

January 26, 2017

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, January 26, 2017, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

Call to Order

President Weissglass called the meeting to order at 6:39 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 Spivy, and Jeff Weissglass. Also present were Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent; Brenda Horton, Director of Human Resources; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Closed Session

At 6:40 p.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2017, 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 and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); and 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 Ms. Cassell. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:31 p.m., the Board of Education resumed its open session.

Joining the meeting were Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Dr. Gwen Walker-Qualls, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Karin Sullivan, Director of Communications and Community Relations;

Visitors

Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; Clyde Lundgren, Joyce Gajda, OPRFHS faculty, Michele and Albert Anderson, Jane Angstrom, Adam Bader, Chris Byer, Alec Cepak, Karen and Jackie Cofsky, Rebecca, Patrick & Connor Callahan, Robin & Julie Cozette, Jack Davidson, Sharon and Conor Davis, Suzanna Decker, John Denly, John Duffy, Mark Fields, Jeff Fourman, Michelle and Tom Gill, Legacy Grey, Craig Iseli, Jeff Dennis, Jordyn Johnson, Maria Kent, Tim Kirkpatrick, Anna Maleic, Anna Masella, Karen and Anne Moore, Diane and Samm Neilson, Tanya Prewitt-White, O. Quinten, Kellianne Sasset, Marian Sasset, Martha Scott, Doug Springer, Bill Stapleton, Kellianne Stenger, Brigid Sullivan, Megan and Mary Pat Sullivan, Pamela Thompson, Carol & Natalie Ungaretti, George Vasquez, Katie Weimann, Ken Woods, Greg and Kathleen Schrobilgen, and Kathy & Anika Wyman, community members; Mary Haley of the League of Women Voters; Leeland Anderson, Sydney Gillette, J. Johnson, Ursula Riess, Kelly Sandoval, Matt Schiffner, Megan Sullivan, William and Patrick Sullivan, and Veronica Thomas,

students; Steve Schering of the Oak Leaves.

**Swimmers
Recognition**

The Board of Education congratulated the following swimmers and their coaches, Clyde Lundgren and Joyce Gajda in the following accomplishments:

200 Medley Relay – State Champions (All-American)

Hanna Blankemeier, Alex Gill, Samantha M. Neilson, and Natalie Ungaretti

50 Freestyle – State Champion (New School Record and All-American)

Natalie Ungaretti

100 Freestyle – 2nd place (Freshman/Sophomore Record and All-American Consideration)

Natalie Ungaretti

**Public
Comments**

Mr. Weissglass noted that the Board of Education has thought much about free speech and the great right of the first amendment to address and re-address grievances, and school districts allow that to happen with public comment. He asked that public comments be kept to a maximum of 3 minutes for each person and not to repeat points that had already been made in-depth. While understanding that there are some very sensitive and disconcerting issues at the school, particularly around sexual misconduct and sexual harassment, it is important to refrain from discussing specifics in open session. The Board of Education cannot discuss items of discipline, litigation or personnel in open session. It is the Board's practice to listen and reflect on what is said; however, no response will be made at this time. If facts can be provided, they will be provided at a later time.

Greg Schrobilgen thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to speak about a grave miscarriage of justice and urge that Superintendent Pruitt-Adams and members of the District 200 School Board take immediate action to rectify. He stated that it was the wrongful termination of tenured special education teacher and assistant girls' cross country coach and boys' high jump coach, Danielle Dobias. Although her status was changed just this week to suspension without pay, on December 22nd, the Board of Education terminated her for "insubordination" for not attending meetings last fall after the school failed to inform her of them in a timely fashion. He continued to say that the treatment of her was unacceptable. Since 2012, administrators have engaged in a campaign of bullying, harassment, and retaliation against this exemplary special education teacher and coach, who had a decade of positive reviews. It is clear the mistreatment of Ms. Dobias is the result of her refusal to reciprocate a romantic interest of the girls' head cross country coach and behavioral interventionist at OPRF. The head coach's bizarre behavior towards Ms. Dobias is documented as far back as 2011 when he named her the most valuable player at the girls' cross country team banquet. It was inappropriate for him to have given the M-V-P award to a fellow coach. His action was and should have served as a red flag to the athletic director and the administration. Likewise, giving her the first negative coaching review and then firing her from her assistant coaching position should also have signaled a problem to the athletic director.

Nothing happened when parents and students repeatedly brought concerns about the head coach to the athletic director, the principal, the former superintendent and former human Resources director. No inquiry was conducted, no follow up with students and parents, no meaningful action was taken regarding the serious issues raised against the head coach, even after school officials learned that he used to school email to send a pornographic screenplay to a cross country parent. Later, when Mr. Schrobilgen, his wife, and other parents reported on the head coach's retaliatory accusations against Ms. Dobias regarding her behavior at 2 cross country meets were patently false, no one seemed to care. It was stated that there was no case and everything had been dismissed. Why weren't the administration concerned about an employee's outright dishonesty? As the behavior interventionist, he continued to retaliate by failing to provide necessary support in that role. He then refused to participate in the recommended peer mediation, with which Ms. Dobias was willing to comply.

Ms. Kathleen Schrobilgen continued that due to the failure of the administration and the school board to act responsibly and equitably, Ms. Dobias was forced to file a sexual harassment and defamation of character lawsuits against the head coach, the athletic director, and the high school. Both cases are pending. On June 23, 2016, the Illinois Appellate Court reversed a lower court ruling and remanded the defamation of character lawsuit. It is a simple matter to connect the dots between the sexual harassment lawsuit, the recently reinstated defamation of character lawsuit and the wrongful termination and now suspension without pay, of Ms. Dobias. These concerns were brought to the Board of Education on repeated occasions beginning in 2013 and until as recently as this past November.

Ms. Dobias was on a school-approved leave of absence for the 2015-2016 school year. Just two weeks before she was to return to work in August she received a letter from the Principal stating that she was suspended with pay. This District action failed to follow Board policy 5.240 which states "The Superintendent shall meet with the employee to present allegations and to give an employee an opportunity to refute the charges. The employee will be told the dates and time the suspension will begin and end." The principal sent Ms. Dobias a letter, simply informing her of the suspension and broadly ordered her not to communicate or have any contact with any current or former students of OPRFHS or their families until further notice. Because of the termination, Ms. Dobias' insurance expired on December 31 and the school delayed sending her the COBRA paperwork until just 2 days ago, January 24. The school administrators have repeatedly failed to follow policy and procedure. There is no question that the school's willful violation of policy is aimed at harassing and discrediting her.

One thing we know, as members of a community that values "all things that are best," is that it is never too late to start doing the right thing.

Last week, Superintendent Pruitt-Adams sent a letter to the school community regarding a bullying response to a recent alleged sexual assault by some of the school's athletes. Her letter stated the school's desire to "strive to be open and transparent" and reinforced that "bullying and harassment are unacceptable and will not be tolerated." Surely this policy extends to the administration.

This lawsuit, which has wasted taxpayers' dollars on unnecessary legal fees and exposed the money to hefty lawsuit payouts, could have been avoided if the athletic director and the principal had responsibly and equitably upheld their supervisory duties. Instead, bullying was rewarded.

Ms. Dobias only wanted to teach and coach, and for 10 years she did both of these things with excellence. The superintendent and the members of the school board were called on to scrutinize the performance of the leaders responsible for creating this situation and a hostile environment for Ms. Dobias. Ms. Sullivan asked that the Board of Education review the evidence, reinstate Ms. Dobias to her special education teaching position and remove the head coach of the girls' cross country team. She asked them to do the right thing and thanked them in advance for their time and effort in rectifying this gross injustice.

Megan Sullivan, a former student, spoke in support of Ms. Dobias. During Ms. Sullivan's freshman year at OPRFHS, Ms. Dobias was kind-hearted, young, willing to help, etc. Ms. Sullivan had never had a teacher as nice and as caring before, she made school less stressful. She learned many skills in her elements of reading class and now she reads all the time. Ms. Dobias is a great teacher. Ms. Dobias was her mentor during high school. She was always smiling and made everyone happy all of the time. And she helped her understand school better. Ms. Dobias had responded to her email that she could not talk with her because of the lawsuit. That is sad. And she was sad because she no longer had Ms. Dobias as a teacher or a mentor.

Jordyn Johnson spoke on behalf of her former teacher Ms. Dobias saying how lucky she was to have had two wonderful human beings as mentors who had helped her persevere through hardships. Her mentor taught him to be confident in everything she does. She was told that not everyone had to be a perfectionist and that everyone has their strengths and weaknesses. Throughout those conversations, she learned to love herself and to think more positively. Her mentor was one of the reasons she began doing cross country and learned not to give up. From being on the cross-country team, she learned that she can count on others. Running became a coping mechanism for her and it helped her both physically and mentally. Even though Ms. Dobias was not her teacher her junior and senior years, she continued to offer advice. She has gone from being a caterpillar to a butterfly over these past years. The beginning of her junior year, she had heard rumors from her peers that her mentor was fired from coaching and teaching. The head coach would not respond as to why. Ms. Johnson found an article from the Cook County Recorder about her accusing this coach of sexual harassment. Ms. Dobias told her not to talk about as she was not allowed to talk about it. She read the *Wednesday Journal* July 2015 article about OPRF employees hit with a federal lawsuit. During this situation, she believed that her coach acted professional. He asked:

1. Had OPRFHS HR Department investigated the head coach due to the sexual harassment complaint?
2. Why was the head coach still working at OPRF while Ms. Dobias had been fired?

OPRFHS has lost one of its top teachers and coaches.

Conor Davis also spoke in support of Ms. Dobias. He had been placed in self-contained classes during high school and during that time, he was conflicted by many personal issues. He struggled with these issues and on multiple occasions. He had planned to drop out of high school. He had turned to alternative methods of coping with his problems for a while which led to many negative effects. Ms. Dobias, who is by far the toughest teacher I had, was, in truth, the only influence that he felt had reached him. The guidance he received from her wasn't always what he wanted to hear, but it was what he ultimately needed to hear. It helped him overcome the issues he was experiencing, and likewise prepared him for the realities of life and adulthood. It was clear that he was not the only student who had been effectively influenced by the guidance of Ms. Dobias. He strongly believed that in many cases guidance from a teacher, a coach, or anybody who possesses a daily presence in one's life is far more effective than a social worker. To this day, he still thinks of her as the strongest mentor he has ever had. He was able to live past those moments that felt as if everything was ending, and he strongly believes that wouldn't be the case if it hadn't been for the impact Ms. Dobias had on his life. She deserves a significant amount of credit for the person he had become.

Anna Massella, a graduate of 2013, also spoke in support of Ms. Dobias. When she had first started at OPRF, she was anxious, depressed and trying to manage a learning disability. Ms. Dobias saw all that and pushed her when she needed to be pushed, let her cry in her classroom during her lunches, and spent extra time helping her with subjects she did not understand. Without Ms. Dobias' help, she would not be thriving today. After graduation, Ms. Dobias helped her to further better herself, by using her vast network to connect her with people to help further her knowledge and education. She has consistently pushed and inspired her to be the best version of herself. OPRFHS' motto is "Those Things That are Best". Ms. Dobias is a clear representation of this motto. She hoped "Those Things That are Best" will include empathy and integrity, such as what she was shown by Ms. Dobias instead of sexism and indifference. She hates to think of how she and other students would have fared had Ms. Dobias not been her teacher.

Joseph McGregor, class of 2008, spoke in defense of his high jump coach his junior and senior years. The change Ms. Dobias brought to the track was night and day. She taught techniques and gave workouts that brought the team from mediocrity in the conference to eventually winning state. Personally, Ms. Dobias inspired me to take the required steps to become a track coach myself. She gave us the discipline to excel on the track and in the classroom and she helped us to be better students as well as athletes.

Kelly Ann Stenger represented her 2014 daughter and read some comments in support of Ms. Dobias. She had been a cross country runner since sixth grade. She was no athlete until she had met Coach Dobias. Ms. Dobias taught her what it meant to be a runner, a teammate and to persevere. She sparked motivation and passion for cross country and which led to her being team captain, and her ability to achieve personal records. Ms. Dobias' belief in her brought belief in herself. Walking into OPRFHS is overwhelming. Coach Dobias has an interest

in the individual. She was connected and she brought out the best in each team member. The team was told many stories as to why she was absent. OPRFHS lost the coach who knew the runners better than they knew themselves. No one knows the impact that Ms. Dobias had on her and how she views herself.

Jeff Dennis had five children graduate from OPRFHS and four of them ran cross country. He read a letter from is one child who is a senior at Ohio State. “When I think of Ms. Dobias, I think of the most passionate, sacrificing a person, who fought for her on cross country, yoga practice, wrote recommendation letters for her. Ms. Dobias knew and loved my family and took the time to help me. Ms. Dobias walks in the statute of wisdom and kindness and is not self-seeking; everyone is welcome and wanted. This woman means much to me and my family.”

Brigid Sullivan spoke in support of Ms. Dobias. She read a letter from someone on the cross country team from 2010 to 2014 who had been confused when Ms. Dobias was fired as the coach. Her coaching and role modeling was undoubtedly the most valuable coaching this person had received from the coaching staff. Ms. Dobias did not deserve to lose her position as she had done nothing wrong and this is a mishandled case of sexual harassment. Also, the head coach does not deserve to be coaching. He hoped that OPRFHS would remove him from the position and make the apologies to Ms. Dobias, and show some of the integrity that has been instilled in this person in his four years at the high school.

Susanna Decker read a statement from her son, Jacob, 2012. “My name is Jacob Decker, and I was a student at OPRF from 2008 to 2012. I ran cross-country and track, and I feel fortunate to say that Ms. Danielle Dobias, known to all of the runners as Ms. D., was my coach during this time and has been my mentor, in both a personal and professional capacity, ever since. Ms. D. naturally fosters this sort of bond with all of her students and athletes because she treats everyone with a sense of mutual respect and challenges those around her to be their best selves.

“After graduating from OPRF, I attended the University of Michigan, and during my sophomore year, I took a semester off of school to deal with mental health and substance abuse issues. When I returned to Oak Park, I could always count on Ms. D. to be a resource for me to successfully navigate these issues and return to school with healthy coping mechanisms that enabled me to pursue my degree and realize my full potential. I now work in Seattle at a non-profit organization that does cutting edge research on the pathology of cancer and offers state of the art cancer treatment to patients across the country. Going to college, I used Ms. D. as a reference on many job applications, and always, I was quickly met with a text from her expressing her excitement at the opportunity and her encouragement to pursue larger and larger endeavors. I’m sure that I’m not the only one who has used Ms. D. as a reference, because she challenged everyone around her to chase his or her dreams, and she always followed through on her promise to vouch for the character and work ethic of the students and athletes that she mentored.

“This is just my story, but I know there are many other OPRF students that Ms. D. empowered to fulfill their potential and helped to overcome any obstacles that befell them, during her tenure. Ms. D. was so much more than just a teacher or

coach. She not only challenged her students and athletes to achieve excellence in the classroom and on the track, but she pushed those around her to be informed global citizens and to live their lives with the candor and integrity that she exemplifies daily. Upon hearing of this case, I felt compelled to write something that could serve as a testament to Ms. D.'s character and her positive influence as an educator and coach. But beyond what I've written here, I urge you, members of the School Board, to instead look at the many OPRF students that, with Ms. D.'s mentorship, endeavor to pursue their dreams. Because I can say with confidence that the students and athletes that had the privilege of having a relationship with Ms. D. have been inspired to live their lives with purpose and to fulfill their potentials beyond limits that they once only dreamt of."

Mary Pat Sullivan read a letter from Joseph Geoghegan ('Duke'). Mr. Geoghegan and his wife are thirty-one-year residents of Oak Park. He could not be at the meeting because of business commitments to personally share his comments in support of Ms. Dobias. "Three of our now grown children have graduated from OPRF High School, gone on to get degrees at three different universities, and have entered society with professional careers. One of those has gone on to teach, often citing the influence of teachers and coaches from OPRF, as the most significant factor in his career choice. "As a parent, the value of those teachers and coaches who provided influence has been incredible. Our teenager received guidance, motivation, and a lesson in community responsibility from the coaching staff...one of whom was Danielle Dobias.

"The motivation and lessons provided to our athlete, were so powerful, that I felt I owed a significant level of involvement (community responsibility), volunteering to help at events, meets, and competitions for OPRF, whenever I could (my work involves significant travel), following the graduation of our children. At these various events, I saw up close, the dedication of the coaching staff, to the growth and success of each individual on the team. As indicated, Danielle Dobias was one of those dedicated coaches.

"It appears that Danielle Dobias has been presented with a unique reward for years of dedication and service to so many who have passed thru OPRF as athletes, and as students. What has been called 'witch hunt' by an independent judge, has certainly put so many who benefitted from her service, at extreme odds with the biased handling of her case at OPRF. She is being addressed differently, and much more severely than others involved in this issue ... a clear and distinct 'wrong'. I stand in support of Danielle, and would request that the OPRF Board do the right thing."

Katie Weimann, an international education advisor and international program consultant for the American Council for International Studies asked the Board of Education to adopt being a safe-haven school to the full extent of the law. She hoped that OPRFHS would become one of the first to take this step to protect the most vulnerable community.

Tanya Prewitt-White stated that she had moved to Oak Park in August, attends Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church, a congregation committed consciousness-raising and she is a woman who has made a career of examining social justice in sport, including the rape culture. She made the following

statement: “I began following the alleged sexual assault that occurred at an OPRF wrestling party shortly after I moved to Oak Park. As a mother of a young son and one who moved to Oak Park for the great schools, I couldn't stand by without voicing my concerns. I want to be proud to send my son to this school in 13 years. I first want to thank the Board agreeing to look into a complete overhaul of the current sexual misconduct policy.

“I would like to highlight specific areas where the policy could be improved.

- 1) The rights of the alleged victim are never highlighted in the current Policy. For example, the fact that all those coming forward will be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion, have a right to sexual assault counseling and that sexual misconduct of any form is a violation of the student's rights and is emotionally and physically traumatic.
- 2) A clear procedure for victims to follow is paramount. Students who want to report a sexual misconduct should have outlined for them the following:
 - A. Medical treatment necessary
 - B. Reporting policies – putting the incident on record is different from filing charges
 - C. Counseling available
 - D. Academic support and/or accommodations
 - E. All other support services available
- 3) Individuals bringing forth an alleged sexual assault need to be provided information regarding mandatory reporters, confidential reporting, their protection from retaliation, and the need for “duty of honesty” rather than “false allegations or accusations”. The threat of punishment brings additional fear and shame to a survivor mustering the courage to come forward.

“It's important we know statistically speaking 63 percent of sexual assaults are never reported since victims commonly struggle with a range of emotions making it difficult for them to disclose or report abuse. The prevalence of false reporting of cases is very low. In addition, only 2 – 5% of all sexual assaults are false reports.

“Additionally, it is important we understand that to be classified as a false allegations/accusations it simply cannot be proven that a sexual assault occurred. Determining whether rapes are real is intensely entangled in rape myths that blame victims, excuse rapists and erroneously support that false rape claims are a common problem.” In this light, the language in the current policy regarding false allegations needs to be revised and/or eliminated. As it currently is written, it can be assumed that the victims are not victims rather liars who want to harm others. This notion only further perpetuates the rape culture present in academic institutions, sport, and society.

- 4) There needs to be outlined steps to protect the victim/alleged victim while it is being determined if evidence exists to warrant a formal investigation, while an investigation is in the process and/or following an investigation. I would suggest there is a statement that the school and the district prohibit retaliation against an individual who reports an actual, potential or suspected violation of the sexual misconduct policy.

“Thank you for listening to my concerns. I welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the district in improving a policy that outlines sexual misconduct procedures, educates our children and protects both our girls and boys. Sexual misconduct hurts all of us in the community and society. I hope to be part of the solution – we are in this together.”

John Duffy, chair of the Equity Excellence in Education (CEEE), member of APPLE, Suburban Unity Alliance, the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, and the task force on teaching and learning, appreciated the response the Board of Education had to the visit to Evanston Township High School to explore detracking. The minutes of the December 22, 2016, Board of Education meeting showed that it appeared to be offering a consensus to move forward in developing and applying what was learned at ETHS to determine how its efforts and success might inform the work at OPRFHS around curriculum equity. He ask that the Board of Education continue that discussion. Mr. Duffy also noted that APPLE, CEE, and SUA presented suggestions for planning a District 200 inquiry into designing a pilot alternative curriculum that would combine traditional honors and college preparatory students. He thought it would be a thoughtful, deliberate and accountable way to design more equitable learning opportunities and outcomes for all students.

Patrick Callahan, representing the Andersons and the Sullivans, reported that a request had been made for OPRFHS to include men’s gymnastics as one of its IHSA sports so that students could participate in the state series in May. The Superintendent denied it because it had to go through the process. He noted that his son’s coach met the required certification in safety, and there was minimal paperwork involved. He asked the Board of Education to ask the superintendent to work with them to make the state competition. This request was originally presented in August 2015. This sport would increase student extra-curricular activities for any and all students. These boys are strong gymnasts and he want to participate and he asked the District considers appropriate procedural changes.

Connor Callahan, sophomore, and gymnast, reported that they have been trying to become OPRFHS sponsored for over a year. They are passionate about what they do. They practice 5 days per week, 3 to 4 hours per day and they want to be recognized and show how they can represent the school. His teammates are all at level 9 out of level 10. They saw this as a simple process for the District.

Leeland Anderson, sophomore, and gymnast, noted that his teammates have competed and gone to state championships and regional championships many times and it would be a great honor to compete under the OPRFHS name.

Marianne Sasseti thanked the young people for speaking as it takes courage to be vulnerable. The entire community is traumatized by the sexual assault. The girls are victimized by the boys. Boys are hungry for education and learning how to become men. Our community is in the vanguard of social justice movement. She said this was an opportunity to have a global conversation. I was galvanized many years ago. She sends children to get meningitis shots yet she has not seen one case of meningitis in her career. Yet, she cannot vaccinate for something that happens to 1 out of 4 girls. She asked for help.

Patrick Sullivan, gymnast, noted that he and his teammates were trying to compete as individuals for OPRHFS. He has been doing gymnastics since he was 4 or 5 and not many people in the community realize that boys do gymnastics. They would like to represent the high school and make it known that they are gymnasts.

Pamela Thompson, the 20-year resident of Oak Park, District 97 as TA, parent of two OPRFHS graduates, said she, herself, had never lived through an assault or harassment during school. She expected the school district to respond in a straightforward manner, and applaud the Board of Education to rework the sexual misconduct policy. Students should be free of fear when they come to school. Children who are victimized must be allowed to be heard in confidence, receive every resource available, and be able to return to school without fear or shame. An important element in this will be community forums so that everyone knows how important the sexual harassment policy is, especially as students leave OPRFHS.

George Vargas, a teacher in CPS, spoke of an experience where two women had lied about what had actually happened. He believed that confrontation was the best way to handle things. He believed the rape culture was exaggerated. He asked why Mr. Powell was suspended.

Maria Kent, the senior, thanked the Board of Education for making OPRFHS what it was. She was aware of the blessing it had been for her. And, that is the reason she felt compelled to address the issue of sexual assault. She felt it alarming that such a sensitive, harmful, and deep topic was silenced within the school. The overall climate is one of fear and confusion and that comes from a lack of understanding and the true ways of going about handling this issue. I feel that Those Things That are Best should not come at the cost of female safety. She encouraged the Board of Education to make this a pressing issue, as it is a global issue.

Everyone was thanked for their caring comments.

Status of FOIA Requests

Ms. Kalmerton reported that 5 FOIA requests were received and 4 were resolved.

Student Council Report

Jackie Cofsky reported that Student Council was working without Ms. Prendergast as she was on maternity leave who was very much missed. Student Council is presently working with Ms. Dietrich. They are working on posters for charity month and determining which charity it will support. A suggestion had been made to have a charity day. Students would be asked to share their talents with others, such as swimmers helping to teach younger swimmers, retirement home residents will come in for art classes, cleaning up parks, etc. Students would feel like they were giving back to the community, instead of just raising money. The second interclub meeting will be held in March in order to improve collaboration between clubs.

Superintendent

Dr. Pruitt-Adams announced the following:

- 1) Senior Alex Frenndt was among the 24 runners-up in the New York Times

student review contest held in December. A member of the Times staff told Trapeze adviser, Ms. Fox, that the number of entries was so large, it took them extra time to select the 10 top winners. Alex was recognized for his review of the film "9" in the December 2016 Trapeze.

- 2) Several speech team members continue to dominate at area tournaments. Maeve Doody, Max Freeman, Isabelle Picciotti, and Ellie Bourgikos recently have brought home one or more first place wins, while Nico Gonzalez-Stuver, Marissa Kuriaskos, Anderson Kennedy, Parthenia Gharavis, and Lily Alexandroff have won second and/or third place awards.
- 3) The recent coat drive organized by senior Ben Iverson and his mom collected clothing with an estimated value of \$1,500 for La Casa Norte, a nonprofit that supports homeless youth and adults across Chicago.
- 4) Grant Reynolds, Andrew Krueger, Brian Gallagher, and Flynn Osman were selected from students across the state to perform in the recent 42nd Annual All-State Production of "Sweeney Todd," with Grant playing the lead.
- 5) The wrestling team has ended its regular season of dual meets with its sixth consecutive West Suburban Conference Championship. Congratulations to Josh Ogunsanya, Nico Bolivar, Jake Rundell, Peter Ogunsanya, Eddie Bolivar, Max Walton, Anthony Madrigal, Jason Renteria, Torry Early, Joe Chapman, Jaime Hernandez, Ronnie Massari, Jack Fisher, Jake Cagnina, Brian Holloway, Cameron Bates, Drew Matticks, Darian Nichols, Tariq Thurman, Elijah Osit, Talvin Gibson, Chris Middlebrooks, and Ashford Hollis.
- 6) Librarian Ann Carlson has once again served as a member of the select committee choosing the annual Scott O'Dell award. The award recognizes the author of a distinguished work of historical fiction for young people published by a U. S. publisher and set in the Americas; this year it goes to Jennifer L. Holm for her novel *Full of Beans*.
- 7) The Jazz Ensemble placed third at the regional Purdue Jazz Festival, with 34 bands competing from five states around the Midwest. The OPRF Jazz Ensemble was number one in Illinois. Charlie Reichart-Powell received an award for an outstanding soloist of the day, with other solo recognitions going to Noah Sherman, Ethan Cross, and Aaron Kaufman-Levine.

Consent

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the following consent items:

- A. Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated January 26, 2017
- B. Monthly Treasurer's Report
- C. Gifts and Donations
- D. Personnel Recommendations, including
- E. Authority to Commence FY '18 Fiscal Budget
- F. Fence Padding for Stadium and Practice Field Bid
- G. Approval of Settlement Agreement for a Student
- H. Policy for First Reading
 1. Policy 6:340, Student testing and Assessment Program
- I. Policies for Second Reading
 1. Policy 2:120, Board Member Development
 2. Policy 2:125, Board Member Compensation; Expenses
 3. Policy 2:200, Types of Board of Education Meetings

4. Policy 2:220, School Board Meeting Procedure
5. Policy 4:60, Purchases and Contracts
6. Policy 4:110, Transportation
7. Policy 5:60, Expenses
8. Policy 5:215, Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct

J. Open and Closed Session Minutes December 22, 2016, and January 17 and 19, 2017 and declaration that the closed session audiotapes of June 2015 be destroyed; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Certification of Mid-Year Graduates

Mr. Weissglass moved to certify the mid-year graduates as presented; seconded by Ms. Dixon Spivy. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Being A Welcoming Community

The District has begun conversations with local organizers about becoming a welcoming community and it is expected that the Board of Education will have a preliminary conversation about it in February. Evanston and the Village of Oak Park are having preliminary discussion. One member asked for the district's current practices and policies.

District Reports

None

Closed Session

At 9:18 p.m., the Board of Education resumed closed session and resumed its open session at 11:28 p.m.

Adjournment

At 11:30 p.m., Ms. Cassell moved to adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting; seconded by Dr. Moore. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Jeff Weissglass
President

Sara Spivy
Secretary