

**Oak Park River Forest High School  
201 N. Scoville  
Oak Park, IL 60302**

**Strategic Plan Steering Committee Minutes  
December 17, 2012**

Dr. Isoye opened the Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting at 7:02 p.m., December 17, 2012 in the Staff Café of the OPRFHS, 201 N. Scoville, Oak Park, Illinois.

Members:

Nina Allen, Thrive Counseling Center	Dana Limberg, OPRFHS
Dr. Allan Alson, Facilitator	Sophia Lloyd, OPRF Community Foundation
Jan Arnold, Park District of Oak Park	Pat Maunsell, Facilitator
Marge Balchunas, OPRFHS	Melanie McQueen, Parent
Dee Brennan, Oak Park Public Library	John Messina, APPLAUSE
Mary Jo Burns, Ascension School	Kerry Nelson, PTO/P4SS
Leah Carlin, OPRFHS	Carolyn Newberry-Schwartz, Collaboration for Early Childhood
Dick Chappell, River Forest Community Center	Sharon Patchak-Layman, OPRFHS
Aleta Clardy, Community Member	Jan Pate, YMCA
Anthony Clark, Community Member	Regina Peterson, OPRF Scholarship Foundation.
Randall Clark, Community Member	Phil Prale, OPRFHS
Robert Cole, Village of Oak Park	Janice Pyrcce, Citizens' Council
Dr. Edward Condon, River Forest Elementary Schools	Bobbie Raymond, Alumni Association
JP Coughlin, OPRFHS	Brian Reilly, OPRFHS
John Duffy, Community Member	OP Elementary Schools
Valerie Fisher, OPRFHS	Latroy Robinson, Student
Joyce Gajda, OPRFHS	Nathaniel Rouse, OPRFHS
Kathryn Gargiulo, OPRFHS	Anna Schaidler, Roosevelt PTO
Nancy Guarino, Community Member	Joanne Schochat, District 97
Dr. Tina Halliman, OPRFHS	Steve Schwartz, OPRFHS
Sheila Hardin, OPRFHS	Carollina Song, Gwendolyn Brooks PTO
Nancy Heezen, OPRFHS	John Stelzer, OPRFHS
Burcy Hines, APPLE	Jessica Stovall, OPRFHS
Maria Hoyer, Community Member	Karin Sullivan, OPRFHS
James Paul Hunter, OPRFHS	Drew Swope, Student
Dr. Steve Isoye, OPRFHS	Rick Tanksley, Oak Park Police Department
Stephanie Jackson, Community Member	Jane Townsley, Parent
Mary Johnson, Student	Mark Trinkka, Hephzibah
Kris Johnson, OPRFHS	Jason Tyszko, Community Member
Ambria Jones, OPRFHS Student	Alysia Wallace, OPRFHS
Grace Kavinsky, Student	Brenda Jones Watkins, Triton College
Ray Kennelly, Dominican University	Kimberly Werner, Supported Education Association
Kathy Kern, Parenthesis	Cathy Yen, BOOSTERS
Larry Landfair, Community Member	

Members not present: Aleta Clardy, Maria Hoyer, Jane Townsley, Burcy Hines, Larry Landfair, Jason Tyszko, community members; Jan Arnold, Park District of Oak Park; Bobbie Raymond of Alumni Association; Wyanetta Johnson of APPLE; James Paul Hunter, Dana Lindberg, OPRFHS faculty members; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; John Stelzer, Brian Reilly, Leah Carlin, OPRFHS Staff; Kathy Kern of Parenthesis; Jan

Pryce of Citizens Council; Dr. Edward Condon of District 90; Brenda Jones Watkins of Triton College, Latroy Robinson, Drew Swope, Mary Johnson, students, Mark Trinkka of Hephzibah; Robert Cole of the Village of Oak Park; Chief Rick Tanksley of the Oak Park Police Department.

**Updates and Previews**

Dr. Isoye updated the committee on the survey results. Parent group members were encouraged to take the survey. Deb Mittleman used her lists to reach out to people and even handed out paper copies of the survey. The survey will be open until January 6. The responses were now as follows:

<b>Community Survey</b>		
	Previously	Current
Total Responses	1,626	1,693
Ethnicity		
White	1,222	1239
Black	145	165
No responses	92	97
Asian/Pacific Islander	34	35
Multiracial	28	31
Native American	1	1

<b>Student Survey</b>		
Total Responses	308	342
Ethnicity		
White	61%	59%
Black	14%	21%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3%	4%
Multiracial	7%	6%
Hispanic	6%	6%
No responses	4%	4%
Native American	1%	1%

Committee members were reminded to provide the data that they wanted disaggregated on the post-it boards, so that it could be sent to Bill Foster of School Perceptions. The survey will be

**Agenda Change**

Dr. Alonso explained the reason for the change in this evening’s agenda was a reflection of the rich and productive discussions that took place about the values and recognition that the committee members wanted to more time to envisioning what the future should be about education. Thus, this evening will be devoted to that as well as a special session on Saturday, January 12 from 9 to 3 p.m. The focus group information will be reported at the January 7 meeting. The committee was reminded of the future dates below beginning at 7:00 p.m., and the new date of Saturday, January 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Monday, January 7, 2013
- Saturday, January 12, 2012
- Monday, January 14, 2013
- Thursday, January 17, 2013
- Monday, March 4, 2013

- Monday, March 18, 2013
- Monday, April 15, 2013
- Monday, April 29, 2013
- Monday, May 6, 2013
- Monday, May 20, 2013

Ms. Maunsell reviewed the material in the packet and the handouts that were at the table. One spreadsheet showed the ranking of the value statements at the last meeting by the committee. The second

spreadsheet value statements grouped categories. The categories were: 1. holistic community education, 2. equity, 3. supportive learning environment, 4. transformational teaching and learning, and 5. facilities and finance. She asked that the members post any additional suggestions/amendments of the categories to the post it board. The committee was asked not to wordsmith the categories, but to use them as guides or common elements to help them describe what the school might look like in each of the categories in five years, i.e., school climate, achievement, course registration, college application process, career readiness process, co-curricular activities, etc. This exercise will help shape the goals to be decided upon later.

Clarification was given about the spreadsheet. Some statements had no number or ranking because they had been counted as a zero. While only five tables felt the top ranking statement was “P,” overall it was deemed important to the larger group. However, the statements, as written, did not eliminate any idea. The first category the Committee considered was “Equity” and the second was “Holistic Community Education.” The committee members were asked to save their documents to the computer’s desktop.

Dr. Alson referenced a quote by George Bernard Shaw, “Some men see things as they are and ask why. Others dream things that never were and ask why not.” He asked if that became the theme of this work--asking why not. What would the world look like if all prospered? Regarding holistic community education, how does having this institution, nested in the community, help all kids prosper? When the committee meets on Saturday, January 12, 2013, the Committee can consider what the school could look like, being both dream-based and ideal based. It will be up to the teams to say where the school is and where the school does wants to be. What steps might be necessary to move from the current to the ideal?

Both Dr. Alson and Dr. Isoye thanked the committee for its work and wished everyone happy holidays.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.