up of asbestos debris from a previous asbestos abatement project in the Tunnel Area

The Board of Education will be asked to award the contract to do this work based on Pekron's recommendation to Valor Technologies, who was the most competitive for the scope of the work, at its regular January Board of Education meeting.

### **Construction Bids**

The Board of Education reviewed the construction bids that were opened on December 9, 2011. The scope of the work was presented as well as the lowest qualified bidder. The work included:

- Partial ceiling, light and fire alarm replacement primarily on the third floor classrooms and corridors
- Partial first floor corridor terrazzo tile installation
- Exterior masonry restoration of partial south and west elevations of the building
- Cafeteria elevator upgrades
- Mechanical and temperature control upgrades
- Replacement of exiting plumbing lines in various locations of the building
- Technology upgrades and short throw projectors for the classrooms being remodeled
- New stadium pre-manufactured press box
- New ticket booth located on the east side of the competition field and existing ticket booth remodeling within the stadium
- Replacement of the flooring for the west pool deck
- Partial masonry wall replacement of the west pool
- Resurfacing the running track located south of Lake Street
- Asbestos abatement for work related to the remodeling

Of the three hundred plus bid packages received from companies, sixty had good participation and competitive pricing and two bidders were WBB certified. The bid form included a base bid plus alternative work. The base bid is what one is obligated to do because of Life Safety reasons and The School Code of Illinois, and the alternative bid allows the district to set up alternatives to make sure the costs are within budget.

The Board of Education will be asked to award the contracts to the companies at its regular January Board of Education meeting.

The bids came in twenty percent under budget because the District went out early to line up work for next year, resulting in more competitive pricing. The budget was \$3,956,004 and the total awards are for \$3,494,055.

## **Enrollment Projections**

Steve Larson of Ehlers and Associates, a school consulting firm based in Lisle, did a report on enrollment projections for the high school. It also did the projections for District 97 last summer. District 97 was experiencing higher enrollment due to the all-day kindergarten program, which was launched in 2009; this will affect the high school's enrollment in the coming years.

The high school's current enrollment is 3,200 students and Mr. Larson projected that it would reach approximately 3,500 by 2016, trending upward to 4,000 over the next ten years.

Additional factors that would contribute to this increase are:

- 1) The bad economy. Many people are opting for public schools as opposed to private ones.
- 2) Families moving into Oak Park and remaining because of the schools.

Statistics that were factored into his projections included:

- September 30 enrollments
- The cohort survival method tracks classes from one year to the next. The 3-year experience reflects the all-day kindergarten.
- Yields from new/proposed developments (District 97's Holmes Elementary and Brooks Middle School)
- Kindergarten & Birth Statistics from the Illinois Department of Public Health
- Private schools
- The Village Planner and Building and Zoning Department
- Realtors

These projections are significantly different from the Kadardis report that was done in 2009 due to 1) the many changes that have occurred and 2) the use of a different methodology to make the projections.

The high school annually tracks this information internally. The Advisory Leadership Team (ALT) has received this information and will incorporate it into its recommendation to the Superintendent. Mr. Carioscio stated that the District is using a financial model that maps the number of students and the type of FTEs required. It matches a past ratio and projects that forward. Exploration of this model will determine the types of students and answer better how many FTE will be necessary. Dr. Isoye said that while there is not a complete picture, he wanted the Board of Education to recognize that the ALT will annually review this living document.

The Board of Education was being asked to accept this report as an acknowledgement that it is reasonable so that the District may use its projections in its planning. Mr. Larson stated that he looked at the actual numbers for kindergarten enrollment and they differed by 350 in three years. That needs to be reflected in future projections. While kindergarten enrollments are projected to go down because of the birth rate and the economy and there is a moderation coming in the next five years, OPRFHS will still have three or four years of higher enrollments that have set a new trend. This is especially true in District 97.

Other sources showed that this area has an above-average population of people aged 25 to 34, which is the chief childbearing age. The average is 13% and in these communities, it is 16%. This same trend occurs in the age group 35 to 44 and again for those in the range of 55 to 64. People in the 55 to 64 year old group are generally empty nesters who start to downsize. Many older parents cannot move now because as homes are not selling in this economy.

Ms. McCormack added that considering the other districts' financial ills, many more parents would look to move to communities like Oak Park and River Forest. The Huffington Post just recently named Oak Park as one of the top 10 communities in the country.

Dr. Isoye recapped that the numbers in the presentation for the next five years are cohort based. The information presented for the next 6 to 10 years is a trend only and will have to be reaffirmed later. The near years are affecting the decisions the District is making at this time.

No breakdown of students identified as special education was included, only the students who are "housed." Ms. Patchak-Layman reported on her own anecdotal experience of knowing that only about one-third of the students who started with her child completed their education at OPRFHS. She felt mobility was the reason for this change, i.e., changing jobs and/or moving to different cities. While many families were homeowners, many were apartment dwellers as well. During this time, enrollment in some years actually decreased.

Board of Education members will have the opportunity to review the Karadis study before being asked to accept these projections.

### **Triton College Partnership**

The Board of Education reviewed a summary of each area in which Triton College partnerships with OPRFHS.

Des Plaines Valley Region Education for Employment Regional Delivery System (DVR). The DVR, a consortium of six school districts, that collaborate to provide students an opportunity to explore college and career opportunities. An administrative council meets regularly to develop programs. This year all districts participated in a school-college Partnership Workshop held at the Brookfield Zoo in October where all identified content area skills and content essential for post-secondary success. DVR holds summer camps for teachers and students and hosts college and career fairs. OPRFHS's involvement with the DVR stems from the Carl Perkins and Career and Technical Education Improvement Grants administered through the ISBE.

Triton Scholars. The Triton Scholars Program, a two-year program for academically talented in-district students who plan to earn an associate's degree in arts or sciences and then transfer to selective colleges or universities, is administered through the high school's counseling division. Mr. Prale will explore whether seniors could be Triton scholars and this could be explored with families and counselors. The point was stressed that AP classes are rigorous, but every college has its own rules as to whether they will accept these classes for credit.

Dual Credit for select OPRFHS Courses. Most dual credit courses are select honors and AP courses taught at OPRFHS and earn credit at Triton College. There are no costs to the high school or the students in this program. The most frequently enrolled courses are in the Nursing Assistant Program.

Triton Evening School. Triton continues to offer continuing education courses at the high school, including cooking, woodworking, art, etc.

CITE II. This program has met on the Triton campus for two years and will utilize a classroom on campus for two afternoons a week second semester. The students will enroll in appropriate college courses just before or after those afternoons in order to make the matriculation to and from the Triton campus easier and more efficient for them.

New Partnership Efforts. A plan is being developed to collaborate with Triton to identify the key growth and essential skill areas to better prepare our senior students for post-secondary experiences. Triton will allow OPRFHS to operate as a satellite testing location for their placement test, the COMPASS test. It is an ACT-style assessment that allows for a quick assessment of students' college readiness in core skill areas. This assessment will be a low-stakes test given to current juniors. It is strictly informational and it will allow the District to craft curricular within existing senior year courses to address specific growth areas for our current students.

**Supplemental Educational Services**

The Board of Education reviewed a contract with Club Z! In-Home Tutoring Services, Inc., to provide supplemental educational services (SES) to OPRFHS students from December 21, 2011 through June 30, 2012. It was the consensus of the Board of Education to approve this contract under the Action section of the agenda.

**Policy 3900**

Policy 3900, FOIA, was presented for amendment because of changes in the law. It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education members to approve this policy for First Reading under the Action Section of the agenda.

**Policy 5330**

Policy 5330, Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries, was presented for Second Reading. This policy was being introduced due to new legislation. It was the consensus of the majority of Board of Education members to approve this policy for Second Reading under the Action Section of the agenda.

**Consent Items**

Mr. Phelan moved to approve the consent items as follows:

- Approval of Monthly Financial Reports;
- Approval of Monthly Treasurer Reports; and
- Approval of the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated December 21, 2011;

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

**Adoption of Levy**

Dr. Millard moved to adopt the 2011 Levy, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman wanted to reduce the Levy as a result of the TIF settlement agreement, as she felt this was double taxation to the taxpayers. She continued that about 5% of the dollars being collected were because of the TIF and she felt this was an easy adjustment. Ms. Fisher was very pleased that the settlement reached with the Village of Oak Park set forth how District 200 would collect the dollars out of the TIF district in the future. OPRFHS' budget always projected the TIF dollars owed to it by the 2003 agreement. The Village's ceasement of providing those dollars did not remove them from the projections. It is incorrect to say that OPRFHS would be taxing the taxpayers twice if it did not deduct this amount from the Levy because of the settlement. Mr. Phelan concurred and felt that this was an untimely mention of this idea because this had not been raised previously. Mr. Finnegan added that there would be a huge differential going forward in order to make up for the last dollars, which could well result in lower dollars to the District than originally anticipated.

**Personnel  
Recommendations**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the personnel recommendations, as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Dr. Lee: was absent. Motion carried.

Ms. Smith stated that a status report on how the hiring of new employees matched the Board of Education's goal of having more minority staff at the high school would be forthcoming.

**Facility Rental  
Fees**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the Facility Rental Fees, as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Dr. Lee was absent. Motion carried

**Policy 3900**

Mr. Phelan moved to approve Policy 3900, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), for second reading and action; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Policy 5330**

Dr. Millard moved to approve Policy 5330, Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries, for second reading and action; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**SES**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the contract with Club Z! In-Home Tutoring Services, Inc.; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

Dr. Millard moved to 1) approve the Open and Closed Session Minutes of November 17, 30, December 6, 8, and 13, 2011 and declare that the closed session audiotapes of February 2010 be destroyed and; seconded by Dr. Lee. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

**District Reports**

The Board of Education members submit written reports about their liaison commitments and they are embedded in the agenda.

It was reported that the intergovernmental meeting attended by Ms. Patchak-Layman and Ms. Fisher on behalf of the Board of Education along with other

governmental body representatives to explore savings in terms of shared interests, operational, etc., was congenial and all expressed a sincere desire to find economies of scale. The facilitator will set a second meeting to review what intergovernmental agreements already exist, what the boards may be working on in this regard, and the time commitment involved for these meetings. Minutes of the meeting will be distributed.

**Closed Session**

At 9:45 p.m., on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, Dr. Millard moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11); seconded by Ms. Patchak-Layman. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education reconvened its open session at 10:22 p.m.

**Adjournment**

At 10:23 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, Dr. Millard moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Dr. Lee. Motion carried.

Amy McCormack  
Secretary

By Gail Kalmerton  
Clerk of the Board