

August 16, 2006

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Wednesday, August 16, 2006, in the Board Room of the high school.

**Call to Order**

President Greenwald called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. The following members were present: Jacques A. Conway (departed at 11:45 a.m.), Barbara P. Fernandez, Valerie J. Fisher (departed at 11:00 a.m.), Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Yasmin A. Ranney and John P. Rigas (departed at 11:30 a.m.). Also present were: Dr. Susan J. Bridge, Superintendent/ Principal; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer (arrived at 9:55 a.m.); Jack Lanenga, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Amy Hill, Director of Instruction; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board of Education.

**Visitors**

Kay Foran, Director of Community Relations and Communications; Barb Nelson and Mary McCabe, officers of P.T.O.; and Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal* (arrived at 9:45 a.m.).

**Approval of Disbursement List**

Mr. Rigas moved to approve the Disbursement List dated August 16, 2006 (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Personnel Recommendations**

Mr. Rigas moved to approve the personnel recommendations as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Discussion of Separation of Superintendent And Principal Positions**

Dr. Greenwald announced that the Board of Education would take formal action at its Thursday, August 24, 2006, Board of Education meeting on splitting the position of superintendent/ principal. He asked the Board of Education to give thought to what the new superintendent's job responsibilities and characteristics would be. Board member responses included:

- 1) Student Achievement
- 2) Long-Range Educational Strategic Planning
- 3) Liaison to the rest of the community, region and nation

- 4) Articulation with feeder districts to help understand and to provide information as to what students must have to be successful at O.P.R.F.H.S.
- 5) Research and methodology awareness and knowledge of high school's own data and its maintenance.
- 6) Leadership and Global Vision and Perspective

Ms. Ranney was comfortable with allowing the current administrative structure to remain as it is. This would allow the new superintendent the latitude to restructure or reorganize as he/she so choose.

Dr. Bridge posed the question as to whether the Board of Education was considering adding an additional person to the administrative team remaining. This would be a budget question for the 2007-08 school year. Ms. Witham shared that by realigning some job titles and responsibilities, it would be possible to add another person under the administrative cap. There was no consensus by the Board of Education on this as some Board of Education members felt this discussion was too early in the process.

**Discussion of  
Employing a  
Search Firm**

It was the consensus of the Board of Education to schedule a meeting as soon as possible to interview the following search firms: Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ray & Associates, the BWP & Associates and School Exec Connect. Each firm will be allowed thirty (30) minutes for the presentation and a question and answer period. Ms. Kalmerton will schedule this meeting.

Mr. Edgecombe's expertise will be used as a resource by the Board of Education.

**Review of  
District Goals for  
the 2006-07  
School Year**

It was the consensus of the Board of Education to delay this discussion until the August 24, 2006, regular Board of Education meeting.

**Closed Session**

Ms. Fernandez moved to enter closed session at 10:35 a.m. on Wednesday, August 16, 2006, for the purpose of discussing student discipline; seconded by Ms Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 11:35 a.m.

**Preparation of One View Statement** Board of Education members discussed whether they should respond to an article in the *Wednesday Journal* about property taxes where it questioned the integrity of the Board of Education. It was the consensus of the Board of Education not to respond at this time. It was also the consensus that Ms. Witham and Ms. Foran attend a town hall meeting on Thursday, August 24, 2006, to be hosted by Ali ElSaffar on the impact of the tax bills. It was noted that the Town Hall Meeting was scheduled for the same evening as the Board of Education's own regular monthly meeting.

**Student Discipline** Dr. Millard moved to revoke the decision to expel/exclude student EXP 5/11/0619 for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year through first semester of the 2006-07 school year pursuant to the terms of the previously entered settlement agreement; seconded by Ms. Fernandez. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. Ms. Fisher and Mr. Rigas were not present for this vote.

**Adjournment** Ms. Fernandez moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 12:10 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16, 2006; seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Barry S. Greenwald  
President

Barbara P. Fernandez  
Secretary