

May 28, 2015

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, May 28, 2015, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

Call to Order

President Weissglass called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A roll call indicated the following Board of Education members were present: Fred Arkin, Jennifer Cassell, Thomas F. Cofsky, Dr. Steven Gevinson, Dr. Jackie Moore, Sara Dixon Spivy, and Jeff Weissglass. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; David Ruhland, Director of Human Resources, and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant Clerk of the Board.

Closed Session

At 6:37 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 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; seconded by Dr. Moore. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:38 p.m., the Board of Education resumed open session.

Joining the meeting were Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Official; 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; Dr. Gwen Walker-Qualls, Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services; David Ruhland, Director of Human Resources; Karin Sullivan, Director of Communications and Community Relations; Annika Holdeboer, Student Council Liaison Representative; and Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair.

Visitors

Robert Zummallen, OPRFHS Construction Manager; Andrea Neuman and Avi Lessing, OPRFHS faculty members; Tom McMullen of the HAY Group; and Steven Jackson of the Oak Park Township.

Public Comments

Steven Jackson, resident of 7204 Oak, River Forest, spoke in support of Restorative Justice and Community Mentoring and the importance of interconnectedness.

**Hearing on
Amended Budget**

At 7:42 p.m., Mr. Weissglass called a Public Hearing to order on Thursday, May 28, 2015, about the Oak Park and River Forest High School 2014-2015 Amended Budget. This amended budget was placed on display for public inspection on April 24, 2015 for 30 days per state code. Notice of this Public Hearing appeared in the Wednesday, April 22, 2015 edition of the *Wednesday Journal* Newspaper and the Thursday, April 23, 2015 edition of the *Oak Leaves Newspaper*. He asked for any written or oral comments to be received.

Hearing none, at 7:44, p.m., Mr. Weissglass closed the hearing.

FOIA Requests	Ms. Kalmerton reported that 6 FOIA requests had been received and 6 were resolved.
Faculty Report	Ms. Hardin, welcomed new Board of Education members, noting that she looked forward to working with them and the more experienced board members. She acknowledged the 16 people retiring from all parts of the building noting that their perspectives were just as valued as those just beginning their career at OPRFHS.
Superintendent's Report	<p>Dr. Isoye reported the following:</p> <p>In its annual listing of best schools in the United States, "U.S. News & World Report" ranked OPRF number 19 in the state, out of 131 Illinois high schools that made the list.</p> <p>Roughly 250 students were honored at the 2015 Outstanding Improvement and Human Relations Awards. Those students had raised their overall grade point average at least one full point during first semester, while Human Relations winners were nominated by faculty and staff for positively affecting OPRF's school culture.</p> <p>Every spring members of the English division choose student heroes and hold a reception to honor them. This year 35 heroes were honored.</p> <p>"All about That Pride," a new student-created school-pride video, beat out 60 competitors to win first place music video at the Chicagoland Television Educators Council's annual festival. The video has received more than 25,000 hits on YouTube and can be viewed at AllAboutThatPride.com.</p> <p>Out of 4,800 entries from grades K-12, Grace Fox won first place in the Ninth Annual Metra Safety Poster Contest. Sebastien Johnson placed second, and Johana Oldach placed third.</p> <p>The 2015 OPRF Shakespeare Slam team beat 30 schools to take first place in Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's Battle of the Bard. The team performed the first scene of "Taming of the Shrew" and a seven-play ensemble mash-up piece entitled "The Seven Ages of Shakespeare."</p> <p>Students Rosaline Zucker, Marta Cortinovis, Kevin Farrell, Edoardo Catale, Sean Pawelko, and Jakob Zagone received the commendation summa cum laude and a gold medal on the National Latin Exam.</p> <p>Eliot Mack won two awards at the National Council for Education in the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) for his bamboo and ceramic teapot, a juried show at which it is an exceptional honor to exhibit. The award also honored his art teacher, Pennie Ebsen.</p> <p>Senior Nora Kraft is one of the 12 finalists for the Broadway in Chicago Awards for her role as Reno Sweeney in the OPRF production of "Anything Goes." On June 1, she will compete against the best musical theatre actors in the state.</p>

Sophomore Ted Loewenthal finished first and senior Marlena Wadley finished third in the national Sarah Mook Poetry Contest in the grade 9-12 division.

Marlena Wadley was a gold medal finalist for poetry/performance and a bronze medal winner for poetry/written in the NAACP Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, or ACTSO. She will compete this summer at the national level. In addition, Briana Williams won a bronze medal in the oratory competition.

Jordin Hale signed her National Letter of Intent to play water polo at Iona College.

Girls' track tied for third at the state meet. Norma Abdur-Rafia (also known as Amy Hill's daughter) was the first athlete in OPRF history to win four all-state medals in one meet. Norma and teammates Myia Jones, Komiyah Martin, and Chisom Nwoko won the 800-meter relay; among them, the girls broke every school record and scored the most points in OPRFHS girls' track history.

Both Boys' track and Boys' tennis won their sectional tournaments and will compete at the state tournaments.

Seventy-eight senior girls attended the free Self-Defense Conference on May 28, which was organized by OPRF physical education teachers to prepare girls for post-high school by reviewing self-defense skills, self-defense and assault laws, resources, and personal safety tactics in cities and college campuses.

And finally, baseball and softball both won their West Suburban conference championships. Baseball hosts its regional meet, while softball is seeded No. 2 in its sectional match.

The following consent items were removed from the consent agenda:

- D. Leadership, Co-curricular, Extracurricular, Athletic, and Activity Stipend Positions.

Consent Items

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the following consent items:

- Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated May 28, 2015
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- Monthly Financial Reports
- Hotel Contract for Prom 2016
- NIIPC Rollover of Primary Vendor and Bread Supplier Contract
- Resolution to Appoint School Treasurer
- Audit Engagement Letter
- Provisional Texts for Adoption
- Personnel Recommendations including New Hires, Recognition of Teachers for Tenure, Resignations, and Leave of Absence
- Amended Budget FY 2015
- Abatement of Emergency Days for FY 2015
- Policies for First Reading
 - Policy 4:45 Insufficient Checks and Debt Recovery
 - Policy 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program

- Open and Closed Session Minutes of April 30 (retiring and organizational), May 5 and 18, 2015 and a declaration that the closed session audiotapes of November 2013 be destroyed.

seconded by Dr. Gevinson. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Leadership, Extra-Curricular, Athletic, And Activity Stipends

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the Leadership Extracurricular, Athletic, and Activity Stipends, seconded by Dr. Moore.

It was noted that the number of coaches hired is determined by the number of students participating, contact time, length of season, amount of traveling, amount of equipment, number of practices, etc. A Stipend Committee composed of 3 administrator and 3 faculty members reviews the justification for any increases. While the budgeted amount for stipends was under by \$37,000 this year, the District requested an increase in the number of stipends because Appendix C of the Faculty Senate CBA lists the negotiated stipends for the various extracurriculars with levels assigned. This number increases each year because of increasing enrollment.

It was noted that students were not interested in Peer Mediation and, thus, no stipend was included.

A roll call vote resulted in 5 ayes and 2 nays. Dr. Gevinson and Mr. Cofsky voted nay. Motion carried.

SEL Team Proposal

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the proposal from the Social Emotional Learning Implementation Team for a non-evaluative SEL Coach; seconded by Ms. Spivy. Discussion ensued.

OPRFHS Andrea Neuman and Avi Lessing are the co-leaders for the SEL Implementation Team and reviewed the proposal in the packet. The proposal is for a .4 SEL coach to go into the classroom to coach teachers on SEL strategies, i.e., how to find adaptive solutions for bringing more connection, more communication skills, empathy, self-awareness, etc. In addition, it is about helping teachers build upon where students are, i.e., their identities, their life stories and interaction, etc.

This proposal had gone through the Implementation Team and the Oversight Committee and to the Strategic Plan Operation Committee before the election. Afterwards it went back to Oversight and the Strategic Plan Operation Committee, which was the same path used for the peer mentoring program.

A .4 position was being requested at this time because it was being considered a pilot program. This summer an evaluation tool/matrix will be created around teacher goals, the number of behavioral incidents, students' connectiveness with each other, engagement in one-to-one conversations, collaboration, observable skills around communication, etc. Teachers may use that tool in their own curriculum for both qualitative and quantitative data. Students monitoring of each other's behaviors also appears in the Danielson model. The assumption is that if it is observable, then teacher can reflect and aspire to it. A

concern was raised that a .4 might be too modest to be transformative. Dr. Moore moved to amend the FTE to .6 for the SEL coach; seconded by Mr. Arkin. Discussion ensued.

The proposal of a .4 FTE came from the experience of literacy coaching and the number of teachers being reached. A .4 FTE will allow the District to see the program's efficacy. Competing proposals also exist and it also has to do with time and space. Based on the process of the Oversight Committee, the involvement of Faculty Senate, and other instructional things, it was felt that a .4 FTE was the best and the most realistic approach.

The Board of Education was reminded that the administration had earmarked this position in the Strategic Plan in the non-instructional proposal that came forward in April. Two more positions were also earmarked: one of which has not yet come forward and the other is the testing coordinator. A .6 FTE would equate to a fulltime position and that would alter what is being done in the divisions. A supervisor has yet to be assigned nor has administrative support for data collecting. A question arose as to whether a supervisor was even needed.

Dr. Moore withdrew her motion to amend the original motion.

A roll call vote on the original motion resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Parent Teacher
Advisory
Committee
Recommendations**

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the recommendations of the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee, as presented; seconded by Ms. Spivy.

It was noted that recommendations 3, 4, and 5 were a more proactive approach to understanding student issues and thus were preventive. Any student assigned an In-school Suspension (ISS) would see a social worker. One member felt that assigning a detention or an ISS because of tardiness or an unexcused absence was being counterintuitive, as it was keeping students out of class. Questions arose as to the actual role of the Parent/Teacher Advisory Committee: While this committee is established by statute, the question is, Can it do more?

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

**Summer
Construction 2016**

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the 2016 Summer Capital Improvements in the amount of \$4,309,866, as presented; seconded by Mr. Cofsky.

The proposal was reviewed. The newest security cameras were purchased in 2009. The District is switching to IP cameras, which are clearer, have more storage, and more viewing space, etc. As with other technology, the sound system has aged in the auditorium and is being affected by cell phone interference.

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

**Student Discipline
Retreat Update**

On December 6, 2014, the Board of Education held a retreat on student discipline. The retreat was facilitated by Richard Gray of the Annenberg

Chicago VOYCE	Institute for School Reform in New York City, and Greg Hodge of Khepera Consulting in Oakland, CA. As a result of the retreat, the consultants generated a memorandum setting forth recommendations for the Board of Education moving forward. Based upon the discussion from the retreat, a short discussion in January and a reconvening of the topic at the Policy Evaluation and Goals Committee in February, there was a desire to pursue the recommendations with respect to student voice and engagement.
	The memorandum provided the names of local and national resources to consider speaking with in regards to the organizing and undertaking of such a student event. On Friday, March 6, 2015, Dr. Moore, Mr. Ruhland and Dr. Isoye met with Jose Sanchez from Chicago VOYCE and conferred in Richard Gray and Alexa LeBoeuf from the Annenberg Institute. Based on the meeting and desire to convene a student retreat as a step toward the goal of a student-centered voice in addressing the issues raised in the December retreat, the District requested that Chicago VOYCE provide a proposal on how it might be able to assist the District with this project.
	Since March, two opportunities have occurred where OPRFHS students could work with Chicago VOYCE. A group of students attended a student-led event held by the Chicago Public Schools on Saturday, May 2, at Malcolm X College. They heard several keynote speakers and then they went into various breakout sessions. On May 9, approximately 20 students met with Jose Sanchez and an associate to begin to discuss what a student-led event at OPRFHS could look like. Planning meetings will be scheduled this summer.
Restorative Justice	Per the Instruction Committee discussion on Restorative Justice, the committee recommended that the Board of Education consider holding a half-day retreat to learn about and discuss restorative justice measures and practices. Discussion ensued about the Board of Education also participating in a discussion about race and Dr. Moore would explore how to do that in a closed session. She also had other resources for the Board of Education to explore relative to Restorative Justice and they might be resources for the entire community.
Classroom Walkthrough Update	The Instruction Committee recommended forwarding the update on classroom walkthroughs to the full Board of Education, as presented.
	While a question was raised as to whether classroom walkthroughs would be discontinued if the District elected to implement a Testa-like program, it was noted that having two processes of teachers entering classrooms would feel redundant.
Reading Report	The Instruction Committee recommended forwarding the annual update on the Reading Program. Discussion ensued. A question was raised as to how much money was spent per student on Read 180. One member favored thinking comprehensively and systematically about how resources are allocated over the general program and also suggested conducting an external audit of reading program. The Read 180 Program was implemented in the District through a systematic approach. A committee composed of faculty and administrators brought it to the Board of Education. The program has since grown. At that

time, the Board of Education made the choice to make reading and literacy a goal.

Students at an appropriate lexile at a certain level are not retested. Students placed in a strategic level or intensive level are reassessed.

One member noted that OPRFHS does not have a writing and resource center as do some other schools. The administration stated that at the time that Read 180 was implemented, few reading programs existed and this program has not been reassessed as to best practices, etc.

Contract Services With MENTA

The Instruction Committee recommended forwarding the report on Contract Services with MENTA for the 2015-16 School Year on to the full Board of Education as an informational item. A contract may be forthcoming in August. A local building has to be identified in the community. Other providers have been informed that OPRFHS's involvement in their schools may change. Reasons for the change in venue is that 1) the present providers have moved further away and it is difficult for students to travel there and 2) questions have risen about curriculum. MENTA would align their curriculum with that of OPRFHS. OPRFHS has also had a relationship with it for the past 2 years with regard to special needs students. During those 2 years, MENTA has been responsive to the District, the students and the families. MENTA will provide therapeutic counseling to students where it is mandated in their IEP's. Success will be measured by student credit attainment, college and career readiness skills, job placement, and the mapping of the students' lives.

CommUnity Mentoring

The Strategic Plan Operation Committee recommended that the proposal for CommUnity Mentoring be moved forward to the full Board of Education for information only. The purpose of this proposal is to create a sense of belonging for students who do not feel a sense of connection with the school for a variety of reasons through a focused and deliberate mentoring of students who might not receive active, positive school-based supports.

A faculty/staff member will be the liaison between Mr. Steve Jackson, who works for the Township, and the school to recruit teachers and identify the correct students (approximately 15 students and teachers have been identified). This role will be support in finding space, accessing the network, etc. The program will start during the summer with the development of handbooks, evaluations of the adult role, development of paperwork protocols for internal staff and coordination of SEL services with various entities. In addition, there will be group gatherings, etc.

Closed Session

At 10:20 p.m., on Thursday, May 28, 2015, the Board of Education resumed closed session and at 11:26 it resumed open session.

Adjournment

At 11:27 p.m., on Thursday, May 28, 2015, Mr. Weissglass moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Mr. Cofsky. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Jeff Weissglass
President

Sara Dixon Spivy
Secretary