

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

Call to Order

President Weissglass called the meeting to order at 6:36 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 and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant Clerk of the Board.

Closed Session

At 6:37 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 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. 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)(1), as amended by PA.93—57; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); seconded by Ms. Cassell. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:30 p.m., the Board of Education resumed the open session.

Joining the meeting were Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Official; Brenda Horton, Director of Human Resources; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Dr. Gwen Walker-Qualls, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Karin Sullivan, Director of Communications and Community Relations.

Visitors

Jeff Bergmann, Jason Dennis, Amber Hooper, Fred Preuss, OPRFHS faculty and staff; Fred Galluzzo, Christa Desir, Bernadette Dias, Tiara Edwards, Kyle Gibson, Hannah Keiden, Maureen Kleinman, Gerry and Lauren Langgut, Alix Mikesell, Matt Petrick, Steven Schafer, Daysha Walker, and Rebekah Ward, community members; Scott Krueger, co-director of Applause!; Amber Hooper, Drew Fredrickson, and Cameron Burgess, directors of Noteworthy and students Of Show Choir.

Show Choir

Scott Krueger, and a Co-Director from APPLAUSE!, the umbrella organization supporting band, choir, orchestra, and theater at OPRF, both inside the classroom and out. On behalf of APPLAUSE!, thanked the Board of Education for its continued support of the performing arts at OPRFHS. This academic year over 1,100 current OPRF students participated in one or more performing arts programs.

The OPRFHS Show Choir, Noteworthy, then performed. They were directed by Amber Hooper, Drew Fredrickson, and Cameron Burgess. They performed their ballad One Second and a Million Miles from the musical Bridges of Madison

County. Noteworthy competed in the Herscher High School Swing and Sing competition last weekend in the single A mixed division and was awarded Grand Champion, best combo (band), best vocals, best choreography, best female soloist Patti Meadors, and Will Skubish competed in the separate solo competition and was awarded best male soloist.

Student Discipline

Mr. Weissglass moved to find Student RES 03-21-17-3 a resident and to attend on a tuition-free basis; seconded by Ms. Spivy. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Public
Comments**

Daysha Walker, student and freshman, noted that her family had a similar situation as a residency case being heard by the Board of Education and they were allowed to attend OPRFHS and asked that the same consideration be given to the present case.

Hannah Keiden spoke in support of replacing the tennis courts in 2018 s she felt they were dangerous in their present condition.

Alex Mikesell advocated for resurfacing the tennis courts because of the concern for potential injury. Tennis is an inclusive sport, part of high school, and a good advertisement for a community resource that could be improved. The Park District courts are in better condition (Taylor and Scoville) than the high school's courts. This was a priority.

Lauren Langgut, a graduate of OPRF, read the following statement: "I have been working with other concerned community members and parents to address concerns raised about the student handbook language regarding sexual harassment and assault. We very much appreciate the agreement from the board to amend the policy language in a way that facilitates an environment in which victims feel supported in reporting these incidents. Our group would like to request to be notified when a first draft of the newly-worded policy has been created. Because of the complexity of the issue, we request an appropriate amount of time to review the revised policy (at least two weeks) before further action is taken. My contact information is available on the sign-up sheet for tonight's meeting. Thank you."

Christa Desir read the following statement, "I'm an OPRF parent of a current freshman and an incoming freshman. I'm also part of the OPRF Sexual Misconduct Parent Education Subcommittee. I've been trained by Rape Victim Advocates as a rape crisis counselor and have volunteered in hospital ERs for ten years with both RVA and Pillars. I'm currently the board president of the Voices and Faces Project, which has the largest database of testimonial survivor stories in the country and we use that data to dispel rape myths in the media and in the community. I teach sexual violence and consent classes to high school and college students, as well as to incarcerated teens in Cook County's Juvenile Detention Center. I am also a rape survivor. We recognize that the Administrative Committee and their efforts in restructuring the sexual misconduct policy are already underway, and thank you for your time and effort in this important matter. We ask the Board if an additional seat and member may be added to this committee at this time, knowing this decision is at the discretion of the superintendent. I would like to be considered for a seat on this committee

as a speaker/educator, advocate, survivor, and perhaps most importantly as a parent. My qualifications as a stakeholder are grounded in the official recommendations of the 2016 White House Task Force, to protect students from sexual assault.”

Rebecca Ward asked that the Board of Education In addition to Christa Desir making herself available as a resource to the Administrative Committee working on the Sexual Misconduct Policy, she nominated Dr. Tanya Prewitt-White for consideration. Dr. Prewitt-White has been an ally for numerous student-athlete harassment and assault survivors at the high school and collegiate level. Through her professional work as a sports psychology consultant and professor at UIC, as well as her personal experiences as a former female-athlete, she has been subpoenaed for testimony in court and requested as an advocate and support for survivors in personal and public spheres. Ms. Ward felt her experience and position as an independent community stakeholder who is not an OPRF student or staff allows for varied insight and rich contribution.

If for some reason an additional seat on the Administrative Council is not possible, I ask the Board by what manner can the Oak Park Public submit specific input and recommendation to the Administrative Committee during this process of policy reform?

Kyle Gibson, Case Coordinator at Playworks Therapy and Member of Euclid Ave United Methodist Church, voiced his concerns as a citizen of the Village of Oak Park. He read the following statement, “My wife Rebekah shared her experience and concerns with each of you last month and I am proud to be part of a community so fervently dedicated to the protection and vibrant well-being of its youth.

“I would like to begin by bringing the Board’s attention to the difference in policy language between the current OPRF Student Handbook and the current District 7:20 Policy. On page 52 of the Student Handbook there is additional punitive language reading as follows:

****Note: False allegations of sexual harassment can be extremely harmful to the alleged offender. Such allegations are not protected under this policy and may subject the complainant to disciplinary action.****

“We ask that this particular additional warning be relocated or removed, so the OPRF school handbook and District 200 7:20 policy are completely consistent in their procedure for victims of sexual harassment and assault. Thank you.”

Bernadette Diaz spoke in favor of reinstating the plan to replace the tennis courts in 2018. She is the parent of 3 graduates of the high school and her family are tennis enthusiasts.

Fred Galluzzo, members of the board and many people know where I stand. Tennis is an integral part of the community and high school, Illinois high school tennis. In his experience of 20 years of bringing people here seen a high model tennis facility to what is now called a hazard. Difficult to clean courts, maintain

courts, touted buildings and grounds, playability now is minimal. I would not want to see the kinds of situations I have seen developing with injuries. Heard the term resurface come up and what does need to happen is that they need to be chopped up and started over. Understand a budget item for that purpose to start over from the ground up and courts should remain at the north end of the campus and doing it in 2018 would be a big plus our program

Steve Shafer is the parent of 3 daughters. His family has had 10 years of playing on the varsity tennis team. His one daughter blew out her knee because she slipped into a crack. She was on crutches for months and in a brace and may not be able to walk right again. His father is an orthopedic doctor, has worked with both the Bears and the Cubs and told him not to allow his daughter to play on the tennis courts again in the condition they were in.

Maureen Kleinman gave a shout out to show choir performance earlier in the evening. She attended the first mandatory meeting for the IMAGINE Workgroup and remarked on the diversity of the group. She felt the work would then out well. She thanked the Board of Education for a good process.

Status of FOIA Requests

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

Student Council Report

Jackie Cofsky reported that Student Council started planning its charity month last Wednesday. April 12 will be the date for the Pack the Pot Belly event, an event where student performers will fundraise for Roses for Austin. On April 29, members of clubs and sports will collaborate on things such as having the Food Pantry ship boxes to the high school to be packed up here, etc.

Superintendent

Dr. Pruitt Adams announced the following:

Faculty member Linda Carlson was recognized as the National Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

The following students have been named finalists in the competition for National Merit Scholarships: Michael Biek, Kevin Farrell, Eric Forehand, Harrison Green, Garrett Hauck, Conor Johnson, Ted Loewenthal, Beatrice Lawson, Regina Miller, Jonathan Niewijk, Simon Reisig, Katherine Sang, Alexander Schoeny, and Sanjeev Venkatesan. Scholarship winners will be announced in the coming weeks.

Math Team took second at the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics regional competition,

In more math news, out of 250 OPRF students who took the qualifying test, five are advancing to the next level of the Mathematical Association of America's American Mathematics Competitions program:

At the Illinois High School Art Exhibition and Senior Show, Annabel Huber was one of only three out of 305 students to be selected by Blick Art Materials for the Material Mastering/High Creative Growth prize for her sculpture piece. In

addition, Julia Morrison won Honorable Mention in Painting; she was one of six winners from 100 schools who each submitted painting works.

Consent

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the following consent items:

- A. [Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated March 21, 2017](#)
- B. [Monthly Treasurer's Report](#)
- C. [Monthly Financials](#)
- D. [Personnel Recommendations, including New Hires and Resignation](#)
- E. [PTAB Resolution](#)
- F. [GALA Fourth of July Fireworks Show Request](#)
- G. [Textbook Bids and Textbooks for FY 2018](#)
- H. [IHSA Membership](#)
- I. [Policies for First Reading](#)
 - 1. [Policy 4:175](#), Convicted Child Sex Offender Screening; Notifications
 - 2. [Policy 5:185](#), Family and Medical Leave
 - 3. [Policy 5:190](#), Teacher Qualifications
 - 4. [Policy 5:260](#), Student Teachers
 - 5. [Policy 5:330](#), Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves
 - 6. [Policy 6:15](#), School Accountability
 - 7. [Policy 6:50](#), School Wellness
 - 8. [Policy 6:145](#), Migrant Students
 - 9. [Policy 6:160](#), English Learners
 - 10. [Policy 6:170](#), Title I Programs
 - 11. [Policy 6:310](#), High School Credit for No-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-entering Students
 - 12. [Policy 7:60](#), Residence
 - 13. [Policy 7:70](#), Attendance and Truancy
 - 15. [Policy 7:315](#), Restrictions on Publications; High Schools
 - 16. [Policy 8:70](#), Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities
- J. Open and Closed Session Minutes [February 23](#) and [March 14](#), 2017 And declaration that the closed session audiotapes of August 2015 be destroyed

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

Policy 7:305

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve Policy 7:305, Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries, for first reading; seconded by Mr. Arkin.

Dr. Gevinson wanted parents of student athletes to be more thoroughly educated on the dangers of concussions and head injuries, and the policy should include that stipulation. The family of Gale Sayers was attributing his dementia to his playing football. Dr. Gevinson felt the school downplayed the seriousness of the consequences and that more serious reflection should be given, including showing parents more recent videos. The concussion article is 6 years old. He asked why was the school was not doing more than just the minimum on this issue. He would vote no on this policy.

All roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Dr. Gevinson voted nay. Motion carried.

Being A

Mr. Weissglass moved approve the Oak Park And River Forest High School

**Community
Welcoming**

School District 200 Board Of Education Resolution Declaring District 200 A Safe Zone; seconded by Ms. Cassell.

At the last Committee of the Whole meeting, a draft resolution was presented that brought into alignment providing of a safe space. The requested adjustments were made. OPRFHS will be joining other entities in the community who are making a commitment to provide a safe zone for students and family.

This resolution will be posted on the website and made an addendum to a policy.

Individual Board members spoke in support of this resolution. Mr. Weissglass said that the “community is aligned and he felt good about it and was clear that it is the right thing to do.” Mr. Arkin, while voting with pride, was saddened that he had to vote on such a resolution. In America, this should not be necessary. His wife was an immigrant who fled from communist China and went through the immigration process. She wrote about the happiness and comfort she felt after arriving in the United States. The OPRFHS mission statement is to provide a dynamic, supportive learning environment that cultivates knowledge, skills, and character and strives for equity and excellence for all students. It is the Board of Education’s responsibility to pass this resolution and protect its family.

Dr. Pruitt-Adams thanked the Board of Education on behalf of all students and families.

FTE For FY 2018

Mr. Altenburg, Mr. Rouse, Ms. Hill, Mr. Dennis, and Dr. Gwen Walker-Qualls presented the additional FTE request for FYI 2018. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Gevinson was thoughtful about the release time being requested for instructional coaches. While research supports coaching, he noted there were pitfalls. He did, however, support it and he was confident that it would be implemented effectively. He reflected that when he started teaching at OPRFHS in the late 70’s, the Special Education Department was quite small; now it was the largest department. He wondered how large it could grow. Dr. Walker-Qualls responded that many parents move into the district for special education services specifically as some districts do not provide the programs that OPRFHS does. Currently, there are 114 faculty and staff members. The ISBE mandates the number of students in a class and OPRFHS cannot predict the number of students nor curtail the number of students who enroll.

Dr. Moore appreciated the information and agreed that research shows that coaching is effective. She reiterated that the Board of Education needs to clarify and provide structured reporting expectations to make it less cumbersome for the administration to provide reports and education on both sides. She had hoped to see data from the literacy coaching already being provided, how that information is being viewed, how it is being propelled forward, and what has been learned. How will the District know that coaching is working? How will it align with student engagement? Data-driven reports are needed to be able to see growth.

While the coaching model seemed encouraging, Mr. Cofsky was concerned that it might not be in align with agreements as to how professional development (PD) and staff evaluations are handled. The administration stated that the

Collective Bargaining Agreement stipulates the number of days for PD, not the content. Several FSEC members, including the chair, were part of the building process of this model.

One member reviewed the requested number of FTE, noting that it would add another \$800,000 to the budget, but there were savings of approximately \$180,000 that would offset that amount. A suggestion was made to have an FTE audit so that everything being spent is reconciled as being necessary to the outcomes of the student. One member stated that the District seemed to be in an FTE instructional and administrative adequacy range. The District needs to be conscious of specialty courses, which are not gauged on student enrollment. Another member wanted to explore the staffing cost versus the student cost.

Discussion continued about what metrics were being used to gauge the impact of literacy coaches relative to connections with student improvement, etc. The administration noted that many variables exist relative to output and performance, noting that the District also has intensive literacy intervention. A further conversation should occur on how to measure how coaching impacts the teacher, the student, and the student learning 5 or 6 periods per day, i.e., how many teachers had coaching? How many students were involved? What is the comparison of student growth when a teacher has had that coaching versus a teacher who has not had that coaching? The administration has reached out to divisions about the ACT Prep class, the Lunch and Learns, etc. and should occur more regularly.

**Stipends
Recommendations**

Mr. Stelzer and Ms. Topf presented the Stipend Committee recommendations for FY 2018.

A comment was raised that from the information/matrix it is difficult to determine how and why programs are added or taken away. What drives the pilot process other than years? Included in the packet was the new application form for a club or activity. If only one student wants to start a club, they can. However, they have to raise their funds or use their own money. The clubs must be of interest to freshman, sophomores and/or juniors in order to be sustainable. Ms. Topf tracks how many students attend and often they would meet in a month. The minimum requirement for a club is 10. Questions are asked about purpose, mission, goals, and kind of activity. If it is philanthropic, how will it affect the community? Mr. Topf responded to a question about the students who have ideas but are not informed about the process; it is an issue of communication. On kickoff day, student leaders talk to students about getting involved, faculty members are encouraged to attend. She did feel that refreshers could be offered throughout the year.

Another question related to the sustainability piece for leaders and how were they supported. Ms. Topf stated that adult sponsors are encouraged to take ownership, brainstorm on ideas, and find students who are not involved in a club or have special interests. Some things are fads and do not last more than a year, due to lack of interest, i.e., the comedy club. Student Council is orchestrating meetings with the leaders of the clubs. West Suburban Conference has two or three leadership opportunities that can be explored.

Further discussion ensued about when will the District know it has engaged as many students as it can, meaning those who are not engaged in athletics or a club or activity are involved with work, church, or non-school events, etc. With regard to athletics, one member noted that several spring coaches were being approved that night. What are the challenges in terms of finding coaches and what is the coordination between the academic side and athletics to find someone able to coach or sponsor? The administration responded that the most spring coaching positions were posted in December and hired in January. However, 3 or 4 positions could not commit. Mr. Stelzer believed in the teacher/coach model and that coordinator efforts between academic divisions could be better when hiring teachers. Other districts hire teachers and coach/sponsors as part of the educational experience of the students. Athletics has worked hard with division heads to make them aware of open coaching and sponsorship activities.

**Construction
FY 18**

Mr. Altenburg, Mr. Preuss, and Mr. Bergmann presented Summer 2018 Capital Improvements. Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the 2018 Capital Improvement Summer Plan, as presented; seconded by Ms. Spivy.

Discussion ensued with regard to whether the District should invest in architectural services (approximately \$132,000 which represented 8.25% of the project of \$1.6 million) to draw plans to refurbish the tennis courts or whether it should wait until a decision had been made as to the placement of a pool. While discussion ensued about what would the logistics look like if the Board waited until September or October to bid this out, it was noted that the IMAGINE ORPF, the working group looking at all of the facilities, including the pool, would not have a recommendation in that timeframe to help make this decision. The process will entail a 3-month design phase that will include getting it ready for bid and putting it out to bid. That process would include site preparations and soil borings collection. If the Board waited until April to make the decision, it could cost another percentage point. If it waited another year to make the decision, it could foresee a 3% escalation cost. Waiting would be detrimental to getting the best dollar value in going out to bid. Should this decision be delayed and the Board goes through an architect of record RFQ during this process, it would render the current drawings useless. Legat would be invited to participate in the next RFQ process. If the District choose the tennis courts as an alternative and then choose not to do it, a credit would be issued for the following summer.

Several members were surprised at the amount being charged for the design of the tennis courts because of the long-term relationship OPRFHS has had with Legat. OPRFHS has worked with Legat Architects since 2010 with the negotiated fee of 8.25%. Either entity could terminate the relationship within a certain number of days. Should the tennis courts be designed for the current location, that design could not be used for another location because the drainage would change or the number of courts could change, and new soil borings would have to be completed, etc. A significant cost encompasses the civil engineer's cost.

In April, the Board of Education will be asked to approve the FY 2018 Summer Work with Legat Architects.

When this report came to the Committee of the Whole (COW), tennis courts were included in the original summer 2018 improvement plan and, based on the direction of COW, it was placed as an alternative. However, the cost of it had not been included in the fee.

Mr. Stelzer will explore with the athletic trainers how many injuries have been sustained as a result of cracks, tripping, etc. Should they be shut down immediately because they are unsafe? When were they last inspected and by whom? A suggestion was made that students could use the Park District courts if need be.

Both Mr. Cofsky and Mr. Arkin supported moving forward with the tennis courts in 2018 but were hesitant about the cost of design.

Mr. Weissglass moved to approve the 2018 summer construction and reconsider including the tennis courts in that work in September of October; seconded by Dr. Gevinson.

The options were summarized as follows:

- 1) Defer action on tennis courts
- 2) Approve the FY 2018 Summer construction with the tennis courts but ask the administration to negotiate a lower fee on tennis court portion with Legat and come back with another rationale and bring forward in April.
- 3) Move forward without tennis court and direct administration to have a plan for tennis courts consideration with the intent to construct by 2018.

Several members were hesitant to consider replacing the tennis courts because a decision had not yet been made on a future pool location. If the tennis court location were selected for the pool, then the District would be out the design fees of approximately \$132,000. In addition, the option still exists of putting tennis off campus. One member did not want to move any sport off campus but a decision will have to be made to either move parking off campus or a sport off campus. If the District were able to make a commitment to keeping the tennis courts in the same location, then the Board of Education would not be misspending taxpayer money.

One member was uncomfortable about asking for the number of students who are getting injured before taking action. The administration and the community had said that repairs are needed. This member preferred including tennis courts in the 2018 timeframe.

One member rephrased the question of pool placement as Will the Board of Education know where it is not going in October/November.

Mr. Weissglass moved to amend the motion to approve the 2018 Capital Improvement work, as presented, and not including the tennis courts at this time with the intent to construct in the 2018 timeframe; seconded by Dr. Moore. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Mr. Arkin voted nay.

Mr. Cofsky moved to amend the motion to approve the 2018 Capital Improvement Plan, omitting the tennis courts replacement; seconded by Ms. Spivy. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. The administration was directed to provide safety information as soon as possible relative to the tennis courts in order to know how to proceed with consideration of replacing the tennis courts in 2018.

Variance Report

The administration developed a quarterly review variance report for the Board of Education. It was suggested that a note be included in the report as to why the District received \$1.7 million versus the \$345,000 that was budgeted in TIF funds. The 1.7 million included monies the District was to have received the previous year.

Emergency Pool

Mr. Altenburg and Mr. Prale had developed an emergency pool closure plan should the pool(s) fail. Progress had been made about Triton being an alternative site.

A suggestion was made to explore putting a temporary bubble on Ridgeland and/or Rheem pools. Discussion ensued about changing the swim requirements if a pool were not functioning. One solution would be to reduce student water time for 9th and 10th graders. Another suggestion was to change the requirements to ensure student needs. A “test-out” program might be introduced. It was noted that while a test-out program would can an equity issue because the number of who would not test out would be students of color, one cannot teach someone to swim during a 3-week course. If the goal is water safety, then it would be an equity issue. OPRFHS considers aquatics instruction to be a lifelong issue. Mr. Weissglass stated that there were competing equity issues. He hoped that the OPRFHS IMAGINE Work would learn something from others around the country; it may be a plan where the District has a forced experiment and a sense of beta testing.

District Reports

Reports from the Huskie Boosters Club and APPLAUSE! were embedded in the agenda.

Closed Session

At 10:06 p.m., the Board of Education reconvened closed session and at 10:59 p.m., the Board of Education reconvened open session.

Adjournment

At 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, Mr. Cofsky moved to adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Jeff Weissglass
President

Sara Dixon Spivy
Secretary