

June 17, 2008

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, in the Board Room of the high school.

- Call to Order** President Conway called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. A roll call indicated the following members were present: Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John P. Rigas. Also present were Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Jason Edgecombe, Cheryl L. Witham, CFO; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/ Clerk of the Board of Education.
- Visitors** Tia Marr, OPRFHS faculty member, and Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*; and Bridgett Kennedy of the *Oak Leaves*.
- Visitor Comments** No Comments
- Approval of Vendor Distribution List** Mr. Rigas moved to approve the Vendor Distribution List dated June 17, 2008, as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of the meeting); seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- Community Assignments** Discussion ensued regarding Board of Education Committee assignments for the 2008-09 school year. Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested instituting a personnel committee as eighty (80) percent of the budget was personnel and she felt such a committee would help the Board of Education in its work. She suggested that the committee would keep a tickler file with job descriptions, evaluation forms, evaluations, proposed law changes, etc. The committee would not interact with school personnel, but specifically, work from the basis of personnel as opposed to finance. She proposed this as a Board of Education approved committee, similar to the Policy, Finance, and Instruction Committees, unless it was added as an ad hoc committee to see how it would work.
- Dr. Lee asked if the reason for having a personnel committee was that there were not adequate discussion at other committee meetings. Have there been situations, because of time pressures, when the Board of Education has not been able to deal with things in the Finance Committee. Ms. Patchak-Layman responded that a committee of this sort would give the topic of personnel, in of itself, worthy of discussion outside of the financial aspect. Contracts that deal with collective bargaining agreements and labor law could be vetted in this committee. Mr. Rigas noted that the

Board of Education already had a Negotiations Committee for that purpose.

Dr. Lee saw this as being a legitimate philosophical concern that was offset by practical considerations in that there was limited time. To create an additional committee meeting would simply increase the time pressure on the Board of Education. The fact that the Board of Education seldom gets far on a Policy Committee agenda is because of the pressing business of other committee meetings. To create another committee adds to that congestion rather than decreasing it. He agreed that personnel issues needed adequate attention, but he felt they could receive that attention within the existing structure of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Edgecombe concurred with the comments by Dr. Lee and Mr. Rigas.

Ms. Patchak Layman felt this was an opportunity to look at the committee structure. If it were the Board of Education practice to have only three Board of Education members working on a topic, then the other Board of Education members would not feel obligated to attend. Thus, there would be more time available and flexibility, e.g., Policy Committee could be scheduled for Wednesday morning and Finance could be scheduled for Tuesday evening, etc. The other Board of Education members would have the option of attending, but they would not be have to do so.

Ms. Fisher concurred with looking at the committee structure to see if there were improvements that could be made to make the structure more effective and efficient, but as far as instituting a specific committee that would involve personnel; she was unsure how the Board of Education would get around micromanaging the work of the school. Not all Board of Education members have had educational careers and they would not have the strong expertise to make decisions in those areas. The Board of Education's foremost job is to hire the Superintendent and that is the only personnel decision the Board of Education should be making.

Mr. Rigas felt that having a three-person committee would actually increase the time spent. While the Finance Committee is a three-person committee, everyone attends. If not all attended, there would be many more questions asked at the regular Board of Education meeting. The present committee structure, absent schedule conflicts, allows more efficient use of time. Mr. Rigas was not in favor of adding another committee.

Dr. Weninger concurred with the thoughts expressed by Dr. Lee and Mr. Rigas because the structure works as it is.

Mr. Conway concluded that the Board of Education committee assignments for the 2008-09 school year would be status quo from the 2007-08 school year.

Closed Session

Dr. Millard moved to go into closed session at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 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); Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11); seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 10:53 a.m., the Board of Education reconvened its open session.

Student Discipline

Dr. Lee moved to drop both students RES Students #6/17/08-07 and RES 6/17/08-08 due to non-residency and charge \$21,033.05 each in tuition; seconded by Mr. Rigas. A roll call vote resulted in four ayes, one Abstention and one Nay. Dr. Millard abstained and Ms. Patchak-Layman voted no.

Adjournment

At 10:55 a.m., on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, Ms. Fisher moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Jacques A. Conway
President

Dr. Ralph H. Lee
Secretary