

The Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, June 25, 2009, in the Board Room.

Call to Order President Millard called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: John C. Allen, IV; Jacques A. Conway; Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee (arrived at 10:21 p.m.), Amy Leafé McCormack, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were: Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal (arrived at 8:50 p.m.), Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; Liz Turcza, Student Council Board of Education Liaison; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: Kay Foran, OPRFHS Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; Judie Wilson, League of Women Voters, Jason Dennis and Kristin Koenecke, faculty members; Brittany and Mary Smith, Joe Kostal, and Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

Student Recognition Brittany Smith was recognized for her performance in the Girls' Track and Field State Champion where she placed first in Discus and second in Shot Put.

Public Comments None

Board of Education Mr. Finnegan reported that he had just returned from accompanying thirteen students, twelve of whom were 2009 graduates of OPRFHS, on a trip to the Bahamas. All of the students were well behaved and it was a great trip for them to take before going off to college.

Ms. McCormack spent the last two days at the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Conference in Dearborn, Michigan. She felt the conference was an outstanding use of OPRFHS's time and funds in its quest for educational equity. She offered to share her notes with the other Board of Education members.

Ms. Patchak-Layman congratulated those students who felt that the school's graduation dress violated their human dignity and who were able to find a way to mesh their beliefs with those of the school's rules.

Ms. Patchak-Layman attended the Dignity in School's Conference, June 5 and 6, 2009 in Chicago; its focus was on expulsions, suspensions and push

outs from school. “The goal of the conference and the ongoing work of the Dignity in Schools Campaign is to reframe the national dialogue on school climate and discipline within a human rights framework and to affirm that the human right to an education includes: the full development of the child; the protection of human dignity; freedom from discrimination; and the right to participation of parents, students, and educators.” Discussion had occurred about helping students stay in school and policies that may prevent that. Ms. Patchak-Layman felt that attending this conference was appropriate and relevant to the District’s discussion on the *Code of Conduct* and its goals.

Mr. Allen commented on an article that appeared in the *Oak Leaves* on the rampant use of drugs at the high school. He felt the article bordered on being slanderous. The Board of Education has undertaken discussions about substance abuse. He was also disappointed with the Oak Park Police Department for issuing such silly statements.

Mr. Conway tipped his hat to both faculty and staff for a successful academic year. He appreciated the end-of-the-year breakfast, as it was a way to celebrate those who have served the District well and it allowed them the opportunity to speak. For the record, he congratulated all of the adults in the building for a job well done in making this a great place for the students. OPRFHS is the best place for a child to be. As a parent, he knows that adults make a difference. One of his sons had achieved straight A’s, because the adults in the building stepped up and did what the parents could not do, which was to expand his son’s horizon.

Dr. Millard acknowledged that while the past year had been difficult, it was well celebrated at commencement. She applauded the parents for their effort to help the students achieve, because there are times when the District cannot reach the students and the parents are needed to help them achieve.

FOIA Requests

Dr. Millard reported that ten FOIA requests had been received and all had been resolved.

Agenda Changes

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked that Consent Item A, Personnel Recommendations, and Consent Item D, Appointment of Citizens’ Council Members 2010, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Student Life

Student Council— Ms. Turcza reported on Student Council’s Locker Cleanout Program, the final Wednesday and Thursday of school. Next year a more efficient process for recycling and tossing out of supplies will be explored. The senior gift is 1) \$5,000 for an electronic information board to be installed in the Student Center and used with the daily announcements and 2) \$2,500 for the Green Committee to purchase a green roof.

Student Council made a deposit for the Homecoming Dance's DJ next year and a debate was occurring on the theme for the dance. Student Council surveyed students about Homecoming and will try to make it better based on this feedback. The Turkey Morp was canceled due to lack of attendance.

FREE & MUREE

Mr. Rouse referred to Ms. Bishop's report on the FREE and MUREE groups and recapped their histories. The FREE program (Females Reaching for Educational Excellence) was developed by School Resource Officer Phyliss Howard in 2001 as a joint effort between the Oak Park Police Department and OPRFHS to help educate and support African-American females that were in continual peer conflict. When Officer Howard was replaced by Officer Rasul Freelain as SRO, he started MUREE (Males United Reaching for Educational Excellence). Both programs continue.

Their mission is to assist Oak Park and River Forest High School students with the following:

- building productive relationships with fellow students, teachers, adults, and community members;
- experiencing increased academic success;
- achieving emotional, social, and physical well-being; and
- making a successful transition to adulthood.

Because difficulties arose when new students were added to the group throughout the year, new students may now only be added to the groups during semester changes. Thrive counseling was brought in help students create bonds and new people to the conversation was sometimes cumbersome. The District will work to identify those individuals who need to continue with these relationships through the counselors and the deans and get the program started earlier. Mr. Rouse spoke highly of the addition of the social worker to this group because it created an opportunity for immediate counseling pullout sessions. A question to consider is whether the District wants to mandate these programs for identified students, as some choose not to go through this experience.

The written report also included the structure/curriculum of the programs, the budget, the group facilitators' anecdotal outcomes, data analysis and the recommendations.

Ms. Bishop strongly recommended continuing both groups, perhaps mandating participation. The District will work on the production of a written curriculum, as well as identifying facilitator roles and responsibilities. Future reports should include students' grades, attendance and discipline data.

Dr. Millard asked if it would be beneficial to start other sections of these programs at other times in order to accommodate all students. Mr. Rouse will consider this suggestion.

Mr. Rouse reported that these students participated in a fundraiser, which raised \$550 in a walk-a-thon for Sarah's Inn. It was a very telling and positive experience for these students.

Mr. Rouse stated that MUREE had many more students participate this year while FREE had more one-on-one conversations.

Harbor/Ombudsman Mr. Rouse noted that because of the difficulty of collecting information relative to ISS and OSS, he would like to propose that student discipline reports be presented to the Board in March and in August of each year for the previous semester.

In Ms. Bishop's written report, she stated that non-special education students either who are expelled or who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally in the traditional setting are recommended for enrollment at one of two alternative schools, Harbor Academy and Ombudsman. Each year, a report is made to the Board of Education giving information on the number of students attending and credits earned.

Below is a description of the two alternative schools:

HARBOR Academy (Helping Adolescents Reflect on Building Opportunities for Renewal) Harbor is a West 40 Regional Safe Schools High School located at 6525 North Avenue in Oak Park. The Harbor program emphasizes learning strategies, social-emotional development and study skills. Classes are from 9:00-2:30 with their school calendar mirroring that of OPRFHS. This program serves students who are in good standing as well as those students who have been expelled from OPRFHS for disciplinary reasons and the expulsion is held in abeyance. Special Education students may attend Harbor Academy, but their total Special Education enrollment cannot exceed 10%. It is generally not the practice of the District to assign Special Education students to Harbor Academy.

Students are accepted on a case-by-case basis and are eligible to earn up to seven credits each semester, including elective credits (please see attached list of course offerings). Harbor currently employs four full-time teachers, a full-time social worker, an Administrative Assistant, and a Site Director. Courses that are not currently taught by a teacher at Harbor can be taken on the computer-assisted program A+. The ratio of

students to staff is no more than 10 students per one adult. The facility can accommodate up to 40 students.

Ombudsman The North Central Association of Schools and the Southern Association of Schools accredit Ombudsman. Classes are held at 3326 N. Harlem, Chicago. Students enroll in one of three 3-hour sessions. The curriculum is computer-based with the students progressing at their own pace with the guidance of a teacher. Once students enroll, they are given a placement test. Based on the test results, the curriculum is designed according to the student's reading level and basic academic skill level (Please see attached list of course offerings.). This program accepts students in good standing as well as those students expelled from OPRFHS for disciplinary reasons and the expulsion is held in abeyance. Special Education students are not assigned to the Ombudsman program.

Students attend either school due to being expelled or by PSS team decision. Those students who are enrolled due to PSS team decision were having difficulties behaviorally and/or academically and the PSS team felt they would be more successful in an alternative setting.

The majority of students who attended either school experienced academic success. This can be seen by the amount of credits earned, which is displayed on the tables that follow. While we have had significantly fewer students attend either school due to an expulsion (1, at Harbor), we had more students attend overall due to a PSS Team decision. This indicates a greater effort at proactively working to find the best setting possible for these students who are not doing well in the building.

The cost at Ombudsman or HARBOR is about \$5,000 per semester per student.

Ms. Bishop recommended that the District continue to provide alternative education opportunities to our students and the following is a list of future goals:

- Administer a survey to alternative school attendees and their parent/guardian for evaluative purposes.
- Administer a post-graduation survey to alternative school attendees.
- Obtain a written curriculum from both schools. We received a list of course offerings from both, but it is important to have a better understanding of the curriculum. While this may be a bit more difficult for Ombudsman's computer-based courses that are individualized according to the students' level, it would really be helpful to have this for Harbor's courses that are teacher-taught.

This is also a goal that HARBOR has for itself and it is working on it for next year.

- Submitting this report in the summer or early fall. This will allow time for all credits to be entered into Skyward by the Registrar, which will then give current GPA. This will give us a clearer view of students' GPA's before attendance at HARBOR or Ombudsman and afterward. This may also allow time for evaluative survey administration to students and parents/guardians.
- Any other goals the Board may have.

Mr. Rouse stated that many of the referrals were because of attendance related issues, not discipline-related issues. The next report will provide the GPA as well. Ms. Patchak-Layman was alarmed to see three students with twenty (20) days or more OSS, when the District only offers one hour of instruction per day to those students.

Mr. Finnegan asked for a description of the difference in participation rates. Males are receptive to making up and getting along, whereas female students hold grudges longer. They do not want to have anything to do with each other.

Ms. Patchak-Layman was surprised that students going to HARBOR were all African-American and Ombudsman had a mix of ethnicities. Mr. Rouse reported that these figures mirror the discipline statistics.

***Code of Conduct
And Student
Handbook***

Dr. Weninger reminded the Board of Education members that in the fall, they had a conversation about things needing to be changed in the discipline system, e.g., development of a model to notify parents of In School Suspensions (ISS) and Out of School Suspensions (OSS). As such, the list of infractions was reviewed and recommendations were made to DLT by the Deans and the Assistant Principal of Student Health and Safety (APSHS), including an alternative to ISS and the development of a tutoring program for ISS and OSS, which are in process and will occur in the fall. The changes now include items regarding the internal and external communication systems.

In the future, changes will be brought to the Board of Education in the month of May. Discussion ensued regarding the minor changes to AA's and Bib's, and language changes redlined in the document.

In this process of review, the deans look at the students' status throughout the year in order to evaluate what is and is not working in order to affect the goal of changing student behavior with consequences.

Mr. Allen wanted to slow the edging of penalties up, e.g., moving the first offense from A to B or B to C under Class II infractions. Mr. Finnegan and Ms. McCormack concurred.

Mr. Conway felt that truancy was a big issue and he knew there were students who have missed several days of school, who were not being called in and who will receive the same consequences as those students who had missed several classes.

Mr. Allen was also concerned about gross misconduct being under Class III and IV. Mr. Dennis noted that previously, only three levels of infractions were stipulated and Gross Misconduct was a Class III infraction. Class IV Gross Misconduct is used when a student violates multiple infractions, e.g., the total consequence should then be greater than any one consequence. There was still uneasiness with the vagueness of gross misconduct. The purpose of Class III and IV combinations of infractions that do not go to level IV, but to the other most egregious level of Class III. Mr. Allen was concerned that this would open this up to later abuse by people not under their control. Mr. Allen suggested that the committee work next year on the definitions of gross misconduct and disobedience. Mr. Dennis stated that there are things that students do that do not fit in the *Code of Conduct* and that is one of the purposes of having a Gross Misconduct consequence. Mr. Finnegan suggested that if there were multiple offenses, they should be listed, and then it is a first offense, there is a range of consequences, and they just keep accumulating. He suggested leaving in Gross Misconduct in Class IV.

Police must be notified when there is arson, battery, distribution of drugs, and weapons. The Resource Officer determines whether there will be police intervention. If something is not referred officially, it is partly because the School Resource Officer (SRO) has advised that the police will not pursue it. Dr. Weninger stated that this was an important fact, especially when it was noted in the media that same day that the high school does not report the number of incidents to the police. Mr. Rouse looked forward to talking with the officer who made that statement.

Mr. Finnegan sensed an increase in play fighting between boys and girls and that was troubling to him, as it is a hidden abuse. Where does that fit? Mr. Rouse said that horseplay fighting leads to fighting so while the school wants to consider an infraction titled that, it is presently identified as aggressive physical behavior.

Dr. Millard stated that the Board of Education is concerned about illegal substances within the school and asked why the police would not be notified of these instances. Mr. Rouse stated that the school would be willing to do so, but he trusts the SRO's judgment. From Mr. Conway's experience, he

preferred the school handled the situation, because the student would have a permanent record with the police. The school has greater flexibility in providing things that can change behavior. Dr. Weninger added that if the school is about helping students to improve their behavior, that flexibility is needed. Mr. Rouse added that the District is in the business of changing behavior and when the situation goes to the police, it stays with the police.

Dr. Lee asked what if the Board of Education took no action and waited until the following year to make changes. Mr. Rouse stated that the Deans proposed these changes to provide more deterrents in order to make positive behavioral changes.

Mr. Conway preferred progressive discipline and starting with a “B” would be more punitive than he would accept.

Mr. Finnegan noted that a Class IV infraction includes arson. Putting lipstick on a mirror could be vandalism, but not arson. He lumps class infractions similarly and said there could be a wider gamut. Ms. McCormack preferred to leave in Class III Gross Misconduct, but also respect the discretion. Mr. Conway believed that vandalism meant permanent damage.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if parent notification occurred in Class I and II infractions. The response was yes. Ms. Patchak-Layman was troubled about taking educational time away from students. Mr. Rouse replied that the school is making decisions as to whether students are dangerous to themselves or others. Students need to understand that there are consequences for these infractions. Ms. McCormack concurred and that it would send a wrong message if these students were to come to class the next day. She suggested doing a better job of tutoring or obtaining work while serving an ISS or OSS. Bad behavior is not O.K.

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that it does not say if the expulsion is held in abeyance that there are counseling sessions. Ms. McCormack stated that often students are experimenting and a clear message has to be sent. Dr. Weninger noted that not all students are addicted and not every student responds in the same way to a consequence. Some will adhere to discipline consequence vs. a social service consequence.

Mr. Conway was encouraged by this discussion and by the administration’s movement on the *Code of Conduct* on how it affects the lives of children.

Dr. Millard moved to approve the changes to the *Code of Conduct*, which will be published in the 2009-2010 Student Handbook, per the discussion with the amendments below; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay and Dr. Lee was absent. Motion carried.

Class II, Aggressive Physical Behavior, First Offense, replace B with A.
 Class II, Defiance of Authority, First Offense, replace B with A.
 Class II, Disruptive Behavior, First Offense, replace B with A.
 Class II, Failure to Identify Self, First Offense, replace B with A.
 Class II, Filing a False Report/Deceptive Practice, First Offense, replace B with A.
 Class II, Filing a False Report/Deceptive Practice, First Offense, replace B with A
 Class II, Smoking/Tobacco Use or Possession, add ² after the word “possession,” and replace B with C.
 Class II, Truancy, First Offense, replace B with A
 Class III, Gross Misconduct – eliminate
 Class IV, Gross Misconduct, First Offense, replace E-F with C-F
 Class IV, Gross Misconduct, Second Offense, replace E-F with C-F
 Codes and Symbols, ###7, delete “is mandated possible.”
 Replace the word “extracurricular” with “cocurricular”

**Certification of
as Graduates**

Mr. Allen moved to certify the 727 graduates of the Class of 2009 (attached to and made part of the minutes of this meeting), presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Superintendent’s
Report**

Dr. Weninger reported that OPRFHS was ranked #10 in Illinois in Newsweek’s list of the top 1400 schools in the country.

Dr. Weninger noted that he and Dr. Millard had authored a letter to the superintendents of Districts 90 and 97 asking if they wanted to meet to develop a common board goal.

Dr. Weninger stated that an article appeared about the WIA Grant, which he originated. It was the result of a partnership with Bill Planek, president of Rotary and the high school.

Dr. Weninger reported that with the Cook County POET’s grant, 38 students had been employed for the summer. Lee Wade is coordinating the Job 1 and WIA programs. The lives of 70 students are being affected.

The District 97 Board of Education approved the position of a coordinator who would work with Early Childhood Care and Education to coordinate preschool centers around the community. District 97 contacted him and asked if District 200 would be willing to help fund that position. While unable to speak for the Board of Education, he shared the report with the other Board of Education members. OPRFHS already contributes to the Collaboration of Early Childhood Care and Education.

Dr. Weninger attended the Governing Board Meeting at the MSAN Conference, this group composed of superintendents. A new executive director has been hired and a subcommittee is developing a data agreement regarding the sharing of student data and what would be shared based on the research being done at MSAN. A broader framework was discussed and whether there should be larger topics to explore with the Wisconsin Center for Educational Research (WCER). No annual conference is scheduled for next year with only the Researchers' Practitioner Council and the Governing Board will continue to meet.

Dr. Weninger reported that the Oak Park Village Trustees approved the ordinance for Stadium Lights and authorized a Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Committee, whose membership consisted of APRIL, supporters of the lights, Avenue Business representatives, and the police department. Six meetings were held within the last two weeks. Dr. Weninger facilitated the first four and Village Manager Barwin facilitated the last two. Efforts have been submitted to Village Trustees that the high school will take to mitigate adverse activities for the neighbors. The specific items are:

- 1) safety and security plan;
- 2) a cleanup plan;
- 3) a traffic and parking plan;
- 4) a sound and noise plan;
- 5) a light plan;
- 6) an enforcement plan;
- 7) a usage plan; and
- 8) a landscape plan.

There was a large number of items where there was consensus and a small number where there was no consensus. The District has written bids for the lights and it is investigating the replacement of the sound systems. There was anticipation and expectation that the lights would go up by mid August. Dr. Weninger will provide a copy of the ordinance to the Board of Education members.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked: 1) what would be the costs on each of the above item, and 2) did the Huskie Boosters intend to pay all expenses for the stadium lights as proposed. Dr. Weninger responded that Boosters would pay for the lights and their installation in full. The District will replace the sound system at its expense. It is anticipated that the revenue stream from tickets for Friday night games will help pay the additional costs, e.g., police officers (\$1,800 to \$2,000 per event). An agreement must be reached with the Village about its not charging

for garage parking next to the high school, as the District has said it wanted to provide free parking. The second shift B&G Crew will do the cleanup. He was not sure there would be any landscaping costs, but if so, it would be at the high school's expense.

District Liaison & Citizens' Council—Dr. Weninger reported that there was an end-of-year party at Cary McLean's house and 25 people attended.

Faculty Senate—Mr. Hunter noted that the faculty appreciated Student Council's locker cleanup endeavor, which the faculty helped to organize. Buildings & Grounds was supportive of it.

Mr. Hunter stated that summer school was in session and many students were participating.

Mr. Hunter welcomed Mr. Allen to the "big city" about the local newspapers.

Mr. Hunter concurred with Mr. Conway that the faculty and staff really like the celebration at the end of the year. Next year, there will be many retirements. Kind words were said about the work of the people in the building; it was nice to hear that they do a good job. It meant a lot.

Mr. Hunter was very worried about the decision to change the format of the Board of Education Committee meetings. Because the entire Board of Education was not expected to be at the Committee meetings, he envisioned the regular Board of Education meetings to be very lengthy. From the faculty's perspective of holding meetings after school, most are already committed, whether it be coaching or family commitments. He appreciated the fact that more involvement is needed from the community, but he was reminded of Mr. Rigas who said when one gets the reports from the faculty, it should be turned around quickly. As such, it will be more of a burden to turn that around. This will increase the workload for the administration and the Clerk of the Board. He suggested that the Board of Education reach out and use the administration to answer the questions before they get to the meetings. He also noted that Mr. Rigas, former Board of Education member and now president of River Forest, instituted the high school's full board committee structure for the Village.

APPLE—Ms. McCormack reported that she received many good ideas from MSAN about groups similar to APPLE and she was anxious to talk with APPLE's leaders about some of them.

Alumni Association—The Alumni Association's next meeting was scheduled for mid July. That evening there was a fund raising event at Healy's.

Consent Items

Mr. Allen moved to approve the consent items as follows:

- Approval of the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated June 25, 2009 (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting);
- May 2009 Treasurer's Report;
- July 1, 2009 CLIC Workers' Compensation Renewal (\$265,350);
- E-2 Contract for the 2009-2010 School Year;
- Award of the Sanitary Paper Products to Kranz (\$31,074.59);
- Award of Entry Way Carpet Tiles to Kranz (\$14,626.16);
- Award of Weight Room Equipment to Wilder Fitness (\$30,872) with flooring portion awarded to Magnum Fitness (\$7,947.84);
- Theatrical Costume Rental/Design Contract to Jeffrey Kelly; and
- Skyward Special Education Module (\$11,973).

seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**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 Ms. McCormack.

Ms. Patchak-Layman questioned why the District was hiring the two retired teachers for 20% employment instead of hiring a new teacher. Mr. Edgecombe stated that the District needed to hire someone part time, and to do otherwise would cause the school to provide benefits. Over the last three years, the callbacks have provided excellent service. Mr. Conway appreciated them coming back and being able to work within the system of time, giving flexibility. They have an outstanding reputation and he was happy they were there. The District is using stimulus funds for these short-term assignments and it will not have to release someone next year. While Ms. Patchak-Layman appreciated their service, she saw this as an opportunity to bring additional teachers that may be able to help the District increase its teacher diversity, especially when there is an opportunity to cluster.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked 1) whether terminated employees were able to change and return later, and 2) what filing process was used when an employee was terminated. Mr. Edgecombe suggested that someone might be able to return sometime in the future but it would be on a case-by-case basis. An automatic system would identify the name. It was suggested that this could be brought to the Personnel Committee for further discussion.

**Citizens' Council
Members**

Ms. Patchak-Layman, having attended a number of Citizens' Council meetings, noted that attendance was at the fifty percent mark and that there was nothing in the policy referencing participation. She wanted to ensure that the membership came to the meetings. Ms. McCormack disputed the 50% attendance rate, as she attended those meetings as well.

Mr. Allen, as a former liaison, did not know the first set of members, but he felt that the second set of names had attended the meetings, were very dedicated, and contributed to the groups. All of them were part of the group that was trying to insist that Citizens' Council have a more prevalent part. While understanding Ms. Patchak-Layman's point, these are voluntary positions. He asked whether Ms. Patchak-Layman had questions on any specific appointments.

Dr. Weninger added that he too thought the attendance was very high at all but one meeting. He too cautioned this exploration as these appointments are voluntary and over the past two years, the group has become more active. The Board of Education must be careful about doing something that will take away from the membership's positive feelings about the role. He suggested asking the chair to take attendance if this were a concern.

Mr. Conway said if the work was being done, nothing should be done to change that outcome.

Policy 5136

Mr. Finnegan moved to amend Policy 5136, Student Travel, as presented, as presented; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

It was clarified that summer trips were considered field trips. The biology classes to Florida were considered excursions. There was a discussion about the wording "costs related to student travel should not be a barrier" and what that meant. Mr. Edgecombe explained that school assists with excursions, i.e., in the example of Gospel Choir going to New York. The District went to the Community Foundation with a request and it helped to fund this trip. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the cost were high if it would be approved. While parents are expected to be involved in the funding, there are other ways to assist. An example would be the Alumni Association, which last year distributed \$71,000 to 190 students.

Policy 3310

Mr. Allen moved to approve Policy 3310, Contracts and Purchasing, for First Reading, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman did not support this policy as the proposed change from \$10,000 to \$25,000 was too high; she felt it should be \$15,000. Mr. Edgecombe reported that the policy reflected *The School Code of Illinois*. Ms. Patchak-Layman's response was that the District had the option of being more stringent, but not more lax.

Acceptance of Gifts & Donations

Dr. Millard moved to accept with gratitude the gifts and donations as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Security Cameras

Mr. Finnegan moved to award the security camera contract to Precision Control Systems of Chicago (\$20,601.12); seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. SPL voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested that the District have live viewing in an effort to be preventive. If the District wants students to be proactive in terms of safe situations, then someone should be looking and watching for trouble spots. Mr. Rouse stated that security cameras are also valuable when students are not in session.

Casualty Liability Insurance Renewal

Ms. McCormack moved to approve the July 1, 2009 Property and Casualty Liability Insurance Renewal with CLIC (\$246,942); seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Faculty Attendance

Mr. Edgecombe presented the Faculty Attendance Report for 2008-09. Discussion ensued. It was stated that professional leave is not evenly distributed among all faculty.

Maternity leave was up 20% this year; thirteen female faculty members were expecting. Also of note is the fact that the District does not provide short-term substitutes for non-classroom positions.

Restructuring Plan

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Restructuring Plan, as presented and to direct the administration to submit the plan to the Illinois State Board of Education; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll all vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman's concern was not with some of the specifics in it, but the steps prior to it. The discussion of restructuring has a number of aspects for the school to consider and the Board of Education should discuss them. The Board of Education is charting new leaders and staff, state takeovers, and she quoted from the Learning Point guidelines, "NCLB calls fundamental reforms in governance with 'substantial

promise of enabling the school to make adequate yearly progress.’ To date, most schools attempting restructuring have opted for a basket of smaller changes. These include professional development for existing leaders and staff, new reading or math curricula, instruction method changes, reduced class or school size, team teaching, or a collection of these changes in a comprehensive school reform. These reforms most often do not change governance—or who has authoritative direction and control of a school. Failing schools more often than not find it difficult to achieve desired results with these tactics, even when they try very hard. This is consistent with the experiences of failing organizations across industries even when funding is abundant.”

Because the district has subgroups that have not made AYP, one of the things when looking at restructuring is figuring out the subgroup structure's difficulties and work on those rather than restructuring the whole school. While the District wanted to do restructuring by making incremental changes, Ms. Patchak-Layman contended that it was not enough of a difference to make a difference in the whole school.

Another problem was that the school’s performance goals were not well defined and there are no specific restructuring activities. The District wants to increase the number that have A’s or B’s but nothing concrete is delineated. She did not know what an educational coach would do and what would the outcomes be. Timelines and objectives were part of seeing a program in place. She did not feel this was worthy enough to send to the ISBE because it did not contain enough implementation, benchmarks, and goals.

Dr. Millard noted that this was the third time that this has been presented to the Board of Education and Ms. Patchak-Layman had not brought these issues forward previously.

Mr. Allen questioned page 3, student disabilities, at 71% meet or exceed. Ms. Hill explained that there is a statistical application that the state provides allows the District to get to a representative sample of what might be obtained. The smaller the group size, the less likely there will be representation of what the group might do.

Approval of Minutes Mr. Allen moved to approve the Open Minutes of May 28, June 11, and 16,
And Destruction of 2009 and the closed session minutes of May 28 and June 16, 2009, and the
Tapes destruction of the November 2007 closed session audiotapes; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay.

Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay to the destruction of the tapes as the policy says the Board of Education should review the tapes before they are destroyed.

Rescinded Motion Mr. Allen moved to rescind the Closed Session Minutes of May 28, 2009, as presented; seconded Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Allen will discuss the amendment in closed session.

Goals for 2009-2010 Dr. Millard announced that the Board of Education was working on constructing the goals for the 2009-2010 school year. A discussion occurred at a June 11 Special Board Meeting. Dr. Lee and Ms. Patchak-Layman had put them in a written format to review and Dr. Weninger helped to focus on the six areas, which had been consolidated into five, and they will be discussed at the July 16 Board of Education meeting.

Non-Agenda Items None

Closed Session At 11:14 p.m., on June 25, 2009, Dr. Millard moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing Student disciplinary cases 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); 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 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 probable 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); seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 11:59 p.m., the Board of Education resumed its open session.

Student Discipline No action was taken.

Adjournment At 12:00 a.m., on Friday, June 26, 2009, Dr. Lee moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dietra D. Millard
President

John C. Allen, IV
Secretary