

August 19, 2010

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, August 19, 2010, in the Board Room of the high school.

**Call to Order** President Millard called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. A roll call indicated the following members were present: John C. Allen, Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy Leafe McCormack, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present was Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Lauren Smith, Director of Human Resources; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board of Education.

**Visitors** Cindy Milojevic, Assistant Principal for Student Activities; Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal* and Chuck Fieldman of the *Oak Leaves*.

**Approval of Check Distribution List** Dr. Millard moved to approve the check distribution list dated Thursday, August 19, 2010, minus check #148216 (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of Resolution to Place FY '11 Budget on Display** Dr. Lee moved to approve the Resolution to Place the FY '11 Budget on Display; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of Personnel Recommendations** Mr. Allen moved to approve the personnel recommendations as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The District now uses the software program AppliTrack to qualify and sort through hundreds of applications. Over 1300 school districts now use this program. The system used to fill new positions will include a form that can track a variety of things relative to hiring, e.g., ethnicity, who was interviewed and who was not, etc., and comments can be added about why or why not someone was hired. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked for more information to be included in the personnel recommendations that come to the Board of Education for approval about the employees.

Discussion ensued about when FTE are added to meet student needs. Mr. Rouse explained that part of the sectioning process included holding the line on new registrations after the projections were established. The District must gauge the number of seats in the classes so that there is flexibility and to be able to relate that flexibility in the budget; FTE cannot be added in August. Division Heads will evaluate differently

where to add sections. Ms. Patchak-Layman was against a quota system that allowed for only a certain number of classes. She related comments she had heard from community members that a perception existed that there was a quota in honors science. In addition, about Project Scholar, parents have told been there was no space or that their children were doing just fine. However, Project Scholar may have been the reason for the student doing as well as he/she did. Mr. Allen stated that if the class were non-diverse, someone chose to harm the students the District is trying to help. Mr. Isoye stated that the District must review the window of time allowed to make changes.

Ms. Smith stated that one paraprofessional was hired for a specific position and one was hired for a position-at-large.

**Vacation Agreement** Mr. Allen moved to approve the Vacation Agreement with SEIU Buildings and Grounds with OPRFHS District 200; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**2009-10 Co-Curricular Participation Report**

Athletic Director Stelzer and Assistant Principal for Student Activities Milojevic presented a comprehensive report on the participation numbers for both athletics and activities. The report included the number of students participating and their ethnicity. There are 29 sports programs with 80 team levels and 70 activity programs, including clubs and performance groups.

The number of “non-duplicated” students participating in at least one cocurricular activity is 2092, representing 65% of the total student population. The current national average for participation in high school activity programs is 60%. Many students have after-school jobs, family responsibilities, activities outside of OPRFHS and others are disconnected. The largest groups are Tau Gamma, Spoken Word, Best Buddies, and Gospel Choir. Sponsors will receive a copy of this report. Ms. Milojevic reported that the District’s offerings are hobby-interest based and, thus, it is important to offer clubs that interest African-American students such as dance and Spoken Word. The offering list changes every year depending on the tone and the interest. Groups with low attendance will not be continued. Basketball is considered an Intramural sport and those participants would not be reflected in this report. Ms. McCormack felt that all sponsors should be required to report on their club/activity or not receive a stipend.

Ms. Milojevic may survey those students who have not been involved as to why. Dr. Lee suggested gathering information about those who do engage as well, e.g., GPA, etc. Ms. Milojevic noted that sponsors and coaches have been encouraged to reach out to wider variety of students but offered the caveat that this is the students’ time to do the things they want to do.

Ms. Milojevic reported that the theory behind why there is an increase in diversity in the cheerleading and drill teams is that coaches solicited others because they understood the value that would be added to those teams. A couple of freshman students paved the way for others. Many students who are not represented in this report show up to support their friends in these activities. Because one is not included in this report does not mean they are disconnected.

Ms. Milojevic thanked Ms. Witham and the DLT members monitoring the budget enabling the programs offered to continue.

**Agent &  
Indemnification  
Agreement**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the Agent and Indemnification Agreement as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Citizens' Council  
Members**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the Citizens' Council members, as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Parent Action Committee (PAC), a grassroots endeavor as a result of the Citizens' Council forum, asked the Board of Education for its support. It was the consensus of the Board of Education members to ask PAC to put its request in writing and to include it on the regular September Board of Education agenda for discussion and approval. Ms. McCormack asked for information relative to the training of its facilitators.

**Approval of Check**

Mr. Allen moved approval of Check No. 148216 from the Vendor Distribution List approved earlier in the meeting; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Closed Session**

At 11:53 a.m., Dr. Lee moved to enter to closed session for the purpose of discussing 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 probably 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)(11) and 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 Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

At 12:31 p.m. on Thursday, August 19, 2010, Mr. Allen moved to adjourn the Special Board Meeting; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Dietra D. Millard  
President

Terry Finnegan  
Secretary