

June 27, 2019

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, June 27, 2019, in the Board Room of the OPRFHS.

Call to Order

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

Closed Session

At 6:36 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, 2019, 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; and Collective Bargaining; seconded by Ms. Dixon Spivy. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:39 p.m., the Board of Education resumed the open session.

Joining the meeting were Carolyn Gust, Dr. Gwen Walker-Qualls, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Christopher Thieme, Director of Technology; Michael Carioscio, Chief Operations Officer.

Visitors

Lynda Parker and Rebecca OPRFHS faculty and staff; Mary Haley of the League of Women Voters; Gary Cuneen of PlanetGreen; Fred Arkin and Kitty Conklin, community members;

FOIA Requests

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

**Superintendent's
Announcement**

Mr. Johnson made the following announcements:

The Class of 2019 received a total of \$11.9 million in merit-based scholarships, which includes \$230,000 given locally through the generosity of the OPRFHS Scholarship Foundation, the Community Foundation of Oak Park and River Forest, and individual community, civic, and alumni groups.

Five seniors committed to entering the military and were celebrated at the annual Memorial Day Assembly on May 22: Hannah Thompson, Air Force Academy; Jada Robinson, Navy; Cyrus Murray, West Point; Lila Stratman, Marines; and Ashford Hollis, Air Force Academy.

The Business Club raised \$400 for Sarah's Inn and \$100 for the Set the Expectation non-profit organization during their #SetTheExpectation t-shirt fundraiser.

English teacher Laura Young was chosen to be the writer-in-residence at the Hemingway Foundation for the next two years.

English teacher John Hoerster was honored during the commencement ceremony at Amherst College on May 26 with the Swift Moore Teaching Award, which "recognizes three outstanding secondary school teachers who challenged, inspired and moved members of the graduating class." He was nominated by Jana Barber (OPRFHS class of 2015).

History teachers Matt Maloney and Mike Soffer were chosen to present on Sports and Resistance curriculum at the Best Practices in History Education Conference, to be hosted by the Illinois Council for History Education in October.

Public Comments

Fred Arkin read the following statement: "I was heartened to see the Oak Park mayor's statement on welcoming community. I would like to remind this board and administration that on March 21, 2017 the board passed a resolution declaring D200 a Safe Zone. In light of recent events and threats from the Federal Government, and for the safety of our school community, I request that the board and administration revisit and review the resolution that was approved and make sure all of the requisite protocols and procedures are in place to insure that we provide safety to our students and staff.

"Branding project- as one whose wardrobe is about 70% OPRF gear I am not a fan, I believe the core issue is communication and transparency. The district spent the majority of the past 12 months in a reactive mode. Now with some breathing room it is imperative that the district proactively develop and control the narrative on district issues. Town hall formats are one of the most effective ways to interact with the public. Years ago we agreed to the need and effectiveness of more town-hall type meetings with the public, Ralph you campaigned on it ... so lets get them scheduled.

"Personnel reports: They are not being posted with agendas. Please get them out to the public and include the progress being made on minority hiring along with which activity that each new hire will be involved.

"Facilities: Quit couching the start date of project 1. Throughout the imagine process and included in the RFP for our design professionals, the spring of 2020 was to be the start of the project. Project 1 is crucial since there is a domino effect to all future projects. This district needs to make sure the project moves forward as planned. A year's delay because of escalation of construction costs will increase the overall projects' costs. Let's hold our design and construction professionals feet to the fire and get this project started on time next spring.

"And the news you have all been waiting for on the wrestling front. For the first time in school history we have girls who will compete next month in the National Championships. Camile Neuman, Kennedi Dickens, Tiffany White and Sofe Bosco all

qualified for spots on team Illinois to compete in the Cadet & Jr National Championships They are true pioneers.”

Kitty Conklin noted that PRESS had recommended deleting Policy 7:310, as it was intended for elementary districts only, and she wanted to make sure the Board was aware of that fact.

Ms. Connie Coleman read the following statement about the Grand Prairie’s Transit contract: “Yesterday, three of Grand Prairie's four buses delivering special education students to the high school arrived at 7:25 a.m., and remained, with engines idling at the school entrance until 7:45 a.m. when school staff arrived to supervise the students getting off the buses. Each school year, from 2014 onward, I have witnessed similar patterns: Grand Prairie buses arrive early, engines remain idling at the curb for extended periods, and special education students are trapped on the buses until school staff emerged to escort them into the building. Until the 2018-2019 school year, I reported cumulative daily data to school staff, including the superintendent, special education, transportation and public relations staff. Each September at the superintendent's annual meeting with neighbors, I have repeated my concerns about and excessive engine idling and inconsiderate treatment of our Special Education students. I have asked that the school enforce its prohibitions against excessive bus engine idling, monitor grand prairie arrival times against its own standard, and incorporate performance standards in its contracts with the company.

“In September 2018, I was told that the school wants its Special Education buses to arrive at 7:48 a.m. each day. I was also told that Grand Prairie uses a proprietary software program to determine bus routes and pick-up times. The school has not attempted to revise these schedules to prevent kids from sitting on buses in front of the school for excessive periods of time. As far as I know, the school has not monitored compliance with its arrival time requirement, nor compliance with the ten-minute engine idling signs posted around the building. Illinois state law requires that school buses are limited to 10-minutes of idling per hour (or 15 minutes of idling per hour when passengers are on board) when temperatures are above 32 degrees and below 80 degrees.)

“I heartily agree with Dr. Moore's suggestion that the District collect standard data on bus contractors' performance. Regarding the four on-campus daily buses, I suggest this include the duration of students' ride and waiting time before disembarking. (Special Education students should not be confined in buses for more than one hour.) The utilization rates should also be tracked and analyzed. From my perspective across the street, none of the four buses are even half-full.”

Because Ms. Coleman had not completed her statement in the allotted time, Dr. Moore directed to give her full statement to the Clerk of the Board.

[PlanItGreen Report](#)

Gary Cuneen, founder and executive director of Seven Generations Ahead and the Project Facilitator to PlanItGreen presented its annual Sustainability Report Card. The report was included in the packet. The PlanItGreen Report Card provides an effective way to

measure its successes, and to focus its efforts toward a common set of ambitious goals. The report card had the following grades:

Energy	D	Per capita GHG emissions related to energy have regularly increased for data measurement years for Oak Park since 2014, while renewable energy use for Oak Park and River Forest remains abysmally low.
Transportation	B	Oak Park’s Vehicle Miles Traveled has decreased by 17% since 2007, and Oak Park’s Walk Score of 78 is among the highest in the nation. River Forest’s Walk Score is 38.
Education	B	The One Earth Film Fest, Green Block Parties, garden tours and other events have been beacons of excellence. Great opportunity to systemically integrate sustainability into K-12 curricula lies ahead.
Waste	C	River Forest crossed the 50% diversion milestone (52%) while Oak Park is at 42%. The trend for total material generated in River Forest remains positive, while not in OP.
Water	B	River Forest’s potable water use has decreased by 22% since 2009, and Oak Park’s by 19% since 2009, creating a very positive trend line for both communities.
Food	B	Food recovery projects have increased the number of meals serving people in need, while school-based gardens and local, sustainable food options continue to abound.
Community Development	B	Green alley installations, the River Forest Sustainability Commission in bloom and infrastructure developments with an eye toward sustainability are positive achievements.
Economic Development	B	Transit-oriented development high rises with sustainability standards that support local downtown businesses complement multiple new green developments in Oak Park.
Open Space & Ecosystems	A	643 new native gardens planted in Oak Park and River Forest over the past 4 years surpasses the project’s 500 goal, and a new Integrated Pest Management policy at D97 highlights ecosystem preservation efforts this year.

The recommendations for next steps for the District would be:

1. In this day and age, students in any school district across the country ought to be learning about the climate crisis and its current and future impacts. We recommend a systemic integration of climate change curriculum and education into K-12 schools.
2. Develop Energy Road Map toward 100% renewable electricity for D200 that incorporates solar energy installations and procurement, and participate in the PlanItGreen community road mapping process.
3. Establish goal targets for increased waste diversion, food recovery and incorporation of local fresh foods into school meal programs.
4. Establish a D200 sustainability commission with representation from D200 administration, buildings and grounds, teachers, parents and students - and align work of the commission with PlanItGreen goals and strategies.

Board members thanked Mr. Cuneen and the community members who work on these issues for this report. As the District starts construction, the District will find new ways to communicate with this group.

IGOV Discussion

On May 11, 2019, IGOV held its Spring Assembly. The Assembly attendees worked together to suggest ideas for collaboration across Oak Park's seven taxing bodies. This item is brought to the Board to discuss whether these are viable areas of collaboration. Areas of collaboration suggested by attendees of the Spring Assembly are below. She Ms. Dixon Spivy asked if any of these resonated with the Board of Education:

ENVIRONMENT: Focus on stewardship and sustainability policies, as well as the premiums of green policies related to resource management. Specific focuses on microplastics, job opportunities, and shared knowledge.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION: Focus on buses, bikes and improvements on ways to meet shared transportation needs specifically by: 1. Using iGOV and COG meetings in a more synched up way 2. Finding a public format online for us all to communicate. Archiving discussions and ideas so we are not reinventing the wheel. Define what progress can be made.

INNOVATION: Create inclusive vehicles for public dialog so people don't feel excluded. Have every elected board member in Oak Park be trained by the Government Alliance on Race & Equity.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Create a common framework/training for all security staff around equity in public safety for all government entities.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: Group talked about social engagement within the parameters of transportation/infrastructure.

Mr. Iseli suggested that each taxing body focus on one or two ideas and then lead by example, i.e. building them into the Board of Education's goals and task the CEO with

making sure something is planned in a coordinated way across the community. His focus would be to set policy around sustainability within the next six months. Other suggestions were safety and equity (restorative justice/social-emotional development, etc.) Ms. Dixon Spivy will report to IGOV on the Board's interests.

Committee/Liaison
Assignments

Dr. Moore assigned Board of Education members to be liaisons to internal groups. She assigned administrators to provide recaps of the meetings to Ms. Kalmerton for posting to the agendas.

Consent Items

Dr. Moore moved to approve the following Consent Items:

- A. Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated June 27, 2019
- B. Monthly Treasurer's Report
- C. Monthly Financials
- D. Acceptance of Gifts and Donations
- E. Personnel Recommendations,
- F. Comcast Internet Service Agreement
- G. First Student Transportation for Field Trips and Extracurricular Trips Contract Renewal
- H. Capital Asset Threshold Increase
- I. Contract with BOOM Entertainment
- J. Contract with CLIC for Package Policy, Liability Umbrella Insurance, School Board Legal and Workers' Compensation Insurance
- K. MENTA Contract Renewal
- L. Contract for Occupational Therapists
- M. Contract for Physical Therapists
- N. Contract for Social Worker
- O. Contract for Psychologists
- P. Triton College Evening School Agreement
- Q. Final 2018-19 School Calendar
- R. Policies for First Read
 - 1. 4:190, Targeted School Violence Prevention Program
 - 2. 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria
 - 3. 5:60, Expenses
 - 4. 5:100 Staff Development Program
 - 5. 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
 - 6. 5:220 Substitute Teachers
 - 7. 5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline
 - 8. 5:270, Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment,
 - 9. 5:280 Duties and Qualifications
 - 10. 6:310 High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; course substitutions, re-entering Students
 - 11. 7:50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools
 - 12. 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students

- 13. 7:310 Restrictions on publications; Elementary Schools
- 14. 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property
- S. Policies for Second Read
 - 1. Policy 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
 - 2. Policy 5:260 Student Teachers
 - 3. Policy 5:250, Leaves of Absence
 - 4. Policy 6:145 Migrant Students
 - 5. Policy 7:190, Student Behavior
 - 6. Policy 8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns
- T. Open and Closed Minutes of Revision to May 20, May 23, and June 18, 2019 and a declaration that the closed session audiotapes of December 2017 shall be destroyed;

seconded by Ms. Dixon Spivy. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Certification of 2019 OPRFHS Graduates Dr. Moore moved to certify the 181 graduates of the Class of 2019 as of June 2, 2019, seconded by Ms. Harris. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

All-Ways Medical Carrier Contract Renewal Dr. Moore moved to approve the contract renewal with All-Ways Medical Carrier as presented; seconded by Ms. Dixon Spivy. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Grand Prairie Transit Special Education Transportation Contract Renewal Dr. Moore moved to approve the contract renewal with Grand Prairie Transit for Special Education Transportation; seconded by Ms. Harris.

This past spring, the Illinois Association of School Business Officials Professional Development Committee, of which I am a member, conducted a financial impact study regarding transportation costs and recent bid results. In response, 11 Chicagoland school districts provided data. The average initial cost increase realized through the bid process was 21.4 percent, with an average annual increase for years two and three of the initial contract at 3 percent. In subsequent years, the average annual increase is 3.93 percent. Based on the aforementioned average increases and actual 2017/2018 expenditures, if OPRFHS were to solicit bids, the District would experience the following increases in transportation costs:

2017/2018 Actual Expenditure:	\$1,029,836
Initial Increase @ 21.4% (year 1)	\$ 220,385
Average Increase @ 3% (year 2)	\$ 37,506
Average Increase @ 3% (year 3)	\$ 38,632
Average Increase @ 3.93% (years 4 & on)	\$ 52,126
Total Increase over three-year contract & one subsequent year	\$ 348,649.

The negotiated proposed increase to OPRF's pricing is among the lowest in the Chicagoland area.

Because of the current market conditions and cost containment in mind, district administration does not believe it is prudent to solicit bids at this time. Rather, district staff shall continue to closely monitor market conditions and report such conditions to the Board of Education semiannually. The formal bid process should proceed at such time as market conditions signal that the District would avoid a potential spike in transportation costs. An average increase of 21.4% would be severe.

Grand Prairie Transit is requesting, for fiscal year 2019 rates, a 3.5 percent increase for local routes and a 2.5 percent increase for out-of-district routes. At the end of the 2018/2019 school year, the District had students placed at 17 different schools with 17 out-of-district routes and four in-district routes. The Transportation Claim will be completed this week.

Mr. Iseli reflected that it had been eight years since the District bid out this contract and yet the company said it would give you just a two-percent increase. He felt this was a red flag and wanted the contract to go out for bid. Ms. Gust stated that she is in conversations with other providers and may go out for bid next year. She cautioned though that there is a limited number of providers who service this area and OPRFHS does not have many routes. One provider may be interested in doing the mid-day routes. Ms. Gust clarified that this was approval of a per day rate. In August, firmer numbers will be available as to the number of students that will need transportation.

Regarding public comment, Dr. Moore stressed soliciting input from in-house staff as well as community members when researching new providers. Dr. Gwen Walker-Qualls noted that after meeting with Ms. Gust, Ms. Sidor, and Special Education staff, it was their intent to administer surveys to the parents, students, and feeder schools on bus conduct such as tardies, dress, and safety. Dr. Pruitt-Adams suggested including it in the procedural manual and in Google docs. It was noted that bus drivers are in short supply.

Ms. Gust responded to the public comments regarding buses idling. To receive a ticket for idling it must be an ordinance violation, but Oak Park does not have an ordinance on idling. State law limits idling to 10 minutes, but a state trooper would have to be going by, stop and issue the ticket. Ms. Gust added that the District was looking at purchasing new vehicles that use regular gas.

A roll call vote resulted in two nays and four ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Iseli and Mr. Cofsky voted nay.

Institute Days and Dates

Dr. Moore moved to approve the Institute Days and Dates for the 2019-20 School Year, as presented; seconded by Mr. Cofsky. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

The administration will discuss altering the agenda items for the following year in a cooperative way.

Instructional Coaching Program Evaluation The Instructional Coaching Program Evaluate report was presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting. This is for informational purposes only.

Long-term Facilities Plan Update The Long-term Facilities Plan Update was presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting. This is for informational purposes only.

Future Agenda Items None

At 9:03 p.m., the Board of Education recessed to go back into closed session and resumed open session at 9:52 p.m.

Adjournment At 9:53 p.m. on June 27, 2019, Mr. Baron moved to adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting; seconded by Dr. Moore. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Dr. Jackie Moore
President

Craig Iseli
Secretary