

October 19, 2006

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, October 19, 2006, in the Board Room of the high school.

- Call to Order** President Greenwald called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. The following members were present: Dr. Barry S. Greenwald, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Yasmin A. Ranney and John P. Rigas. Also present were: Susan J. Bridge, Superintendent/Principal; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.
- Visitors** Kay Foray, Director of Community Relations and Communications; Sheila Hardin, F.S.E.C. Representative; Rich Perna, Coordinator of Student Safety; Barbara Nelson, P.T.O. Chair.
- Visitor Comments** None
- New Business** Dr. Greenwald noted that he would like to hear from Kimberly Werner, Chair of the P.T.O. Caucus, about the Caucus' procedures. He asked Ms. Nelson to contact her about this, as this would have an impact on everyone on the Board of Education.
- Ms. Nelson explained that P.T.O.'s role in the community caucus was specifically a P.T.O. function by virtue of it not historically having an official home. Coordinating the selection of a chairperson and to some extent financially supporting it with postage, etc., had fallen upon P.T.O. While not a P.T.O. function per se, P.T.O. deemed it a noteworthy cause and because no one else will start the process or support it operationally, P.T.O. does it.
- Dr. Greenwald noted that the timetable was different from the last couple of elections. It has been noted that the P.T.O. will announce the endorsement of the candidates on January 22, yet the filing date is January 29. That is a short turn around. Dr. Greenwald noted his appreciation and wants all to be well informed.
- Update on Search for Superintendent** Dr. Greenwald informed the Board of Education that Dr. Barnes reiterated that the first round of interviews of candidates should be confidential. However, there will be less confidentiality for those candidates who make it to the second round, as those candidates will be invited to tour the school and will be given an opportunity to meet with various individuals and/or groups.

Dr. Barnes will join the Board of Education in closed session via telephone on Thursday, October 26, 2006, to discuss items of relevance. Mr. Edgecombe noted that he would be supplying additional salary information to the Board of Education.

Dr. Millard and Ms. Ranney noted their disappointment with the Needs Profile Report composed by BWP because it lacked information as to who and how many people offered comments. Their wish was for a stronger composite statement on the information received from each of the groupings and more narrative. Dr. Millard asked why some bullets eliminated and why some points were duplicated. Ms. Ranney felt this report from a hired consultant was atypical. Dr. Greenwald asked if there were one from the last superintendent search with which to compare. Ms. Kalmerton was unsure.

Closed Session

Dr. Millard moved to enter closed session at 11:05 a.m. on Thursday, October 19, 2006, 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; Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10), and 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 Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 11:30 a.m.

Approval of Student Discipline

Mr. Rigas moved to expel student EXP 10/19/06-13 as of October 19, 2006, for the remainder of the first semester of the 2006-07 school year but to hold the expulsion in abeyance contingent upon completion of the enrollment and regular attendance at an alternative school for the remainder of the first semester of the 2006-07 school year, social probation for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year and verification and maintenance of residency in District; seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

New Business

Dr. Greenwald was helping a student fill out applications to graduate schools and was surprised by the question, “Have you ever been suspended and/or expelled from high school?” Dr. Greenwald

wondered if the school could find other terms for “suspension” or “expulsion.”

He continued that colleges are having significant discussions on whether to include the questions concerning a student’s ever having been convicted of a felon on the application. If the student says “yes,” granted admission, and then are accused of something, there could be finger pointing, "You knew he was a convicted felon and yet you did...."

Dr. Greenwald was informed that state law mandates that the words “suspension” and “expulsion” be used. Discussion ensued about the level at which students were aware that these consequences could have later ramifications. Board of Education members and administrators felt that if a student were suspended or expelled, the student should not lie about it on the application, but perhaps talk about it in their essay that accompanies the application and explain how that disciplinary consequence affected their lives.

Dr. Greenwald was informed that this question was common on college applications.

Adjournment

Dr. Millard moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, October 19, 2006; seconded by Ms. Ranney. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Barry S. Greenwald
President

Barbara P. Fernandez
Secretary