

February 27, 2014

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, February 27, 2014, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

Call to Order

President Phelan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A roll call indicated the following Board of Education members were present: Thomas F. Cofsky, Dr. Steven Gevinson, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Jackie Moore, Sharon Patchak Layman, John Phelan, and Jeff Weissglass. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Tod Altenburg, Chief Financial Officer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant Clerk of the Board.

Closed Session

At 6:31 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2014, Mr. Phelan moved to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); and student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:40 p.m., the Board of Education resumed open session.

Joining the meeting were Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Dr. Tina Halliman, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Karin Sullivan, Director of Communications and Community Relations; Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; and Joey Cofsky, Student Council Liaison Representative.

Visitors

Robert Zummallen, OPRFHS Buildings and Grounds Director; John Bokum and Dr. Barb Langer, community members; Mary Haley of the League of Women Voters; and Rebecca Bibbs of the *Oak Leaves*.

Visitor Comments

Naomi Hildner, resident of 907 N. Lombard, Oak Park, and OPRFHS faculty member was troubled that the Strategic Plan Steering Committee spent over a year shaping the action steps to the goals of the Strategic Plan. Yet, the action steps finally adopted were banal and had been stated in the building for over 20 years. A strategic plan that simply states the high school will care for students holistically is not needed because it already considers equity in everything that is done and it does have transformative learning and teaching. The high school gave away \$10 million. She suggested hiring five social workers to work with the students. She noted that teachers have asked for PEACE circles and yet they cannot get the space. It was disheartening and disillusioning for the Strategic Plan to state that the high school was going to plan for 2014 to 2019. She wanted to put the plan back into the plan. Ms. Hildner continued that class size had been referred to as a contractual issue. There is a misunderstanding of the classroom, distrust, and disrespect for the teachers. Class size is a method that can be used to make sure what is wanted for students can happen. If the District decided that all students were to be honors students, then it should do it. Differentiated instruction means smaller class sizes.

Dr. Barbara Langer, resident of 415 Franklin, River Forest, asked District 200 to cooperate with the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP) and the River Forest Park District (RFPD) to offer daily, year-round, indoor, early morning (5a.m. to 7 or 8 a.m.) adult lap swimming in OPRFHS pools to all documented residents of Oak Park and River Forest at less than or equal to the same per session as Oak Park residents pay via a summer in-district season pass for outdoor adult lap swimming in the PDOP pools, as distinguished from the daily entry fee of \$4.00/session that walk in patrons must pay-as-they-go to swim laps, if they do not hold a season pass. Her reasons for this request were as follows:

- 1) Despite using District 200 aquatics facilities for three isolated groups of seven consecutive Sundays for 21 lap swim sessions between October 2013 and April 2014 that the River Forest property taxpayers funded, District 200 and the PDOP effectively excluded RF property taxpayers from participating in these sessions by failing to inform them of them.
- 2) The charge is 10 times more on a per session basis than it charges in-district patrons for a season pass; and
- 3) The PDOP charges more for just its indoor law swim sessions in OPRFHS pools than Fitness Formula Club, Loyola, and Gottlieb Fitness centers charge for an annual membership to lap swim on a nearly unlimited daily basis and the use of their other facilities.

Status of FOIA Reports

Ms. Kalmerton reported that two FOIA requests had been received and two were resolved.

Student Council

Mr. Cofsky shared the following information with the Board of Education members:

- Discussion had occurred about whether more security persons should be hired to assist with writing passes to first period. Often students have to wait in long lines before they are able to get a pass; if students have to wait longer than 10 minutes, they are not allowed to go to first period.
- Student Council was involved with two charity events at 1) Pot Belly's and 2) JB Winberries.

Faculty Senate

No report.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Isoye reported the following:

- 1) Senior Emery Lehman, OPRFHS's Olympic speed skater, was the fastest American in the men's 5K, for a 16th place finish overall and in the 10K, he placed 10th. He will compete in the World Junior Speed Skating Championship in Norway;
- 2) the Freshman Wrestling Team recently won 10 out of 15 weight classes at the West Suburban Conference tournament. OPRF's freshmen won the conference tournament by nearly 100 points over conference rival Lyons Township—Peter Ogunsanya, Tyler Phillips, David Claiborne, Kevin Davis, Brian Holloway, Drew Matticks, Dijour Cotton, Rolliann Sturkey, Ethan Lemons, Davion Talbert. Also, 10 Huskie wrestlers won All State honors at the IHSA Individual State meet, including four state champs: Walter White, Larry Early, Kamal Bey, and Davonte Mahones. Other state honorees were Jay Renteria, Alex Madrigal, Gabe Townsell, Matt Rundell, Andre Lee, Emonte Logan;
- 3) Sophomore Cosmo Coffey completed a documentary film entitled "Grit" on OPRFHS' wrestling team which will debut at the Lake Theater Saturday, March 15;

- 4) Tau Gamma raised \$5,000 to sponsor a child through the Make-A-Wish Foundation from its King of Hearts Dance proceeds;
- 5) The League of Women Voters spent two days during lunch periods registering 101 new student voters;
- 6) Sophomore Sophia Carlin placed second in the 2014 Chicago Shakespeare Competition, beating 20 other semifinalists, who represented 400 students competing in northern Illinois;
- 7) The Huskies took the fifth place team award and eight individual medals at the IHSA Regional Speech Competition. Having placed in the top four of their events, the following students also went on to participate in sectionals: Mark Weissglass; Sophia Carlin; Jeremy Pesigan; Isobel Duncan; Lily Blackman and Stephanie Carlin; Adia Ivey;
- 8) Kyle Kent placed in the top 10 and Eddie Sell placed in the top 15 on their respective boards at the chess tournament;
- 9) The following students were chosen as Students of the Second Quarter and were honored by faculty and family at a breakfast: Jonah Phillion; Estaban Morales; Mykah Norman; Alex Traub; Hannah Walsh; Shontasia Henderson; Sarah Conroy; Christian Gillis; Diana Galvez; Ryan Fitch; Emonte Logan; Megell Strayhorn; Ingrid Iversen; Madeleine Gancer; Emma Baldwin; and Brittany Ivy.
- 10) The winners of the 2014 J. Kyle Braid Leadership Award were: Jeremy Gaines, Jay Heininger, Brianne Bujnowski, and Nora Sullivan;
- 11) 250 OPRFHS students participated in the American Mathematics Competition, the longest running, most prestigious U.S. math contest for students;
- 12) The following music students took top honors in the state at the Illinois Music Education Association competition in Peoria. Jonah Phillion placed first in the state in the Jazz category. Also taking top honors were: BAND—David Messina – Baritone Sax #3, Fiona Ryan – Bass Clarinet #2; ORCHESTRA—Patrick Dugan – Double Bass #4, Jane Larson – Viola #14, and Julia Swain – Viola #2; JAZZ—Evan Thompson—Piano #2;
- 13) The following art students were recognized at the inaugural Illinois High School Regional Art Exhibition Art Show at the Zhou Art Center in Chicago in which 65 schools participated, each selecting five works to be on display. In addition, senior art students could apply for a Senior Portfolio Scholarship by submitting their portfolio of work online. Seniors Franka Contreras, Sophie Dennis, and Jessica Kaplan were offered Portfolio Scholarship Awards for full or partial tuition. Their artwork will be featured at a Senior Portfolio Show March 8 at Gallery 400. Seniors Erin Yen and Gabriel Matesanz received awards for, respectively, photography and graphic design. Junior Sarah Luepker received an award for 3-Dimensional art and a Summer Early College Art Scholarship to Columbus College of Art and Design. Freshman Annabel Huber received an award for drawing as well as a Summer Early College Art Scholarship to American Academy of Art;
- 14) History teacher and Boys Basketball coach Matt Maloney led the team to his 100th win;
- 15) Tennis and soccer player Tess Trinkka was named to the IHSA's prestigious All-State Academic Team;
- 16) The following boys' swimmers and divers who will participate at the state meet this weekend: Mark Hallman, Alex West, Jack Schimmel, James Kelly, and Lee Werner, Chris Brandt, and Will McNeil.

The following items were removed from the consent agenda:

- Personnel Recommendations

- Contract with R&D Bus Company
- Rising Star
- Data Sharing

Consent Items

Mr. Phelan moved to approve the following consent items:

- Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated February 27, 2014
- Monthly Treasurer’s Report
- Monthly Financial Reports
- Policies for First Reading—Policy 4:100, Insurance Management; Policy 5:100, Staff Development Program; Policy 5:120, Ethics and Conduct; Policy 6:310, Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs, and Course Substitutions; Policy 6:60, Curriculum Content; Policy 7:180, Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment, Hazing, and Teen Dating Violence Prohibited; and Policy 7:190, Student Discipline
- District Registration Fees
- Theatre Drapery Bid
- PTAB Resolution
- Sabbatical Applications
- Certification of Mid-Year Graduates
- Change Request for Summer 2014 Construction
- Resolution to Transfer Funds from Operations & Maintenance Fund to Debt Service Fund

seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Gevinson moved to approve the Personnel Recommendations, including New Hires and Stipends, as presented; seconded by Dr. Moore. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one abstention. Mr. Phelan abstained. Motion carried.

Textbooks

Dr. Lee moved to approve the Textbook Bids and Textbooks for the 2014-15 school year, as presented; seconded by Dr. Moore. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Patchak-Layman advocated for the use of CD Roms instead of regular textbooks because they were lighter than regular textbooks and easier to carry, more accessible in the classrooms, and a savings could be realized on the printing and shipping costs of regular textbooks. She believed the school advocated for them as well. She suggested the savings might be \$50,000, which could work to the students’ advantage. All of the textbooks being purchased have electronic versions. She opposed buying all print books and she wanted all students to have the option of using an electronic version. She felt the Board of Education should discuss this option. It was explained that each of the textbooks being purchase came with the electronic version. OPRFHS conducted a pilot of online textbooks and found the results to be missed. They were impactful to students in college prep and transition courses. The District found that students were not using this vehicle, even when they elected to use it. The teachers preferred hard copies. The publishers are still not all on board with this. Some only offer a 10% discount, depending on the title. Philosophically, the district wants to move in this direction. One school who went digital found that the devices needed to be larger.

A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Bus Company Contract

Mr. Phelan moved to approve the 2-year contract with R&D Bus Company, as presented; seconded by Mr. Weissglass. Discussion ensued.

Board of Education members learned that the law allows schools to enter into agreements with either a one, two-year extension or 2 one-year extensions. A two-year agreement makes it easier for budgeting purposes. Language clarifying this law was missing from the contract. One member felt that one-year contracts provided better quality of control of student experiences. At this point, a one-year contract would have to be renegotiated.

A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and two nays. Ms. Patchak-Layman and Dr. Moore voted nay. Motion carried.

Minutes

Mr. Phelan moved to approve the open and closed session minutes of January 14, 23, and February 10, 2014, and a declaration that the closed session audiotapes of July 2012 be destroyed; seconded by Dr. Moore. A voice vote resulted in motion carried. Ms. Patchak-Layman objected to destroying the audiotapes.

Data Sharing IGA

Mr. Phelan moved to approve the IGA Data Sharing IGA with Triton College, as presented; seconded by Mr. Weissglass. Discussion ensued.

The materials provided information about the purpose behind the formation of a new entity called the School/College Alliance (SCA). This information ties this work to its strategic plan. The plan is to bring all Triton stakeholders to the table, rather than having separate groups. This articulation will lead to a better understanding of the K through College experience for the students within the Triton District. The next step is to have a data sharing agreement. Triton will be the holder of the data and the SCA will work on the analysis and plans for improvement, and it will provide oversight to the partnership actions. Dr. Isoye and 12 other K-12 superintendents, as well as Triton President Dr. Patricia Granados, served on the SCA Advisory Council. A data team will be established to begin to determine the focus of the work for the districts participating in this effort. This may require gathering preliminary data to explore potential areas of study. This is why there is a need for a data sharing IGA. Dr. Lee was concerned about the flexibility so that the agreement could be modified to allow other data to be shared that is not currently listed in the agreement. At some point, data not on that list could become important, i.e., the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care and Education, especially if one wanted to know about the student at the college level and screening at age 2. He foresaw early childhood programs being expanded and that data collaborative will not start at kindergarten. He wanted avenues to make it possible for new demands on the system to be met more easily. Dr. Isoye responded that because this was so new, recognition could come back to the Board of Education for amendment, if necessary. He believed this was a cautious first step in articulation. Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that this was put together for a study; it was not following an individual student from his/her elementary to secondary education. It is to look at groupings or an understanding of classes while they are at elementary school, high school, or at Triton. Dr. Isoye believed the data collected would influence the Board's discussions, but with regard to 8.1 Access, only a

committee analyzing the data will have access to it. The mechanism to report out will depend on the data direction. At Elgin and Harper colleges, it began with reading and math and then writing, and it informed the schools about the processes teachers might want to consider, i.e., curriculum changes, etc. Dr. Isoye will confirm the data categories under 7.2 – Data Categories, as questions arose about discipline and finances. The District’s attorney did review this agreement. A question was raised about what protections would be in place to make sure the information was not breeched.

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

Approval of Rising Star Report

Mr. Phelan moved to approve the Rising Star Report; seconded by Dr. Moore.

Dr. Isoye provided the background on this report. It is a requirement of the ISBE and it wanted a more fluid document to replace the School Improvement Plan. Districts originally were required to fill out both District and School Improvement Plans. The District filled out both of the components and then was told which ones were to be completed. This year only one document was used to which the District inputted its information in the hopes that this report will become a fluid document rather than a static document; however, the transformation into a fluid document has been difficult. It has sections completed three years ago as well as new additions. The document grows because nothing was deleted. OPRFHS is working with Cathy Gustafson from West 40. It is the requirement of the state to fill the form out and the Board of Education to approve it.

Dr. Isoye reported that the District went through every indicator to find out how it related to the school and used colors (red, orange, and green) to indicate the status of each one, noting that within these colors there could be ranges of movement. Some items are fluid going from green to a lesser degree of completion. How to do the transition from the Rising Start Report to the Strategic Plan is unknown. He assumed some things would sunset because of what will happen and what direction will be taken. He did not believe it would be doable to do something all of the time. Priorities will have to be set or it will be information overload. Implementation teams and the faculty need time to look at the plan, and to give definition to the plan. He wanted to do an awareness piece and post it around the building. He would like the Board of Education members to meet with the Strategic Plan Steering Committee and task forces. Dr. Isoye will ask for participants for the Steering Committee. There has not been an opportunity to talk with the community about this at this time.

Mr. Weissglass was struck by how this document showed the complexity of the work of OPRFHS and that many different theories are working, sometimes too many. The work of the Board of Education on the Strategic Plan was to get to the essence and manage the Strategic Plan, so working with a coach and tying it to the Strategic Plan is the right work. The Strategic Plan, the Rising Star Report and basic leadership is the real change of making ORPFHS the best it can be. This is a tool, but it is too much information.

A struggle within the District so far as been that there are so many people with so many great ideas that if one does not lead or choose which direction, there was the risk of chaos of pursuing different directions. To the extent that the Board of Education can get the school community moving in one direction is important.

Dr. Lee considered Ms. Hildner's statement was the same conversation, the degree of the level of specificity that one can tolerate or accept.

A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Employee Vision Plan

The Human Resources Department requested information from Arthur J. Gallaher, the insurance broker of the District, about vision coverage at the request of all employee groups. The District can provide group benefits at no cost to the District. Open enrollment begins in March.

School Board Governance

The IASB deadline for accepting applications for a School Board Governance Recognition is August 2. This Recognition is designed to acknowledge those school boards that have engaged in activities and modeled behaviors that lead to excellence in local school governance in support of quality public education. To receive this recognition, the Board of Education must complete a rigorous application process and it would require the involvement of Board of Education members and the superintendent over the two-year period. Some of the comments/questions posed by the Board of Education members were:

- 1) Recognition is nice, but it is not the reason for being Board members.
- 2) The IASB benefits from Board of Education member attendance at its meetings.
- 3) OPRFHS has obtained great value from IASB-related efforts. There is value in being associated with it.
- 4) How much does this Board of Education want to engage with school boards outside of this District and is the IASB a good mechanism to use to do that? Building relationships will better this Board of Education, but this will take time and money to do that. What is the time commitment and what are the costs?
- 5) The Board of Education could use this checklist without the recognition.

Any additional responses or any desires to see this recognition should be sent to the Clerk of the Board.

Enrollment Projections

Mr. Altenburg reported that the Ehlers 2011 enrollment projections were updated January 2014. The last page of the report is a comparison of the 2011 and the 2014 data. The report confirms that the school should anticipate enrollment to peak to approximately 3,900 students by 2020-21 and then decline. The trend has not changed. Mr. Cofsky noted that these numbers had been included in the long-term financial models and were already factored into the projections. Dr. Gevinson having spoken with Mr. Rouse and Mr. Prale reflected on the educational implications. OPRFHS will be hiring teachers and consideration should be given to hiring in specific areas, i.e., non-elected courses. He suggested that this could be a discussion of the Strategic Plan or the community on where it would like to strengthen the

school. Mr. Weissglass reflected on the conversations within the Finance Advisory Committee about facilities issues and the early stage of the facilities master plan. He asked what for the administration's thoughts about the timing of the facilities implementation. Dr. Isoye stated that the Facilities Committee received two good plans and then those plans were given to an internal committee, which will have to determine how to house 3900 students recognizing that the numbers will decrease. It will have to determine how to use current space in order to be able to house these students. It begs the question of the offerings, online courses, different scenarios, etc. It was noted that students who were attending the off-campus CITE program were included in the 3900 number as well as other off-campus students. A question was raised about whether the 3900 number included Special Education off campus and out of district numbers, as special education students transition through the District until they age out as a category. A response was that those students might be embedded in the 104% retention but it would be important to know if that were the case. This report will be updated periodically.

Recess

At 9:16 p.m., the Board of Education recessed its regular Board of Education meeting until after the Special Board of Education meeting scheduled that same evening. At 9:26 p.m., the regular Board of Education meeting resumed.

District Reports

Mr. Phelan noted that Citizens' Council, Boosters, APPLAUSE!, and the Alumni Association had reports embedded in the agenda.

Closed Session

The Board of Education resumed its closed session at 9:27 p.m.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 10:14 a.m.

Adjournment

At 10:15 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2014, Mr. Phelan moved to adjourn this meeting; seconded by Dr. Moore. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

John Phelan
President

Dr. Jackie Moore
Secretary

Submitted by Gail Kalmerton
Clerk of the Board