

March 21, 2013

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, March 21, 2013, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

**Call to Order**

President Finnegan called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. A roll call indicated the following Board of Education members were present: Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy Leafe McCormack, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction (arrived at 6:55 p.m.), Cheryl L. Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board and FOIA Officer.

**Closed Session**

At 6:39 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2013, Mr. Finnegan 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. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:28 p.m., the Board of Education resumed its open session.

Joining the session were: Dr. Tina Halliman, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Support Services; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Michael C. Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Karin Sullivan, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; Cheryl L. Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations and Treasurer; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee; and Lauren Richardson, Student Council Board of Education Liaison.

**Visitors**

The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: Katie O'Keefe, OPRFHS faculty member; John B. Bokum, Dr. Steve Gevinson, Dr. Barb Langer, Jeff Weissglass, Jamie Guerrero, and Rachael Pirani, community members, and Vernecia Davis, University of Illinois intern; Nancy Leavy of the League of Women Voters, students from the Trapeze, and Terry Dean of the *Oak Leaves*.

**Public Comments**

Dr. Langer, resident of 415 Franklin, River Forest, reiterated her opposition to the new District 200's policy manual and the inclusion of a policy about a fund balance. She stated that it was a preemptive strike to any future attempts to repeal and refund 2002 referendum. If such a policy is passed, it will be rescinded by a subsequent Board. She also asked not to change the policy manual with regard to use of community facilities. Wait for the future board to be in place. She also asked that the Board of Education be more vigilant in routing out expenditures that are highly inappropriate, as it is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Bokum, 629 S. Home, Oak Park, observed that school board members' lives revolve around the numbers they are presented. It was incumbent upon them and

future boards to be vigilant about these numbers to do their own research. An article that appeared in the Chicago Tribune showed that enrollment was down two plus percent in Oak Park, yet the school's figures project a thousand more students. In addition, while one article showed the average yearly teacher salary to be \$97,000, another showed it be \$104,000. He suggested considering the numbers as the Board of Education considers the numbers in the long-term facility planning report.

**Status of FOIA Reports**

Mr. Finnegan reported that five FOIA requests had been received and four were resolved.

**Student Council**

Student Council Board of Education Liaison Richardson reported:

- 1) Ms. Hill and Mr. Prale were appreciated for responding to concerns/complaints at a recent Student Council meeting.
- 2) Principal Rouse had appropriately addressed the poor assembly.
- 3) Over \$300 was raised at Pot Belly's and that money will be given to UAID, which provided incubators, etc. to Africa.
- 4) Pot Belly's very impressed with the student talent at OPRFHS and it wanted to continue this type of event.
- 5) Charity Water will be the recipient of funds raised at the spring assembly whose theme is Hunger Games.
- 6) Student Council prepared a question for the April 2 Board of Education candidate forum. Students will be encouraged to attend.
- 7) In April, Student Council will host the OPRF pageant
- 8) In April, new officers will be elected.

Mr. Finnegan appreciated Student Council's leadership for helping to turn something disastrous, the assembly, into something positive.

**Faculty Senate**

Mr. Hunter reported that students would receive their grades at the beginning of spring break. Fourth quarter had already begun. He wished everyone a good spring break.

**Superintendent**

Dr. Isoye reported that Spanish teacher Manuel Gonzalez and science teacher Allison Hennings had been nominated for a Golden Apple Award. The winners will be announced in May.

The Spoken Word team came in third overall at Louder Than a Bomb, the biggest teen poetry competition in the nation. Camara Brown came in second in individual results, and Natalie Richardson received the Literary Award for the best-written poem of the competition.

Dr. Isoye reported that OPRFHS and D97 co-hosted the MSAN conference in Chicago on Addressing Disproportionality: Changing the Numbers by Changing Our Practices. Mr. Prale and Ms. Hill were the District 200 representatives that worked with District 97 to ensure a great conference. MSAN districts from many states participated as well some local non-MSAN districts. Lisa Vincent, Kristen McKee, Carly Kaplan, Maggie Konrath, Mr. Rouse, and Dr. Halliman also participated by presenting or moderating a presentation.

OPRFHS hosted an educational leadership forum. Once a year, Congressman Danny Davis hosts superintendents from his district to attend the forum and discuss education

from the local perspective. This included feedback about initiatives at their level from the federal and state government. Representatives from ISBE also attended.

Dr. Isoye reported on the following scientific accomplishments:

- Senior Noelani Ho placed first in the Chicago Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, an extremely competitive symposium. Only three students were chosen from 40 entries to move on to the national level of competition. Noelani won for engineering a design for a new ballet point shoe that costs less and can reduce dancers' foot injuries. She will travel to Dayton, Ohio, in May for the national competition.
- Matthew Hennings and Rebecca Streit have been chosen as two of the three semi-finalists who will represent Illinois at the national level in the 2013 BioGENEius Competition. Matthew created a bandage based on spider webs that kills bacteria and it prevents the growth of new bacteria. Rebecca's research focuses on using natural compounds in spinach to convert dangerous residue from explosives into less toxic compounds.
- Senior Adrian Karkut had advanced to the semi-finals in the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO), an extremely difficult test that roughly 5,000 students take. This week he took the semi-finals test in an effort to become one of the 20 national finalists. The national finalists will compete to become one of the four students representing the United States at the International Biology Olympiad.
- Science teacher Allison Hennings has received grant funding from Race to the Top to train 100 teachers from around the state on how to implement STEM programs in their schools. Hennings will present her Investigative Research in Biomedical Innovation class as the model during a two-week training this summer.

At a special ceremony on March 7, administrators, faculty, and staff honored roughly 75 students whom they had nominated for Human Relations awards. The awards celebrate students who make a difference in classrooms, hallways, teams, and activities.

Debate Team members Megan Murphy and John Martin have qualified for the National Forensic League National Tournament, which will be held in Birmingham, Ala., in June.

Eight student players on the combined OPRF-Fenwick Girls Hockey team, which defeated New Trier, move on to the state championship game for the coveted Blackhawk Cup. They will compete this Sunday at the United Center.

One hundred sixty students participated in a lock-in last week, as part of a plan of students who attended the MSAN conference in the fall. More details will be brought forward later. Dr. Isoye thanked Jessica Stovall and Tia Marr for spearheading this as well as the many students and faculty/staff members who had volunteered their time for a great evening.

<b>Policy 4:20</b>	The Board of Education reviewed a copy of Policy 4:20, Fund Balances, as it will be included in the revised Policy Manual. This policy reflects a resolution that the Board of Education previously passed with regard to GASB 54.
<b>Policy 6:300</b>	The Board of Education reviewed a copy of Policy 6:300, Graduation Requirements, as it will be included in the revised Policy Manual. The deletion of the words “finish 7 semesters” was noted as some students do graduate after six semesters.
<b>Collaboration for Early Childhood Care &amp; Education</b>	Dr. Isoye reported that the agreements regarding the Collaboration were nearing completion and it was hoped that they would be received by the Board of Education early in April for discussion at the April 16 Committee meeting. The three entities would like to have a tri-board meeting for approval and tentative dates for such a meeting are April 17, April 22, or April 24.
<b>FY 2013 Amended Budget</b>	<p>It was the consensus of the majority of the Board of Education members present to approve resolution to place the FY 2013 Amended Budget on display beginning March 22, 2013 for thirty days under the Consent portion of the agenda.</p> <p>Ms. Witham noted the items that were added or amended. These included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) adjustments were made for Grant awards not known when the original budget was approved;</li> <li>2) the General State Aide was reduced;</li> <li>3) Strategic Planning costs;</li> <li>4) Additional residency verification costs;</li> <li>5) Increase in food costs as more students are being served;</li> <li>6) Materials ordered and ready for summer construction;</li> <li>7) Reduction of other local sources included \$247,000 for the Madison TIF dollars as the receipt of those dollars is unknown; and</li> <li>8) Contribution to the IMRF was lower than anticipated.</li> </ol> <p>The Board of Education will approve the amended budget at the April 25, 2013 Board of Education meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that the notice in the <i>Wednesday Journal</i> indicated that this already had been approved.</p>
<b>Transfer Funds from Operations &amp; Maintenance to The Capital Fund</b>	It was the consensus of the Board of Education members to approve the transfer of funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Funds resolution at its regular to the April Board of Education meeting. This transfer will allow the purchase of materials for the summer construction before the fiscal year starts.
<b>Business Office Hiring Process</b>	Dr. Isoye reported that he had worked with Dr. Millard and Ms. McCormack on the hiring process for Ms. Witham’s position. Three search firms were interviewed: BWP & Associates, Ray and Associates, and School Exec Connect. Dr. Isoye announced that School Exec Connect would be performing this search. He will inform the other two firms of the decision. The cost will be \$8,500 plus expenses of no more than \$250 without print advertising. The process will start after spring break. Resumes may be presented to the Board of Education in the first or second week of May. Dr. Hanson will be directly involved as she has had experience with OPRFHS and has recently conducted business officer searches for four major districts. She felt there would be

some strong candidates. The process could include the Board of Education being involved with the interviewing of three finalists.

**Calendar for  
2013-14 School Year**

The Board of Education approved an August 19 2013 start date at its February 28 meeting for the 2013-14 school year and authorized the Administration to adjust the rest of the calendar dates. As such, freshmen will start Monday, August 19 and all students will attend Tuesday, August 20. In order to capture another day of attendance, school will be held on Casmir Pulaski Day. Open house will be held Thursday, September 12. Early dismissal will be held Friday, September 13. The calendar will be approved under the Consent portion of the agenda.

Dr. Isoye will call the Calendar Committee together to determine the calendar for the 2014-15 school year.

**Update on  
Strategic Planning**

Dr. Isoye reported that the Strategic Plan Steering Committee and Task Force members met on Monday, March 18, 2013 at which they reviewed a timeline and the expectations of the groups. Dr. Isoye had explained that the Strategic Plan should not stop what the school is doing, but it should blend with it. Dr. Isoye, Ms. Holland, and Ms. Hardin had been clear in their presentations that equity must be the lens that the Task Forces use. The Task Forces will meet on Thursday April 4 to talk about the tool kit and racialized lenses, etc. The Task Forces are charged with giving action steps that will align with how they want the school to look like in five years.

**Consent Items**

Dr. Lee moved to approve the consent item as follows:

1. Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated March 21, 2013
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Monthly Financials
4. Renewal of IHSA Membership
5. Resolution to Place FY 2013 Amended Budget on Display
6. Athletic Uniform Bid
7. Visual Imagine Photograph (VIP) Contract
8. Resolution to Commence 2013 Audit
9. School Calendar for 2013-14

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

**Release of  
Probationary  
Teachers**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the release of the probationary teachers, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Personnel  
Recommendations**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the personnel recommendations as presented, which included Callbacks, Retirement Requests, Stipends, and Leaves of Absences; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Student  
Discipline**

None

**Minutes**

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Open and Closed Session Minutes of February 28, 2012, March 11 and 12 (Finance and Special), and a declaration that the closed session audiotapes of April, May, June, and July 2011 are destroyed; seconded by Dr. Lee. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

**Adjournment**

At 9:17 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2013, Dr. Lee moved to adjourn this meeting; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Terry Finnegan  
President

Amy McCormack  
Secretary