

November 21, 2013

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, November 21, 2013, 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; Dr. John Carlson, Interim Director for Human Resources and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant Clerk of the Board.

**Closed Session**

At 6:37 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2013, Mr. Phelan 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; Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:30 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 and Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Karin Sullivan, Director of Communications and Community Relations; Joey Cofsky, Student Council Liaison Representative; and Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair

**Visitors**

Audrey, Grace and Christian Angelo's, Dan & Sue Arends, Kerry Bur, John Bokum, Joe Connell, Karen Cofsky, Tom Fillian, Fred Galluzzo, Kent Kreider, Dan Lempa, C. Lipton, David Martin, Mary Colleen Roberts, Barb & Brad, Rossa, Peter Ryan, Anna Schaider, Tess & Mark Trinkka, Molly, Griffin, & Grayson Uhlir, community members, and Terry Dean of *Wednesday Journal*.

**Public Hearing**

At 7:36 p.m., Mr. Phelan called the Public Hearing to order on Thursday, November 21, 2013 Concerning the Intent of the Board of Education to Transfer \$5,025,000 from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. for the Oak Park River Forest High School 2013 – 14 Budget. Notice of this Public Hearing appeared in the Thursday, November 14, 2013 publication of the Oak Leaves Newspaper. Receiving no written or oral comments, Mr. Phelan closed the hearing at 7:41 p.m.

**Public Comments**

Dan Arends, resident of 1345 Lathop, River Forest, understood that the pool proposals might affect the location of the tennis courts. He spoke of his experience playing tennis at the high school from 1987 to 1991, remembering some of the people with whom he played, some of whom he has since worked professionally, and some who he continues to play with today. He spoke of how tennis had affected his life and of the large tennis community in this area. Having coached tennis for the past five years, he

attested to the fact that the high school's program within the state is tough to match. Two of his children were all-state players. His younger son would like to play at the high school. While much of the success of the program must be attributable to the coaching staff, the availability of eight courts to students to use to develop their skills in the summer program is also instrumental. That number also allows the community to play tennis. The eight courts and the viewing area have allowed OPRFHS to host conference tournaments for years. This would not be possible if the courts were moved to a rooftop location. He wanted no action that that would jeopardize the future of the tennis program.

Joe Connell, resident of 538 N. Elmwood, Oak Park, has spoken to the Board of Education in the past about its support of the pools and he thanked the superintendent, the Finance Committee, and the Board of Education for deliberating on the issues facing the community and school. He extended his offer to discuss this further and noted that United States Tennis Association (USTA) offers consulting services free to communities, architects, and design teams on all aspects of pool facilities. He is sympathetic to the tennis, track and field, and baseball communities. A shortage of space exists. The pool needs attention and he would hate to disrupt any sport that is a life-long activity.

John Bokum, resident of 629 S. Home, Oak Park, informed the Board of Education that the OPRF Rotary Club was promoting a Festival of Trees, starting November 22 at Holly Court. Rotary supports the ratifications of polio worldwide and offers enrichment grants and scholarships to the local community. He spoke about the success of other communities with this festival and invited Board of Education members to attend.

Tesh Trinka, resident of 600 Fair Oaks, Oak Park, a senior who has participated in tennis for 4 years, spoke of the enormous impact tennis had on her. The tennis program is a no-cut sport and successfully engages all students. The girl's program is growing steadily because of adequate court space. Rooftop courts would be inadequate. If tennis were moved to another location, fewer students would try out for the team as the current location provides greater accessibility for coaches and students. She asked that this sport not be disrupted.

Christian Angelos, resident of 726 Keystone, River Forest and senior, started to play tennis at the age of seven. His goal had been to play tennis at OPRFHS, as it was very important to his career. He spoke about the "fantastic" coaches he had. If the number of tennis courts were reduced to six, competitions would take more time and thus could not be completed because it would turn dark. Wind would make playing more difficult if the courts were raised. This construction could hurt the tennis program, which has been successful over the years. He wanted future generations to have the same experience he did.

David Martin, resident of 718 Linden, Oak Park, spent as much time in the pool or around in the pool as anyone in town. Yet, his true love is tennis. His middle son played tennis at the high school and did well. Understanding the need for a new pool and new facility, the Board of Education's challenge is to determine how to spend money on a new facility that enhances the long tradition of the pool and does not upset the tennis program. Fewer courts would result in few tournaments. He stated that it

was a great idea to have a better pool and the Board of Education needed to make sure it was spending the money wisely.

Mary Colleen Roberts, resident of 818 N. Gove and 818 N. Columbian, Oak Park, complimented the Board of Education on thinking big and having a broad perspective when looking at issues. A natatorium is needed for educational/athletic needs of the students and the needs of the community. It should be able to facilitate practice and competition for the water pool team, synchronized swimming, and for the swim team as well as the needs of the community, which range from toddlers to the elderly. The high school mandates swimming. The people who had the vision of an athletic campus allowed children to thrive. The parking garage is the best place to place a world-class natatorium.

Peter Ryan, resident of 414 Augusta, Oak Park, a lover of tennis, and an avid member of the aquatics community, thanked the Superintendent, staff, and Board of Education for its diligent support of a new pool. To achieve the goal of being big enough, a 50-meter pool is essential.

Tom Fillian, 121 S. Humphrey Avenue, Oak Park and a former member of the Oak Park Park District board, was disappointed with the proposals stemming from his tenure on the Park District board. He believed an opportunity had been missed when previous conversations had occurred about the swimming facilities at Ridgeland Commons and a parking strategy, as there had been an opportunity to build a natatorium. He suggested: 1) OPRFHS should stay within its footprint. The existing pools have served the community and could be continued with some architectural changes; 2) Be concerned with cost as the Park District had found that an indoor swimming pool was too expensive; 3) Send the message to the community that this is an educational institution; 4) Continue the collaborations within the community. District 97 is implementing the International Baccalaureate Program and the high school should consider that too; and 5) Continue the good work they were doing.

**Status of FOIA Reports**

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

**Student Council Representative**

Joe Cofsky reported on the following:

- 1) The Tradition of Excellence convocations.
- 2) Student Council volunteering at the Food Pantry.
- 3) Student Council joining with the Environmental Club to donate items to Red Cross for the victims of the Philippine typhoon, raising over \$180 thus far.
- 4) Student Council sending awards to teachers and administrators who have gone beyond, as it is important for the staff to feel appreciated.
- 5) With regard to a complaint about the lunch program, Mr. Cofsky noted that he would reach out to the student who came to a meeting with the complaint.

Mr. Rouse stated that group study in the tutoring center has interrupted tutoring and, thus, additional space must be found for it. Bigger tables are needed. When doing college visits, Mr. Weissglass found that college libraries have different levels of noise on different levels.

**Faculty Senate**

Ms. Hardin noted that the faculty looked forward to the Board of Education joining them for breakfast in the South Cafeteria.

## **Superintendent Report**

Dr. Isoye reported the following:

OPRF has received the SchoolSearch 2013 Bright A+ Award for academic excellence in education, one of only 60 Illinois school districts to receive the award, which is given to those districts whose students' academic performance ranks in the top 5% of Illinois school districts. Congratulations to the students and staff who continue to exemplify the tradition of academic excellence.

Last week, during James Bell's Shakespeare class, OPRF students became the first in the world to engage in a private live-stream Q & A with an actor and interviewer at the world-renowned Shakespeare's Globe Theater.

OPRF not only hosted but also won the North Suburban Math League Math Meet. Among the highlights:

- Jackson Kirshbaugh-Maish took second in the Oral Competition.
- Freshmen Kevin Farrell, Alex Schoeny, and Sanjeev Venkateson all had perfect scores for Oak Park, giving the freshmen a first place in the team competition.
- The Junior Team tied for first place in its team competition.
- Senior Erich Luepke scored a perfect, helping the seniors take first place in their team competition.

Congratulations to the 34 OPRF students selected for 2013 Illinois Music Educators Association All-District ensembles. Hundreds of students from more than 40 high schools around Chicagoland auditioned for these prestigious ensembles.

Several of the newest speech team members earned medals in the first speech tournament of the year. Congratulations to:

- Gabriela Gonzalez-Stuver, 2nd place Novice, Prose Reading
- Oliver Zapater-Charrette, 2nd place Novice, Humorous Interpretation
- Mark Weissglass, 4th place Novice, Humorous Interpretation
- Jack Richardson, 5th place Novice, Oratorical Declamation
- Oliver Zapater-Charrette, 6th place Novice, Poetry Reading

Hattie Grimm was surprised during her art class with a video from a WGN newscaster announcing her as the winner of a logo-design contest. Her logo was chosen for the nonprofit Angel Gabriel Foundation, which benefits cancer patients who need financial help.

Congratulations to assistant food services director Stacy Lenihan, who was chosen to participate in the School Nutrition Association's Future Leaders program on behalf of the Illinois School Nutrition Association.

Last week the Athletics department honored seven Huskies who have signed letters of intent and/or committed to accept athletic scholarships to pursue their sports at the college level. Congratulations to:

- Katherine Appell, Mercyhurst University, Water Polo
- Davonte Mahomes, University of Michigan, Wrestling
- Alanna Dassoff, University of Wyoming, Swimming
- Sam Cottingham, Beard-Western Illinois University, Baseball
- Cori Conley, Penn State University, Field Hockey

- Keith Rogalla, Creighton University, Baseball
- Patrick Murphy, Northern Illinois University, Golf

Girls' Tennis players Tess Trinkka and Taylor Arends took second in doubles at the state tournament. The Girls Tennis team finished 10th overall.

Girls' Volleyball beat Glenbard South to take its first sectional championship since 1987, when Head Coach Shirley Redmond led the Huskies to a second-place finish in state. OPRF played hard but lost to Mother McCauley in the subsequent super sectional match. Congratulations on a great season.

Girls' Cross Country concluded its season with several members competing at the state finals. OPRF went into the meet ranked 19th but managed to finish 13th overall.

After a spectacular 9-1 season, Varsity Football lost its second-round state playoff game against Maine South. Congratulations on a fantastic record this year.

The Girls Swimming and Diving team took second place at Sectionals last weekend. Alanna Dassoff set a new record in the 100 yd. backstroke, the first new girls' varsity record since 1996. Hanna Blankemeier set a new freshman record in the 200 yd. freestyle. Hanna and Alanna will compete at the state tournament this weekend, along with teammates Polina Bondarenko, Chloe Guhlstorf and Emma Connell. Good luck, Huskies!

Boys' Basketball is ranked in the pre-season Top 25 for the third straight season.

OPRFHS hosted one of two to three hearings for the Eradication of Domestic Violence task force. The task force is co-chaired by State Representative Camille Lilly who also sponsored the Bill in the House. Senator Don Harmon was the Chief Senate Sponsor. The co-chair for the task force was Chris Ptack, Prevention Program Director for Sarah's Inn. The Honorable Dorothy Brown is the administrator in charge for the work of the task force. This allows people to provide testimony about the need for this work. Several teachers, administrators, students, and parents speak, along with other people throughout the region attended this session.

Consent Agenda Item H, Approval of Policies, and Item I, Acceptance of Feeder Group Criteria were removed from the consent agenda.

### **Consent Items**

Mr. Phelan moved to approve the following consent items:

- Approval of the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated November 21, 2013
- Approval of Monthly Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Monthly Financial Reports
- Approval of Personnel Recommendations, including New Hires, Resignation, and Stipends
- Approval of Gifts and Donations
- Approval of Library Grant Application
- Approval of School Energy Efficient Project Grant

seconded by Mr. Weissglass. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of Policies** Mr. Phelan moved to approve amend policies Policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure, Policy 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment, and Policy 5:20, Workplace Harassment Prohibited, as presented; seconded by Dr. Moore. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Acceptance of Feeder Group Criteria** Mr. Phelan moved to accept the Feeder Group Criteria as presented; seconded by Dr. Moore. Discussion ensued.

Feeder group criteria will be included in the procedures manual. Dr. Isoye explained that The Board of Education approves policies not procedures. In this circumstance, a commitment to finalize feeder group criteria was made while Policy 1410, Rental of Facilities, was in effect. Since that time, the policy adopted with regards to rentals is the IASB PRESS Policy 8:20. Feeder group criteria are not a part of the policy. Given the transition from one policy to another, the criteria will be a part of the procedure.

Mr. Phelan suggested that Ms. Patchak-Layman talk with the administration about her suggestion to offer a reduction of the \$10 per student fee if the student received a waiver from the feeder group, acknowledging the feeder groups' support of students.

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

**Minutes** Mr. Phelan moved to approve the Open and Closed Session Minutes September 26, and November 12, 2013 and a declaration that the closed session audiotapes of April 2012 be destroyed; seconded by Dr. Lee. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

**Resolution Regarding Transfer \$5,025,000 from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund** Dr. Lee moved to approve the Resolution Concerning the Intent of the Board of Education to Transfer \$5,025,000 from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund, as presented; seconded by Mr. Cofsky.

**and Maintenance Fund** These funds will be moved into the O&M Fund as the debt certificates issued in 2003 and 2004 for repair of the roof mature. The interest rate being paid on these debt certificates is 3 ½ to 4%. The District has the ability to call and take the action and save \$1,245,000 in interest costs. Mr. Weissglass supported the motion.

Mr. Phelan spoke in opposition to the motion. He believed that because debt certificates were issued in 2003 to finance a roof. His understanding of capital projects, like a roof, will last homeowners across many generations. So financing as long as possible, even though more interest is being paid, it is an issue of equity and fairness. He did not like the idea of 10 years of taxpayers paying for a roof that would last 20 years when it could be spread out over 20 years even though at a cost. While there is money in the fund balance, he preferred using that money to lower tax rates to encourage investments in the community and have equity and fairness to pay for a roof that will last 10 years.

Other comments/questions included:

- 1) With so few years left, it might not have an opportunity to refinance these bonds in an effort to save the District money.
- 2) The District transfers \$620,000 from the Life Safety Fund to the Debt Service Fund. Paying off this debt would free up money in the Levy that could be used for education, operations or transportation, lower taxes, etc. The Levy does not been a

reduction of \$620,000. The FAC recommended the District taking this action as it would save approximately \$10,400 every three weeks.

- 3) Ms. Patchak-Layman preferred this money go back to the community, but it is a part of a bigger question as to how OPRFHS looks at the fund balance going forward. Mr. Phelan noted that the philosophy the Board of Education decides upon would inform other options that will be presented to it, including the pool project and whether or not to use existing funds.
- 4) The passed resolution will stop the time clock. To wait until a later date would cause the District to pay a per diem.

Mr. Weissglass confirmed that the FAC's deliberations had included the prepayment of these debt services in every proposal/model. While no formal recommendation was made, no one has expressed that the District should not prepay them. At the same time, discussion of generalization matching has occurred with respect to the level of the fund balance and the assumption would be that this would be part of the recommendation.

Discussion ensued about laying this motion on the table until the Board of Education receives the FAC's recommendation on December 15. If it were tabled, the worst-case scenario might be that the District would need to hold another public hearing, post notice, and lose additional interest.

Mr. Phelan moved to Lay on the Table the motion to approve the Resolution Concerning the Intent of the Board of Education to Transfer \$5,025,000 from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund, as presented; seconded by Dr. Gevinson. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Lee opposed the motion because he wanted to counteract the trend in Illinois to push debt further down the road causing the future debt to be higher than it is now. He wanted to counteract that trend. Dr. Gevinson wanted alternative financing terms sought and a review all the decision-making pieces. Mr. Weissglass felt that the best the District could do would be to refinance about 50% of the debt. While Mr. Cofsky understood the reasoning for tabling the motion as the FAC's discussion and deliberation had not yet come to the full Board of Education, he did not support the motion. Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested taking the dollars the District would be getting back and using them to offset the reduction in this tax rate. If the tax rate were lowered, it would affect the amount of dollars the school would collect from the Downtown Oak Park TIF in surplus. If this debt were paid down, the District would no longer pay for these debt certificates. The Life Safety Levy is a tap-capped fund, so it does not mean that the District would not be able to levy next year at the same amount plus the CPI. It is different from bonds, as they are a separate levy. Cook County levies on behalf of the District the Bond & Interest and the Bond & Interest is independent of Life Safety Fund. It is not an automatic reduction. Even if the District paid the amount that could have been collected, the District can still collect and put them in the General Fund. The District has the ability to levy in the Education Fund, O&M Fund and Transportation Fund. The levy could be lowered whether or not; these debt certificates were paid off early and independent of what is done with the levy.

Dr. Lee, Dr. Moore, Mr. Weissglass, and Mr. Cofsky voted nay. Motion failed.

A roll call vote on the original motion resulted in four ayes and three nays. Dr. Gevinson, Ms. Patchak-Layman, and Mr. Phelan voted nay. Motion carried.

**Course Selection**

Dr. Gevinson moved to approve the adoption of course proposals for the 2014-2015 Academic Catalog as presented; seconded by Mr. Weissglass. A roll vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

On November 12, 2013, the Instruction Committee had recommended that these courses be moved forward to the Board of Education for approval.

**School Report Card & 5 Essentials**

In addition to releasing district and school report cards in their traditional format, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released the information in two new, more user-friendly formats to make Report Card data easier for the public to understand.

October 31, the ISBE released the 2013 State, School, and District Report Cards. As in previous years, ISBE released the comprehensive version of these Report Cards required by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) on isbe.net. The report card for each school and district includes its status for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as well as for Federal and State Improvement. This is the link to the report card:

[http://webprod.isbe.net/ereportcard/publicsite/getReport.aspx?year=2013&code=060162000001\\_e.pdf](http://webprod.isbe.net/ereportcard/publicsite/getReport.aspx?year=2013&code=060162000001_e.pdf) .

The Online Report Card can be found at:

District: <http://illinoisreportcard.com/District.aspx?DistrictID=06016200013>

School: <http://illinoisreportcard.com/School.aspx?schoolid=060162000130001>

The At-A-Glance Report Card, which can be accessed via the Online Report Card, summarizes the Report Card data in a two-page snapshot.

Dr. Isoye stated that the District would continue to analyze this information and respond to it. Prior to this being made public, the survey was presented to the faculty and the leadership component was stressed. The administration is now framing the rest of the data to share with the faculty. Institute Day, January 6, 2014, will feature a student panel where students will talk about their experiences and look at that data. Many aspects of the survey exist and some of the work is for the administration and some of it is for the faculty. The role of the Board might be approving a policy if recommended by the administration after it has analyzed its data. Mr. Phelan noted that it was important for the Board of Education, as liaisons with the community, to be informed in order to help the administration clarify and explain.

**Instructional Technology Update**

Mr. Carioscio referred to the presentation made to the Technology Committee on November 12, 2013 about an update on Instructional Technology. The Technology Committee members recommended presenting this to the full Board of Education.

**Swimming Pool**

Mr. Altenburg referred to the presentation made to the Finance Committee on November 12, 2013 and in the packet about the impacts and considerations on the various sites being considered for a swimming pool. The Finance



Committee members recommended presenting this report to the full Board of Education on a monthly basis. Feasibility studies are the next step. Discussion ensued. Mr. Phelan felt that much of the report was speculation and had triggered public comment by those that may be affected. Mr. Altenburg noted that the District hopes to narrow the options down by working with Legat on the finding the most appropriate site. This report was put together so that the Board of Education members could follow that work. No specific drawings have been received with regard to the size of the pool at this point. No decisions had been made.

Mr. Weissglass wanted to know what a pool would like that would meet all of the hopes and dreams of the aquatics community (50-meter, 8-lanes) and what is the least expensive way to maintain a swimming program. Is it more expensive to fix the old pools that currently do not meet new code, etc.? Mr. Altenburg stated that the feasibility study would give inclusive information as to what they will look like and house, etc. as well as the cost and financing. Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that when the pool committee started over a year ago, many of those conversations were part of that initial report that went out and she suggested that everyone receive a copy of the lists and rankings that were talked about in this committee. It explained the methodical process that was followed as to the needs of the students, teams, and community, and feeder group and the reason for moving away from the internal footprint because of the different reiterations.

Ms. Patchak-Layman felt the Park District should not be left out of any conversations about its plans. She asked if rubberized liners had been considered as a way to curtail the leakage. An interest existed in keeping the tiles in the pools because of their historical nature. Mr. Altenburg has had no contact with the Park District. A consultant has been hired at a cost of \$1,800 to evaluate the life of these pools. Also, a legal opinion is being sought on the School Code's regulations regarding payment of a building.

It was the consensus of the Board of Education members to move this back to the Finance Committee.

### **Reading Report**

Mr. Prale referred to the annual update on the Reading Program that was made to the Instruction Committee on November 12, 2013 and in the packet for this meeting. It included a summary of student outcome information for the ninth grade class, as well as information regarding students who received specific course-based interventions. The report included a disaggregation by gender, race, and Special Education status of the information regarding each analysis.

It is important to tie in things from 5Essentials and School Report and the reading program for the Board of Education and the community.

### **Student Discipline Report**

Mr. Rouse referred to the Student Discipline Report for second semester of the 2012-13 school year that had been presented to the Instruction Committee on November 12, 2013. It included a review of distribution of recorded incidents with disaggregation by gender, race, and academic program as well as a summary of the activity and early outcomes of the suspension reduction plan was included in the report. A question had been raised regarding

recidivism. A follow up review of the available information shows that over three-quarters, recidivist behavior is identified as Class II behaviors, the majority of which are Failure to Serve Detentions.

There would be value to separating out the Plastco issues as the majority of consequences stem from tardy detentions.

Dr. Gevinson found it interesting that those students with Class 4 infractions had high grades and he thought they should be disaggregated by race. Dr. Moore felt it was a bigger issue, meaning there were more things to work through. It is important to know whom they are interfacing with and what reactions they are having. It is not just about what students are doing in school.

Ms. Patchak-Layman attended a Peace Circle introduction, which was sponsored by Rotary and the Township. Rotary is offering 38 spots for members of elementary and social service organizations the second weekend in December, Thursday, and Friday evenings and all day on Saturday. The facilitator is a parent of an OPRFHS student and does this training throughout the metropolitan area. OPRFHS will have four staff members attend and District 97 will have three. Depending on how well staff does the training, ORPFHS might find it helpful to bring a facilitator in to do training with other staff.

Several members talked about how vital it was to note the areas of concern as well as highlight what has been accomplished by instituting and articulating a new policy. It is important for both the community and the school community. Everyone needs some understanding of the rationale went into something that has been successful. The District needs to articulate through narratives and to celebrate its accomplishments.

One member felt that the data showed that there is an issue with students not serving their Plastco detentions and that the administration needs to bring forth a recommendation as to how to fix that problem.

Discussion ensued regarding how a student goes from an In-school Suspension to an Out of School Suspension in Class I. Mr. Rouse stated that it is based on the numbers. The Parent Student Advisory committee brought forward changes to the *Code of Conduct*, highlighting the areas needing stronger consequences.

#### **Board Committee**

Mr. Phelan brought this topic forward as a result of concerns expressed by the chairs of the committees about not being able to speak with other committee members because the Open Meetings Act (OMA) does not allow two members of a three-member committee to speak about the committee's business to each other as that constitutes a majority of a quorum. There is lack of clarity on what is public business. Two committee members of a 3-member committee are not allowed to discuss what goes on an agenda. A solution would be for the superintendent and the president to assign subjects to a committee if they were not already calendared for a committee. Mr.

Phelan spoke with the District's attorney and provided such a scenario with which the attorney concurred.

The Board of Education received a flow chart of the business before the board, how a new matter would get before the Board of Education, and how it ultimately turns into action or no action. Bigger picture charts were included to show the current process regarding annual calendar items and what is assigned to the superintendent.

The example was given of an item that the Board of Education wanted the District to incorporate in the administration. The Board of Education changes policy and the way to do that is to write an amendment and assign a committee to determine the cost, disruption, etc. The Committee would determine if it were worthy or not.

Dr. Lee was concerned about the accuracy of the current state of the policies as he felt that the way the policies were now written, the superintendent and Board of Education president could kill a proposal made by another board member, in spite of the fact that six of the Board of Education members might support it. If a member raises an issue under new business in the form of a motion and there is no second, then the issue is dead. Mr. Phelan noted that the intent is for the Board of Education president to control the regular meeting agenda and the Committee chairs to control their agendas.

Policy made it possible for a Board member to raise an issue under new business in the form of a motion. If there were no second, however, the issue would be dead. If a majority of the Board feels that something is worthy of discussion, then the Board can decide to put it on the agenda. Current policies allow a majority of the Board to be the last word in determining what is on future agendas. It was noted that Policy 2:20 gives the president responsibility for focusing on Board meeting agendas and appropriate content. Any Board member may submit suggested agenda items for consideration. A thorough review will show that the majority of the Board of Education have the power to influence what goes on the agenda, although not immediately. Dr. Lee agreed that the board president and superintendent had authority over the total agenda, but he did not believe they have the authority in perpetuity to do so against the wishes of the majority of the board.

Discussion ensued about getting things on an agenda. Dr. Lee remembered having "New Business" on agendas, which allowed Board of Education members to bring up new ideas. The procedures could allow the superintendent and board president from bringing an agenda item forward to the whole board. An amendment to the policy could be made so that the focus and direction remain clear.

When action items are forwarded to the Board of Education it is important for committees to take a vote and to determine whether it should be on the consent or the action portion of the agenda.

If any Board of Education members have an interest in Roberts Rules of Order training, they can email a request for and the District may be some videotapes, etc.

At 10:02 p.m., the Board of Education recessed its open session to resume its closed session, which started at 10:10 p.m. At 11:38 p.m., the Board of Education resumed open session.

**Student Discipline**

Mr. Phelan moved to charge Student RES 11-21-13-2 tuition consistent with the hearing officer's findings of the per capita tuition rate of \$19,157.23, or \$108.23 per day, for 51 school days beginning August 20, 2013 through October 31, 2013. The student will be eligible to remain in Oak Park and River Forest High School for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year, based upon the student being an Oak Park resident for 16 years and based upon the new lease agreement, with follow-up monitoring; seconded by Dr. Moore. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Mr. Phelan moved to Expel Student EXP 11-21-13-1 through second semester of the 2014-15 school year, held in abeyance, pending successful completion of district approved drug counseling. In addition, the student is required to have successfully completed educational programming at agreed upon alternative education site recommended by OPRF. THE PSS Team and Special Education department will review placement to determine if the student is passing all classes and without discipline and/or attendance incidents near the end of the second semester of the 2013-14 school year to determine further outcomes relative to student's alternative placement; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

At 11:50 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2013, Dr. Lee moved to adjourn this meeting; seconded by Mr. Cofsky. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Dr. Jackie Moore  
Secretary

By Gail Kalmerton  
Clerk of the Board