

August 23, 2018

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, August 23, 2018, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

**Call to Order**

President Moore called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A roll call indicated the following Board of Education members were present: Fred Arkin, Matt Baron, Thomas F. Cofsky, Craig Iseli, Dr. Jackie Moore, and Sara Dixon Spivy. Also present were Roxana Sanders, Senior Director of Human Resources; Greg Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant Clerk of the Board.

**Secretary Pro Tempore**

In Board Secretary Cassell’s absence, Dr. Moore nominated Mr. Iseli as Secretary Pro-tempore; seconded by Mr. Cofsky. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

**Closed Session**

At 6:36 p.m. on Thursday, August 23, 2018, Dr. Moore 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; Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); seconded by Ms. Dixon Spivy. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:41 p.m., the Board of Education resumed the open session.

Joining the meeting were Cindy Sidor, Interim Chief School Business Official; Dr. Gwen Walker-Qualls, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Michael Carioscio, Chief Operations Officer.

**Visitors**

Natalie Sheila Hardin

**Public Comments**

Kitty Conklin read the following statement, “For a period of my active career life, I was a Senior Risk Manager in the Risk Management group at Royal Bank of Canada Capital Markets. One area of my responsibilities was to create, rollout and monitor employee adherence to a set of internal, operational policies that applied to a group of employees acquired in a merger. With that background, I have reviewed the policies on tonight’s agenda and would like to comment.

“1. 2.105 the Ethics and Gift Ban - while this policy may confirm to ISBE guidelines, it is a much more liberal policy than exists in most of the business world along with the Village of Oak Park. For example, The definition of “compensated time” is quite loose and appears to tolerate numerous opportunities for unethical and possibly illegal behavior to be conducted. Monetary limits for things like gifts are higher than those allowed at VOP, which doesn’t allow gifts at all. Please update this policy before adoption.

“2. Financial Policies as a whole - Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, and by December 2019, all US public school districts must adhere to first-time federal financial transparency requirements. The financial policies presented this evening appear to pretty much be a rubber stamp extension of old policies.

“Earlier this year, I met with Bob Spatz and Rob Breymeier on this subject. D97 has begun to make modifications to their policy language to address the ESSA defined financial transparency requirements. I encourage all board members here to NOT simply extend the old D200 financial policies but, instead, position D200 on the policy path that will ensure conformance to federal laws.

“Switching gears, during tonight’s meeting, will you be able to comment on any updates to OPRF swim curriculum requirements?”

Marty Bernstein spoke to the consent agenda item F. Amendment to Financial Consultant Contract and had questions about item 2 which was to provide financial support that speaks to cost and funding of the project. He asked how this work coincided with the work of ICI and Perkins+Will who were hired to manage the project. He did not understand why a consultant was necessary at this time nor why someone else helps with funding was necessary for a project that did not exist. The amendment does not state any increased funds or the funds in the existing contract will be used to pay this cost. He wanted to see figures on all items like this.

Frank Libbe, the parent of a junior and recent graduate, voiced concerns about course offerings, specifically the co-taught classes from college prep. Last spring his son enrolled in a college prep co-taught Plane Geometry. A day before school started, the school contacted and suggested that his son step down to Project-based Geometry, which is not a college prep class. Ultimately they learned that the school had canceled all co-taught college prep classes. He felt this was a poor decision and asked the Board of Education to reverse it. His wife, Peggy Daley, had sent a more extensive email to the Board of Education. He spoke at this meeting to give additional visibility to this fact and to ask for a policy change.

Dr. Moore stated that the appropriate administrator and/or Board of Education member will respond to the questions.

**FOIA Requests**

Ms. Kalmerton reported that 11 FOIA requests had been received and 10 were resolved.

**Superintendent’s  
Announcement**

Dr. Pruitt Adams announced the following:

In June, Principal Nathaniel Rouse received the Rainbow PUSH Coalition Make America Fair and Equal 2018 Global Agenda’s Overcomer Award.

In October, the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA) Board will present District 200 with its 2018 Founders Award. The annual award is given to a person or organization that has demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of LGBTQ persons and the communities said in an email, “This policy change has the potential to save lives.”

Oak Park and River Forest High School was awarded a \$25,000 Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) district grant from the NoVo Foundation and its partners, Education First and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. This is the second year in a row that the school has received the grant.

Art teacher Tracy Van Duinen, a nationally recognized mural artist, worked with local elementary and high school students to create a new mural honoring Percy Julian at Julian Middle School. The mural is on the northwest corner of the building.

The following items were removed from the consent agenda:

Item F. Amendment of Financial Consultant Contract

Item J. Culture, Climate, and Behavior Membership for the 2018-19 School

Item K. Superintendent Compensation for the 2018-19 School Year;

Item M. 11. [Policy 4:20, Fund Balances](#);

Item M. 5. [Policy 2:105, Ethics and Gift Ban](#)

### **Consent Agenda**

Dr. Moore moved to approve the following consent items; seconded by Mr. Iseli.

A. [Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated August 23, 2018](#)

B. [Monthly Treasurer's Report](#)

C. [Monthly Financials](#)

D. [Gifts & Donations](#)

E. [Appointment of Community Council Members for the 2018-19 School Year](#)

F. [Recommendations from the Tri-Board Equity Committee](#)

G. [Personnel Recommendations, including New Hires and Rescindment of Resignation](#)

H. [Renewal Revision to the Intergovernmental Agreement with West 40 for 2018-19 regarding the Alternative Learning Opportunity Grant](#)

L. [Designation of Election Designee](#)

M. [Policies for First Reading](#)

2. [Policy 6:10, Educational Philosophy and Objectives](#)

3. [Policy 6:30, Organization of Instruction](#)

4. [Policy 8:25, Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities](#)

6. [Policy 2:170 Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services](#)

7. [Policy 4:140, Waiver of Student Fees](#)

8. [Policy 6:120, Education of Children with Disabilities](#)

9. [Policy 6:135-1- Accelerated Placement Program](#)

10. [Policy 6:190, Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities](#)

12. [Policy 7:340, Student Records](#)

N. Open and Closed Minutes of [June 28](#), and [July 2](#), and [12](#), and [August 14](#) and [20](#), 2018 and a declaration that the closed session audio tapes of October 2016 shall be destroyed.

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

### **Policy 4:20**

Dr. Moore moved to approve Policy 4:20, Fund Balance, for first reading; seconded by Ms. Dixon Spivy.

PRESS recommended bringing this policy forward for its 5-year review. It was the intent of the administration to review this policy again before the end of the year.

Because of the public comments, the Board of Education felt that a first reading could be delayed until the end of the year.

A roll call vote resulted in all nays. Motion failed.

**Policy 2:105**

Dr. Moore moved to approve Policy 2:105, [Ethics and Gift Ban](#), for first reading; seconded by Mr. Iseli.

PRESS had recommended bringing this policy forward for its 5-year review. PRESS policies are craft and vetted by many lawyers and adopted by the majority of school districts around the state and they are in line with the State Board of Education. Discussion ensued, per the public comments, about investigating lowering the amount for food which is \$75 per person. Mr. Baron suggested comparing this limit with policies of other taxing bodies. Does the District track gifts that employees receive? Is there a summary of the value of the gifts? What is the administration's justification of the \$75 limit? These questions can be explored before the Board of Education votes to recommend them for second reading and adoption at its September 27 meeting.

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

**Financial Consultant Contract**

Dr. Moore moved to approve the Financial Consultant Contract; seconded by Mr. Iseli. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

[Student Participation Report](#)

Each year the Student Activity and Athletic Department prepares a comprehensive report on student participation in the extracurricular programs at Oak Park and River Forest High School. The data was collected via Skyward and Data Warehouse by Decision Ed. The data contains participation information for all clubs, activities, and athletics. This data was then analyzed by the Director of Student Activities and the Athletic Director. For the purpose of explanation, the term Extracurricular Activity will encompass both Athletics and Clubs. If the data is referring to athletics only the term "sport" will be used, and if the data is referring to only a club in the student activities department, the term "club" will be used. The data findings are displayed and discussed below

The findings showed that students participating in extracurricular activities increased by 0.3% from 2016-2017, continuing a five-year trend of increased participation. Students enrolled in at least one extra-curricular activity, on average, continue to significantly outperform their peers in GPA and attendance rates. Based upon participation rates by race, OPRFHS does not have a significant participation gap between the overall student population and those students that participate in the extracurricular program. Our diverse student population is well represented in Extracurricular Activities. The average national participation rate is 60% to 65%. OPRFHS is proud of its participation rate. One member observed that all subgroups exceeded the national average and the percentage of African-Americans went up to 79%, which is hard to sustain. It had gone down slightly, but the reason may have been that it had been at a historic high the previous year.

Discussion ensued. Why have the participation rates for African-American and Hispanic students decreased? A survey was administered two years ago to those students who were not participating in extracurriculars, and the responses included

they had jobs, they watched their siblings, etc. It was requested that new information was needed. Where are the trends? Are freshmen still signing up for activities? Were clubs eliminated and thus a drop off occurred? While Board members commended the District for having the high participation rates, one member noted that it also needed to focus on students who are not and the structural problems that are causing this. More education is needed around the fact that students do better, have higher GPA when they are involved in extracurricular activities.

Are there barriers that come from the middle schools? What is the articulation that should happen with middle schools about involvement? The District has pushed participation along with freshman kickoff, publicized the what clubs, activities, and sports, and shared that information with students, but not the parents.

Discussion ensued about the turnover of sponsors this spring due to varying circumstances. Most of the positions have been filed, and many faculty and staff members were hired, including approximately 3 or 4 new teachers to the coaching staff. Having all of the coaching positions filled by in-house staff is difficult; presently 67 to 70% are in-house. Ms. Johnson was happy with the hiring process, and there has been good communication between the division heads about additional contributions after school. Due to the late hires, many did not have the opportunity to hear about them. She was very excited to have talented teachers and coaches.

A Board of Education member asked to race and gender statistics as the Board of Education talks about the effectiveness of the reports and the information being tied to Strategic Plan goals.

- Certification of Summer Graduates** Dr. Moore moved to certify the Summer 2018 Graduates, as presented; seconded by Mr. Baron. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.
- Future Agenda Items** Dr. Pruitt Adams and Dr. Moore will review the list of future agenda items, and DLT will schedule them into the timeline of reports.
- District Reports** Ms. Dixon Spivy as the IGOV Chair reported that IGOV is holding a candidates' event on October 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Percy Julian Middle School for those who are thinking are about running for a public office. Presenters will include attorneys who will explain the filing process and Mr. Iseli who will speak about the pros and cons of being a school board member.
- Board Liaison representatives for the 2018-19 school year will remain the same as in the 2017-18 school year.
- Closed Session** At 8:31 p.m., the Board of Education resumed the closed session. At 9:26 p.m., the Board of Education resumed the open session.
- Adjournment** At 9:27 p.m. on August 23, 2018, Mr. Baron moved to adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting; seconded by Mr. Arkin. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Dr. Jackie Moore  
President

Craig Iseli  
Secretary Pro Tempore