

February 26, 2015

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, February 26, 2015, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

Call to Order Vice President Weissglass called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 (telephonically), Sharon Patchak Layman, and Jeff Weissglass. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Official; David Ruhland, Director of Human Resources; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant Clerk of the Board.

Closed Session At 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2015, Mr. Weissglass 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; 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); seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:30 p.m., the Board of Education resumed open session.

Visitors Joining the meeting were Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Gwen Walker-Qualls, Interim Director of Pupil Personnel; Karin Sullivan, Director of Communications and Community Relations; Annika Holdeboer, Student Council Liaison Representative; and Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair.

Visitors OPRFHS faculty and staff members Michele Bayer and Patrick Pearson; Julie Griffin, president of APPLAUSE! Steven Jackson, Fred Arkin, Gil Cabacungan, Sara Spivy, Statsha McCann, John Bokum, Trinity Meaday, Stephen Jackson, Kyesha Harris, community members, Kiana Beverly, Rory Schrobilgen, Grant Reynolds, Alonte Williams, Noah Kitsos, students, and others.

Public Comments Students appearing in the play *Anything Goes* gave a preview of their performance for the Board of Education members. They were:

Kiana Beverly	Alonte Williams
Rory Schrobilgen	Noah Kitsos
Grant Reynolds	

John Bokum, resident of 629 S. Home, Oak Park, supported the Board of Education collaborating with the Park District and building a garage on South

Scoville off of Lake Street and building the pool on the site of the present garage.

FOIA Requests

Ms. Kalmerton reported that 5 FOIA requests had been received and 3 resolved.

Student Council

Ms. Holdeboer reported that March was charity month for it and it was working with Pot Belly and on its Mr. OPRFHS competition.

Faculty Report

Ms. Hardin reported that the faculty was hard at work prepping for testing next week and that information received from Ms. Hill and the administration was appreciated.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Isoye reported the following:

Congratulations to 2015 Scholarship Cup recipients as follows: Mia Andreoli, Yohana Ansari-Thomas, Taylor Arends, Ryan Blankemeier, Andrew Borgdorff, Patrick Gardner, Catherine Houle, Megan Jones, Louis Kissinger, Madeline Miller, Samuel Pochyly, Amit Russell, Michael Russo, Fiona Ryan, Erin Sullivan, and Rose Taylor.

Seventy students attended OPRF's 15th Annual Black Professional Day, an in-school field trip where they had the opportunity to hear presentations from 16 different professionals.

Also, 70 students in the District's Model United Nations club recently competed against 1,000 students in Model United Nations of the University of Chicago. Ella Dixon, for representing Côte d'Ivoire on the Economic Community of West African States, and Dan Jenks and Ryan Borgdorff, for representing Bangladesh on the Organization for Islamic Cooperation earned first place in their committees.

Ella Dixon was named the Excellence in Philanthropy 2014 Outstanding Young Philanthropist by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation.

Carolyn Santos received The Abolition Institute's Aichana Abeid Boilil Award for her efforts to eliminate slavery in Mauritania.

The 2013-2014 Tabula Yearbook won first place for enrollment over 2,500 from the American Scholastic Press Association.

Maddie Miller won a Golden Key ranking, which is regional, in the Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards competition and her work will now be considered for the national competition.

The following students took first places at the Illinois Music Education Association All-State music conference: Fiona Ryan for bass clarinet, Evan Thompson for piano, and Gabe Girson a bass in the All-State Chorus. In addition, as a top jazz director in the state, Anthony Svejda was selected to direct the All-State Jazz Band, one of the highest guest directing honors.

The team of Sarah Luepker, Max Gugel-Dawson, Anastasiia Seriukova, and Margaret Hillengas won first place in the high school division at the Snow Days Chicago snow sculpture competition at Navy Pier. They were assisted by OPRF carpenter and professional snow sculptor Peter Hermann and OPRF art teachers Pennie Ebsen and Tracy VanDuinen.

Briana A. Williams captured the sectional Speech team championship in oratorical declamation with Melody Hobson's TED Talk "Color Blind or Color Brave?" This qualified her to participate in the state competition in last weekend.

Sophia Carlin recently placed third out of 200 Chicago-area students in a regional Shakespeare monologue competition, her second year in a row to finish in the top three.

In Athletics news, Special Olympics Basketball team Erik Cox, Matt Cox, Kobe Crawford, Kameron Curtis, Mike Gardner, Mattie Kotlowitz, and Brandon Schneider won their district division and will play in the state tournament next month. In addition, Ben Neumann placed first for skills and will compete at state.

Boys Swimming captured its first sectional championship since 2003 last weekend. The following swimmers will compete at state: Josh Fluharty, Jack Giradot, Will McNeil, Max Razzino, Riley Silber, and Thomas Wolfe.

Orchesis dance troupe's Jayne Kernodle piece was one of the 10 selected from across the state to be performed at the Illinois High School Dance Festival Showcase in May.

Wrestlers Walter "Isaiah" White and Matt Rundell won the individual state championships in their respective weight classes. Good luck to the Wrestling team, which will compete in the Illinois High School Association Dual Team State Tournament in Bloomington this weekend.

The following items were removed from consent agenda:

- D. Personnel Recommendations
- H. Amendment of Policies
- I. Open and Closed Minutes

Consent Items

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the following consent items:

- Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated February 26, 2015
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- Monthly Financial Reports
- Gifts and Donations
- PTAB Resolutions
- Agreement with Triton and OPRFHS 2015-17
- Sabbatical Application

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

**Personnel
Recommendations**

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the personnel recommendations as presented, including New Hires, Resignation, and Leaves of Absence; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. A roll call vote resulted in 5 ayes and 1 nay. Motion carried. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay because of her concerns with the process that was formed in the hiring of the Buildings and Grounds Director. Dr. Lee supported the recommendation, however, he noted that hiring the most qualified individual sometime depends upon who is sitting on the committee.

Minutes

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the open and closed session minutes of January 29 and February 17, 2015 and to declare that the closed session audiotapes of July 2013 be destroyed; seconded by Mr. Cofsky. A voice vote resulted motion carried. Ms. Patchak-Layman objected to the destruction of the closed session audiotapes.

Policies

Mr. Weissglass moved to amend the following policies: Policy 5:185, Family and Medical Leave and Policy 7:270, Administering Medicines to Students; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**District Registration
Fees for SY 2015-16**

Mr. Weissglass moved to take from the table the motion approve the District Registration Fees for SY 2015-16; seconded Mr. Cofsky. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

The motion on the table is to approve the District Registration Fees for SY 2015-16 as presented.

The administration did not recommend increasing the fees last year based upon the work that was done with the levy, as that would have seemed to be incongruent.

Discussion ensued regarding the fees that sophomores pay for Drivers' Education. A cohort of business managers, largely NWPA schools, were surveyed and 20 responded. The Driver Ed fee ranged from one school charging \$100 to some charging as high as \$500. OPRFHS is third from the bottom at \$175. Consideration was given to statute which states that salaries and benefits cannot be included in the calculations for Driver Ed. Thus, the actual costs, what is allowable under the statute, would be \$80. Any dollar amount charged above \$50 needed a waiver. OPRFHS secured a waiver in 2008 to cover salaries and benefits and began to charge \$175. A change in the legislation allowed districts to charge \$250 without the need for a waiver. However, OPRFHS waiver expired and it has not reapplied for a new waiver because it was under the \$250 threshold. Thus, the options could be:

- Keep the fee at \$175 and investigate steps to file a waiver, acknowledging the fact that it might not be approved.
- Consider an \$80 fee and modify the fee in coming years. This would amount to \$80,000 less in revenue for the District. Note: this amount has not gone through the modeling in financial projections.

Several members supported applying for a waiver because \$80,000 was a significant amount of money. Mr. Weissglass stated that the full cost of salaries from the spreadsheet was 16% of the total program and he wanted to explore getting a waiver to maintain the fee schedule, as it is reasonable.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that the fees are based on the number of cars, simulators, and books, and amortized over 5 years. It is difficult to ascertain why some schools are able to charge more; factors could be the number of cars in use and/or the number of students, etc. In charging a reasonable fee, instruction and the costs of the cars fits with providing a free public education to students. How should the fee should be structured in terms of student fees? Her proposal at last month's meeting was presented on the dollars presented. If \$100 is being removed, her sliding scale would change.

Dr. Lee moved to amend the motion on the floor to place the Driver Education fees for the coming year at a maximum of \$100 per student. No second.

A Board of Education member wanted to consider whether the families taking Driver Ed should be required to subsidize the families who are able to obtain waivers? Who pays for the students who have waivers under the existing system, i.e., Dr. Ed.?

Mr. Weissglass moved to amend the motion to adopt the fee schedule as recommended in the motion of \$175 and to direct the administration to study a waiver that would allow a \$175 fee. If it is determined that a waiver cannot be obtained, then the fee can be lowered at the proper time; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Lee felt that the motion simply delayed the final motion. He believed that with further work, the District could pay the fees for those families who sought waivers, rather than having that subsidized by the students who are currently enrolled.

Dr. Gevinson felt the District supported an expensive Driver Ed program. He referenced the county of Norway, as he had taught there, as it did not teach Driver Education. Students must use private companies. A fee of \$175 to learn to drive is not enough.

Ms. Patchak-Layman and Dr. Moore believed the only options was to charge \$80 and to reimburse the students who paid the fee last year. Because the school does not have a waiver, what is allowed is based on the cost of Driver Ed materials, supplies, and cars. That number then is divided by the number of students taking the program. The waiver process includes a public hearing. When OPRFHS sets fees, it has to be strict about determining the fees and what is going to be used by that student.

Mr. Weissglass believed this was an administrative error and preferred determining whether the District could take some specific action that would allow it to operate in the same framework in which it had been for the past nine years.

A request was made for more information about obtaining a waiver. Mr. Weissglass withdrew his motion after learning there was still time for exploration.

Mr. Cofsky moved to table this item until the March 16, 2015 Special Board meeting; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

How other districts justify their fee schedules and cost structures will be explored.

**IMF Fee for SY
2015-16**

Mr. Weissglass moved to take from the table the approval of the Instructional Materials Fee (IMF) for SY 2015-16; seconded by Mr. Cofsky. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

The motion on the table is to approve the Instructional Materials Fee for SY 2015-16, as presented. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Altenburg explained that the financial impact of the proposed alternative sliding fee schedule is impossible to calculate because the Districts does not have data on how many families did not apply for free/reduced lunch and/or fee waivers. Additionally, there is no venue for gathering data regarding the number of families who fall into the over 185% to 300% of the federal poverty guidelines since reporting household income is not a required piece of data in the student registration process. A change to the IMF would have an impact on the registration process as well. This is a fee that has been in effect for 5 years. Mr. Cofsky noted that the points to be considered were: 1) the population is unknown; 2) does the District want to put resources into requiring a significant amount of tax forms and financial reviews and verifications? 3) What consideration should be given to Policy 4:142, Bookstore, which states the bookstore should be self-sustaining and Policy 4:140 which references Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL). The amount of \$320 for the IMF was arrived at in order for the Bookstore to be self-sustaining.

Discussion ensued about the costs of the bookstore. Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that the state allows transportation and handling fees to be included in the cost of the textbook. The District's position is that the Bookstore is 25% of the instructional costs. Every student is paying \$50 more in order to cover the cost of those students who have waivers and that does not count the 25% handling fee. She did not believe the state intended to include the 12-month costs of running the bookstore.

Dr. Lee, noting this was a complicated issue, did not agree with basing the fee on income that had to be verified at the District's expense. He felt it reasonable to look at the principles and make an estimate as to what kind of system would be better, omitting anything that would be hard to enforce. He suggested adopting a system that is more equitable, lowering the fees, and having the District bear the expense.

Dr. Moore felt the Board of Education needed to discuss who pays the fees and how the system can be more transparent to families.

Dr. Isoye reminded the Board of Education that prior to having one IMF fee, families purchased all of the materials; it was more like a college bookstore. Parents would go to other places to purchase a required novel and, in some cases, another version was purchased. Thus, when teachers referenced certain pages, students were unable to find that page because of the difference in the versions. Parents were purchasing all consumables, art supplies, etc. at the beginning of year, taking them home, and hoping that the students would remember to bring them when needed. Many discussions occurred on how to deliver materials to students. It was determined that a better way would be for the teachers to distribute the materials (novels, art supplies) to the students. Ms. Patchak-Layman remembered that the state was discontinuing its state-free program. When the IMF proposal came forward, examples were given that some seniors had fees of between \$700 to \$800 for their books and supplies and some Special Education students had fees of \$120. By averaging, rather than using computers to individualize costs for students based on textbooks, the cost was divided by 5 years. One can have a self-staining bookstore if the District includes fees for students who are on waivers and still accomplish the thing.

Mr. Cofsky noted that sometimes students had refused to take certain classes because of the expense of the textbooks; the IMF equalized the cost. The cost of textbooks should not be the reason a student does not take a class. He and Dr. Gevinson supported the recommendation, as presented. Dr. Gevinson trusted the administration to have weighed all of the options and given the best recommendation. Dr. Lee suggested the Board of Education determine what guiding principles should have the highest priority and then ask the administration to create a detailed proposal that meets the priorities as best it can.

Mr. Weissglass asked that the PEG Committee revisit Policy 4:140 and 4:142 with respect to allocation of fees, level of fees, fairness of the payments, conforming to the School Code, and self-sustaining bookstore and to frame a discussion for the Board of Education earlier in the year.

Ms. Patchak-Layman reiterated that *The School Code of Illinois* says that the purchase is at the expense of the district. The expense of the District is in the general budget, not at the expense of the students. Board of Education policy must match with the School Code. Because the onus of paying for the books is on the District, she had suggested a sliding fee scale. Some families earn just over the amount those families who qualify for a waiver earn, i.e., those families earning just \$2,000 more have to pay \$50 more for someone else. She hoped this to be examined because this is a public school.

Dr. Isoye noted that when an amendment to a policy was suggested, either someone drafts the language and presents it to committee chair so the administration can work with the language or the change could come from the committee itself. The policy on the Bookstore had been debated when the current policy manual was overhauled. These decisions were made by other Boards and have been vetted in a variety of circumstances during his tenure. Is it now a matter of revising that policy or removing it? Mr. Ruhland and Dr.

Isoye will work with the policy chair to vet it with Board of Education for discussion of next year's fee structure.

Dr. Lee moved for administration to bring the bookstore policy to the PEG committee by October 1; second Ms. Patchak-Layman. A roll call vote resulted in 4 nays and 2 yeas. Ms. Patchak-Layman and Dr. Lee voted aye. Motion failed.

Mr. Weiss Glass moved to approve the IMF, as presented; seconded by Mr. Cofsky. A roll call vote resulted in 4 yeas and 2 nays. Ms. Patchak-Layman and Dr. Lee voted nay. Motion carried.

**PEG Committee
Update on
Superintendent
Evaluation &
Goals**

PEG committee was presented with the instrument that was used for the evaluation of the superintendent last year. The committee agreed that the evaluation process should be completed by the April Board meeting. The instrument was overhauled a few years ago by another Board of Education. The Board of Education members will receive the instrument as well as a survey that ISAL III Cohort participants have been requested to complete, and this may help them in completing the evaluation. Mr. Ruhland will include a worksheet whereby Board of Education members can indicate what things they might like to see in a future instrument.

Dr. Isoye had drafted the update of the goals in a new format and had asked the PEG Committee for feedback. The goals will be presented at the March meeting to the full Board of Education and sent out with the evaluation instrument.

Pool Site Update

Mr. Weissglass reported that a couple of locations were under consideration for alternative softball or tennis locations, but they were not at a place to be speaking about that publically. Conversations are occurring with a couple of brokers, but nothing has been finalized. If a suitable site is not located, the District will engage a parking consultant, working with an engineer, to explore in depth the idea of lifting the Lake Street Field and putting a one-story garage under it. It could be cost effective and a better solution. The cost would be under \$25,000 and thus not required Board of Education action. Thus far, the only consultant fees that have been involved with this project is the feasibility study and the KOLA parking study. The Board of Education voted to have answers by April and the administration working to have the information by that time.

**Math Division
Update**

The Instruction Committee recommended that the Update on the Math Division be moved forward to the full Board of Education. It was noted that standard-based grading is a movement in instructional approaches. It is a system of reporting student proficiency in a number of specific learning goals (or standards). Rather than give students one grade on a test that assessed multiple skills, this system gives students a number of scores that represent their proficiency in each of the skills assessed. The idea is that at the end of the class a student has mastered the essential content necessary for the next level. One is focused on knowledge, not on points.

Triton College

The Instruction Committee recommended that the Update on the Triton

- Partnership Update** College Partnership be moved forward to the full Board of Education.
- District Reports** Reports from the Huskies Boosters' Club and APPLAUSE! were imbedded in the agenda.
- Adjournment** At 9:48 p.m., on Thursday, February 26, 2015, Dr. Gevinson moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Mr. Cofsky. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Jeff Weissglass
Vice President

Dr. Jackie Moore
Secretary

Submitted by Gail Kalmerton
Clerk of the Board