

September 5, 2018

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, in the Board Room of the high school.

- Call to Order** President Dr. Moore called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. A roll call indicated the following members were present: Fred Arkin, Matt Baron, Tom Cofsky; Jennifer Cassell, Craig Iseli, Dr. Jackie Moore, and Sara Dixon Spivy. Also in attendance was Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.
- Visitors** Dr. Gina Harris, Peace Circle Leader, Dr. Dee Molinare, IASB Field Representative; Susan Stephens and Karin Grimes, community members.
- Public Comments** None
- Peace Circle** Dr. Gina Harris, a circle leader, lead the Board in a peace circle experience. She explained that the communication process is different in a circle and it is an opportunity to listen differently. A talking piece is used to focus one’s thoughts on the person speaking. Everyone sits at the same level. This process is beneficial in classroom and people are having a sharing experience and community experience and people begin to engage in other ways. In peace circle experiences, the circle agrees to the agreements before it starts. For this meeting, the same agreements that are used in the America To Me circles was used. The Board members and Dr. Pruitt-Adams responded to the question following question. “What was the most important piece for your effectiveness as a board?” The circle members responded: 1) respect all views; 2) contribute to the conversation authentically; 3) the goal was to create the best place for students; 4) listen to understand; 5) the board as a whole should support its decisions, even if someone had a dissenting opinion; be authentic; 7) less distraction from issues that draw away from doing what is best for students; 8) do what is best for all students; 9) accept change, knowing it is hard; work collectively; 10) set goals as a board that reflect the best interests of students, which are directed by Board policy; 11) Do not get distractive by the audience; 12) work collaboratively and play to the strengths of shared leadership and not vie for a leadership position.
- The next question was: What feels different about being in this circle? 1) it focuses the attention; 2) the world is the circle and the members are talking with each other; 3) no table barrier exists to separate each other, as well as the barrier of the audience which gives a sense of caution; 4) it is more collaborative; 5) it is more teamwork and relaxing; 6) it is a natural conversation; 7) no obstruction, causes one to pay attention; 8) feelings of being more vulnerable or exposed and feeling trust is being built; 9) seeing everyone’s face and talking to one another.

Ms. Harris encouraged the group to recall this feeling when they move forward with their work. She offered to come back and do another circle and to support this process. A commitment was made to keeping the circle safe.

Closed Session

At 6:29 p.m., 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), amended by P.A. 99-646; And Self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the District is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16); seconded by Ms. Cassell. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 10:44 p.m., the Board of Education resumed its open session.

Professional Development Workshop on Restorative Justice for Board of Education Members

Dr. Moore moved to approve the contract for a professional development workshop on Restorative Justice for the Board of Education Members with UMOJA; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Superintendent Compensation

Dr. Jackie Moore moved to approve the Superintendent Compensation for the 2018-19 School Year, as discussed in closed session; seconded by Mr. Arkin. A roll Call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. Dr. Pruitt-Adams will receive a 2.75% increase and 5 additional vacation days for the 2018-19 school year.

Adjournment

At 10:59 p.m., on September 5, 2018, Dr. Moore moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Dr. Jackie Moore
President

Jennifer Cassell
Secretary