

The Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, December 18, 2008, in the Board Room of the high school.

Call to Order President Conway called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A roll call indicated that the following members were present: John C. Allen, IV; Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John P. Rigas. Also present were: Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Jason Edgcombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; Ryan Mullin, 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, Community Relations and Communications Coordinator; John Bokum and Mark Wilson, OPRFHS faculty members; Joy Bolton, Victor Guarino, Telitha and Dionte Evans, Mark P. Rotator, Y Aufgang, Claire Alstinkers, and Joy Fulton, students, parents, and community members; Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*, and Chris LaFortune of the *Oak Leaves*.

Student Recognition The Board of Education recognized the following students for their scholastic achievements:

Matthew Monson	ACT Perfect 36:
Wilson Ho	ACT Perfect 36:
Wilson Ho	SAT Perfect Score in Critical Reading and Math
Eliot Abrams	SAT Perfect Score in Math and Writing
Sam Linder	SAT Perfect Score in Critical Reading and Math
Rebecca Bloch	SAT Perfect Score in Writing

Board of Education Comments Ms. Patchak-Layman was pleased to see that Districts 97 and 90 wanted to have a joint board meeting with District 97.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked that updates as to what was covered at the committee meetings could be given at the regular Board of Education meetings, particularly the Instruction Committee meeting. Because there is often a lack of time to adequately discuss things in the morning committee meetings and because instruction is so important, she suggested bringing forth the discussion to the regular Board of Education meetings.

Ms. Patchak-Layman also reminded the Board of Education members of her request to have an update on co-curricular activities from Ms. Milojevic and the process used to determine which clubs are funded and how that impacts the budget.

Mr. Rigas and Ms. Fisher wished everyone happy holidays.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Conway acknowledged the committed and professional service that Mike Siegel, an OPRFHS graduate, had provided in his safety and support position. Mr. Siegel was leaving OPRFHS to work for a hospital. The Board of Education thanked him sincerely for his service.

Visitor Comments John Bokum, OPRFHS staff member and community member, questioned the Board of Education as to why the District had refused \$250,000 from the state of Illinois, as reported by the *Wednesday Journal* on December 10. Dr. Weninger explained that the District had made a reporting error in the Average Daily Attendance figure to the state, which caused the State of Illinois to determine, via its formula, that OPRFHS was a fast growth school. When the District realized its error, it corrected it, and self-reported it.

FOIA Requests Mr. Conway reported there were no FOIA requests.

Student Life Student Council—Mr. Mullin reported on the following:

- 1) The Turkey Mop raised over \$1,000 for the Oak Park Food Pantry in addition to the food students brought to the dance;
- 2) Several teachers participated in the Student Council- sponsored dunk tank during the last Pack the Place event: Al Allen, Mike Jacobs, Tank, and Jason Dennis;
- 3) As of January 5, a dumpster will be delivered to the high school to collect all paper recyclables from the teachers through the month of January. Flyers would be posted around the school to inform students as well. He thanked Robert Zummallen and Jack Lanenga for assisting Student Council with this endeavor;
- 4) Student Council made sandwiches to be distributed at PADS; and
- 5) An elected Student Council Service Counselor Coordinator is currently being considered as another officer.

Principal Mr. Rouse reported on his discussions regarding the commencement ceremony. A schoolhouse meeting was held December 10 where this subject was discussed by community members, including the dress code. It was a good, passionate discussion among community members including alumni and members, including alumni and students with lots of mixed views. Mr. Rouse included several email responses in the packet regarding this subject as well. He planned to meet with Ryan Mullin and the Student Council president to formulate a student survey. The survey will contain the following options: 1) status quo, 2) black and white for both genders, and 3) caps and gowns. He will develop a

forum for putting this to a vote. Mr. Vogel had informed him that past classes had voted annually on this issue.

Mr. Rouse noted that due to inclement weather, the administration decided that the school would adhere to its late arrival schedule tomorrow. Mr. Conway commented that he graduated in 1980 and had perfect attendance for four years, even during the great snowstorm in 1979 when he had to travel from Stoney Island to 35th Street and Wabash.

Mr. Rigas cautioned Mr. Rouse that the process of holding a vote on the student dress should be scrutinized so that no one would feel slighted. He reiterated his view that this was the graduation of the students, not that of the parents' nor the communities' graduation.

Ms. Patchak-Layman stated that when the students brought this issue to the Board of Education, it was because what they witnessed did not match the school's mission statement. She asked if the school's mission statement and value would be part of the survey, i.e., should the graduation be changed because of the school's mission and vision, as opposed to it being a popularity question. Mr. Rouse hoped that the vote would relate to the students' beliefs, but the District could frame that for them.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Weninger reported that Friday December 19, 2008, was the final day of school prior to Winter Break. All students were scheduled to arrive at 9:00 a.m. due to the inclement weather, except Special Education TEAM students, as they will be picked up at the regular time by Grand Prairie and supervised by TEAM staff upon arrival. Notifications were as follows:

- 1) Emails sent to the Board of Education via email;
- 2) Posting on the Emergency Closing Center website;
- 3) Emails sent to the Village of Oak Park and Districts 90 and 97;
- 4) Emails were sent to both students and staff;
- 5) PA announcements went out at the end of the day.

All athletic events were canceled that evening as a precaution, but they were still scheduled for Friday evening.

Dr. Weninger shared with the Board of Education an article from the *Tribune* dated Tuesday, December 16 stating that recent research from ACT indicates that only two of ten eighth grade students nationally are academically prepared for the rigors of high school, and that when they are unprepared, it is unlikely that they can make up that ground. The

research cuts across demographic and economic lines. A copy of the full report has been ordered.

Dr. Lee and he met about the superintendent's evaluation instrument and timeline, and another draft and recommendation will be brought to the Board in January.

In the spring, The District will be bringing forward recommendations for co-curricular stipends, both academic and athletic, per its commitment to do so only once a year and in the same time as the budget development cycle. At that time, a presentation will be made about the co-curricular programs to the Board of Education.

Per his weekly summary, he asked two Board members to volunteer some time in order to meet with Board of Education members from Districts 90 and 97 to discuss the transition activities from eighth to ninth grade, hopefully, in January or February.

Next Dr. Weninger introduced OPRF Community Foundation Executive Director, Sophia Lloyd, noting that he had worked with her on the Community Foundation's advisory board and initiatives for children. She spoke to the Board of Education about the work of the Community Foundation and the Grand Victoria Grant, the CommunityWorks, and underneath that the two aspirations that it identified: 1) environmental sustainability of the community and 2) the success of all youth through quality education.

Ms. Lloyd felt that the ability to be here is reflected of the relationships growth with the high school beyond the relationship with the Scholarship Committee. She spoke about the direction of the Community Foundation and many know them as managing donations. As the 50th anniversary draws near, there is an opportunity to reflect on where it is going. Part of that is strategic planning process, including interviews of the students at the high school, the Board of Education president, and an all day meeting for forty (40) community members. That process was designed for the community to determine the needs and what the Foundation's scope should be. An important piece of that was the need to agree that there was a neutral space for all to come together. A strength of Oak Park is that it has many leaders, but that brings challenges also. The Community Foundation offers the space to bring entities together to focus on a common mission. A focus was to ensure the potential of young people; the community said that the success of students to reach their potential was important. CommunityWorks was an initiative that came through a partnership through Grand Victorian. They partnered with 17 Community Foundations throughout Illinois and challenged the communities to have

a community-driven process to respond to childcare, work force development and land usage. A challenge was to look at the issues in the context of this community.

The Committee was informed about the \$2 million grant and a match for a total of \$6 million. It needed to recognize that the money is the means to the ends and not the end. The groups were asked: What were the aspirations of the community? Who is it that they wanted to be the community? Eighty-eight common community aspirations were identified after having aligned language. One of the top issues was the success of young people. As the aspirations were collapsed, the other issue that emerged was environmental sustainability. Ms. Lloyd shared a chart showing the vision, the goals, etc.

Through the discussion process, the members needed to recognize emerging leaders so that it is nurturing young leaders to learn how to sit at the board level, etc. That process has evolved into something very powerful relative to OPRFHS. The group recognized that this is an opportunity to work for the community and to work differently, e.g., how can one move from silos to systems, how can one move from activities to outcome, how can one move from monitoring to accountability? If people are going to talk about education, they have to look at the whole. In the acknowledgement of the 88 aspirations, there was 1) there is no achievement gap; 2) children would be ready for first grade. So that shift from silos to systems means that the community is the one responsible for the students' success. What is the next step? Two working groups are being created and content experts will be contacted. It has been acknowledged that the Foundation must work in partnership with River Forest.

As part of the grant selection process, a committee will be formed to review the grants that are submitted in the delivery of the outcomes to ensure the alignment to that of the outcome.

Ms. Patchak-Layman stated that the funds being used and because youth from birth to college were considered, if a formula would be put in place that would allocate a certain percentage of the dollars for an age group, e.g., birth to 3, middle school years, etc.? Ms. Lloyd responded negatively, as they want to make sure that the focus is not silos but systems. When the vision is identified, the committee will decide what is needed; that might mean allocating more money to a specific area, e.g., birth to 3, more vocational training, etc. It will be based on the aspiration's need.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if she were looking to the boards to help decide what needed to be done. Ms. Lloyd stated that the list includes

the three school districts and the Early Childhood Collaboration to ensure the alignment of the community initiatives, as the intent is integration. Ms. Lloyd also informed Ms. Patchak-Layman that Gary Cuneen of Township of Oak Park was part of the supporting work group and that John Williams had been asked to lead a group as well. She offered that the Community Foundation must be mindful of the group size, so that it ensures outcomes without overloading the committees. Other community groups that will be part of the content area are Dominican University, the Village of River Oak Park, Resurrection Hospital, the Congregation of Churches, etc.

Ms. Lloyd clarified for Dr. Lee that CommunityWorks was only one of the Community Foundation's initiatives. One of its larger focuses, in terms of funding, is the success of youth and environmental sustainability. Other initiatives will be supported, but larger dollars will be used for programs that support those goals. Relative to CommunityWorks, its advisory committee said that overall sustainability in a community means not just youth, environmental sustainability, but economic vitality in other areas. There was agreement not to focus on all areas, but on the two areas where there was the passion in the community; in this case, it was environmental sustainability. She read the purpose statement CommunityWorks advisory that was identified. "Since CommunityWorks advisory committee guides and facilitates community achievement of selected objectives deemed of highest importance of sustainability of the community." Selective objects means it can change depending on what is important to the committee. This is not intended to be a one-time document to be put on the shelf.

Mr. Rigas appreciated the spectacular effort that was put forth to get this grant for these communities. Ms. Lloyd reported that the Community Foundation had received the \$2 million; the challenge will be to raise up to another \$2 million in order to receive the \$2 million match. She asked that the Board of Education talk to churches, the PTO, civic organizations, etc., as this is a community initiative in shifting, thinking, and working together.

Ms. Lloyd thanked the Board of Education and Dr. Weninger for their time. She stated that the money is an endowment. There is flexibility, because as the needs shift, the opportunities are there. Relative to systemic relationships, the first work of CommunityWorks was very narrow childcare and land use and work force development. It now recognizes the relationship between all of these things. An activity everyone is speaking about is green jobs as it relates to economic vitality, environment sustainability, and the success for youth as it creates opportunities for them as they get into the work force.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked what the grant listed as to why the money should come to Oak Park. Ms. Lloyd responded that it was because this was a community-driven concept. Many other communities' grants were very narrow in their approach. The Community Foundation presented a big picture about systemic change in the community. It was made clear that the advisory group designed the CommunityWorks model.

She read the following:

“When we commitment to educating the whole child, we commit to creating learning environments by design that ignite and nurture the totality of each child’s multiple potential, engage all the ways children come to know, experience, and make sense of their world, invite and honor the power of their minds and power of their hearts, bodies, souls, and spirits in learning and integrate all the domains of knowledge mathematics, science, wellness, the arts and humanities into a coherent, connected, and dynamic unified whole.”

District Liaison & Community Reports Faculty Senate—Mr. Hunter hoped all enjoyed their holidays. Looked forward to seeing all in January.

APPLE—Dr. Lee reported that the December APPLE meeting was very well attended and that there was a program on Special Education Law.

Collaboration on Early Childhood—Dr. Lee reported that the District contributed \$15,000 to a grant for the Collaboration on Early Childhood and he felt it was one of the best \$15,000 this District had spent. The plan, while in a preliminary format, had the prospects of forming the foundation for getting early childhood education off the ground as a movement that has some sustainable momentum. More information will be forthcoming in the future.

Consent

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked that the Board of Education remove Item F, Award of Landscaping, from the consent agenda. She asked if the contract reflected the District’s goal of being a green school. She also asked if the company had the right of first engagement on the contingencies listed. Could other companies be engaged to do the contingencies? Mr. Lanenga responded that everything the District does is green and it does anything it can to avoid pesticides, other than those that are organic. Either the school or the Environmental Club plants the planters in the front of the school, etc. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the school put out notice in order to explore new vendors coming to work at the high school in order to provide opportunities/representations of minority- or women-owned businesses. While Mr. Lanenga responded

that the District has not made that effort, Ms. Witham stated that the business office follows the Board of Education's policy, reflecting the law with regard to contracts; it would not do that for such things as \$200 for flowers. Ms. Patchak-Layman wanted to insure that new vendors had the opportunity to work for the District. There are many women-owned, landscaping businesses in the area and it would be good to engage them.

Consent Items

Dr. Lee moved to approve the consent items as follows:

- the Open and Closed Minutes of November 13, 20, December 9, and 11, 2008;
- personnel recommendations;
- resolutions Ratifying and Confirming Execution of Certain Vouchers and Payment of Certain Bills and Expenses;
- resolution Authorizing Execution of Certain Vouchers for the month of December;
- check disbursements dated December 18, 2008;
- Monthly Treasurer's Report; and
- Emergency Pipe Repair.

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

Approval of Policy 3361 for First Reading

Dr. Lee moved to approve Policy 3361, Petty Cash, for First Reading; seconded by Mr. Rigas. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Donations & Gifts

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

Hearing on Levy

Mr. Rigas opened the Hearing on the Levy at 8:36 p.m. Receiving no written or oral comments, he closed the hearing at 8:37 p.m.

Approval of 2008 Levy

Mr. Rigas moved to approve the 2008 Levy as presented; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman expressed her concern about the Levy increase of 5.6 percent, as she felt this was an opportunity to reduce the amount of levy. She continued that on December 13, the Arlington Heights School District decided not to go for a 6 percent increase because it was recognizing the economy and its community; it went only for a 2.8

percent increase. While that saved the taxpayers only \$57, it was a good faith effort. All public officials must recognize what is happening and respond accordingly. Ms. Patchak-Layman stated that OPRFHS has enough money in its fund balance (the savings account), and it should hold that line. Thus, her alternative proposal was to hold to the 2007 Levy for 2008.

When asked if she was prepared to include what would be given up in order to make due, she responded that the District would end up not putting the extra money in the fund balance. It is a wash as the District is collecting \$55 million and it is spending \$55 million. Programs can always be reassessed; she found that the quality of a program does not hinge on doing the same thing repeatedly year after year. If dollars are stretched, other ways to provide good quality service can be found. She is aware that the District continues to review and change its programs, but she stated that it does so in the guise that things stay the same. The District needs to have a good faith effort that shows that it recognizes the concerns and that it has a savings account. The District is not jeopardizing the management of the school.

Mr. Rigas stated that the property tax cap law (PTEL), as written, has a flaw in his mind that it does not encourage taxing bodies in any one year to hold back. When the law was passed in 1990's, River Forest personnel stated to legislators that if they allowed the reduction of the levy or kept it flat and put that non-levy in the bank, more entities would not go for the maximum levy. There is a disincentive to doing what Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested. Next year, the District would be in the hole. In the case of an emergency, a district could not catch up. If it were left flat and there was an emergency, the District could not say give it the 4.1. In fact, next year the CPI might be 2 percent and that will be a bigger dilemma. He also stated that the Board of Education has operated under the guise that it can go until 2018 or further before going for a referendum. Dr. Lee brought a proposal to his plan was to continue to work on that plan and make suggestions, but to cut the levy without a plan is very dangerous. Ms. Fisher noted that was the reason for asking Ms. Patchak-Layman's recommendations. Dr. Lee shared Ms. Patchak-Layman's concern and agreed with her perception of the problem, but he did not agree with her solution to the problem. He believed her approach to solving the problem was to do so one year at a time. He did not think that was reasonable. The reason the District is taking in more than it is spending is because there will be a point of escalating costs. In 2018, the reserves will have been spent. He believed the problem would take ten years to deal with appropriately. For that reason, he supported the Levy as proposed. He asked the Board of Education to vote in favor of the levy and to work as hard as possible to understand the problem,

which will be faced ten years from now, and to put together a plan or continue the way it is now.

Dr. Millard stated that every year the budgeting process starts at zero. Each request for money is challenged. Ms. Witham led very concerted efforts to identify costs and to contain them. The District is trying to maintain some serious fiscal responsibility to keep this school excellent. It is this school and others that keep property values where they are and to be sensitive to people's positions at the moment and their struggle with the economy both short term and long term. She supported the Levy and Dr. Lee's active efforts to develop longer-range plans so that the Board of Education does not have to ask the community for revenue beyond the ten years.

Ms. Fisher stated that just before she became a Board of Education member in the mid 1990's, District 200 was borrowing funds for operating costs. That has not been the case for over 10 years. There have been major corrections and this Board of Education is extremely cognizant that long range planning is critical and it will continue to undertake that task. She encouraged coupling long-term planning rather than random reduction on a yearly basis.

For the 2008 Levy, the CPI used is 4.1% and the EAV for new property is estimated at \$20,000,000 plus \$21, 339,170 in TIF carve-outs. The Village of Oak Park has not given notice concerning the carve-outs due from the 2007 levy or for the carve-out due for the 2008 levy. This levy includes an assumption that the Village of Oak Park will carve-out the full value. The estimate of the 2008 aggregate tax Levy is 105.6 percent of the Actual 2007 Levy.

The total actual 2007 Levy was \$58,464,808 and the Preliminary 2008 Levy is \$61,752,377.

**Appointment of
Local Ethics
Commission**

Ms. Fisher moved to appoint John McCulloh, Sherlynn Reid, and Martha Trantow to the District's Local Ethics Commission for a one-year term; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of Course
Proposals**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the adoption of the revised course proposals for the 2009-2010 *Academic Catalog*; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked for clarification as to why a marketing class was being added to Special Education. Ms. Hill replied that many students in the ED continuum have anxiety issues that make it difficult for them to access courses in the mainstream. This course provides an

opportunity for those students to access that curriculum when the mainstream course is not the appropriate choice for them. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked what happened with PE? Are those same students in a separate PE class because there are lots of students? Mr. Prale stated that when one thinks about the ED Program, one must think about it as a range within the ED Program. Some students participate in regular education courses for a portion of their day based on their individual educational plan (IEP). Some students when appropriate, for their learning needs and learning styles, will go to regular physical education courses. It is one of the first places that is looked at for opportunities in the regular education program. It is based on the individual student. Ms. Hill reported that teachers in the ED program might have more than one course assigned to a period. There is no minimum or target number for giving any course. Teachers might have multiple preps in excess of a regular education class, but they have fewer students with whom they work. Ms. Patchak-Layman was worried about students being segregated at the school and having a program that is totally off, without trying to find ways of having students integrated into the regular curriculum. When classes like these are put in place, she worried that an enrollment number must be maintained so it becomes self-fulfilling. Ms. Hill stated this has not been an issue. Dr. Millard reminded Ms. Patchak-Layman that this decision is made annually at an IEP meeting and is a composite decision of the staff as to what classes a student takes. Mr. Prale stated that OPRFHS wants special education students to participate in regular education as much as possible, but at the same time if the student is in a self-contained environment the curriculum must be appropriately restricted. It is a balancing act. Ms. Patchak-Layman was informed that this was the venue of new courses, the idea of being able to have interdisciplinary or classes for just juniors or seniors across the board.

Election Designee Mr. Rigas moved to appoint Gail A. Kalmerton, as designated representative, to handle the receiving and filing of nominating petitions for the election to be held in and for District No. 200 on April 7, 2009. Authority is further given to her to delegate authority to carry out these duties when she is absent; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes.

GSA Artworks Mr. Rigas moved to approve the loan agreement with the GSA for the 32 WPA artworks on site, as submitted; seconded by Ms. Patchak-Layman. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Had the Board of Education voted not to approve this agreement, it might have resulted in litigation.

Legal Discussion

Mr. Rigas moved to approve the engagement agreement with Pugh, Jones, Johnson, and Quandt for legal services; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay.

Ms. Patchak-Layman was disappointed that the Board of Education had not followed her suggestion to go out for an RFQ for legal services, so that it might see if other firms might want to work with the high school and to give them an opportunity to explain what their services to the high school would be. Three other minority-owned firms reside in the City of Chicago and it bothered her that one was selected because there was a conversation, someone knew someone, and the ball was put in motion that they could work with this Board of Education. She would have preferred making it an even playing field for other legal firms and for this Board of Education. She did not feel Pugh Jones would serve this Board on the issues of the community that come before the Board of Education and she was doubly concerned about its working and taking guidance from Franczek, Radelet and Rose. She wanted to bring in new light into the way the District could serve the community and to have fair and impartial hearings. Ms. Patchak-Layman would not vote for this letter, not because she questioned the quality of Pugh Jones, but because she would have liked to see the quality of other interested firms.

Dr. Millard encouraged Ms. Patchak-Layman to bring the names of other firms that would want to work with the high school.

When asked about the use of the term “impartial hearings,” Ms. Patchak-Layman explained that she wanted a firm to provide all sides of issues and to give true guidance. She often feels that lawyers have their way of doing things and their guidance does not present both the pros and cons. The word “hearing” was used loosely; she was really talking about the information that came forward. Mr. Edgecombe disagreed with Ms. Patchak-Layman on not getting a balanced perspective from the law firm. Whether that is clear when the recommendations are presented to the Board of Education is a different issue, but as it relates to the issues of labor and human resources, he assured her that the approach has been for Franczek to challenge the opinions and to look at all sides of the issues in order to get a perspective. His position has always been with Franczek to give what best position of the District, not what he wanted to hear. In the Human Resources area, exploration occurs on multiple sides of the question.

Other

Ms. Patchak-Layman suggested that the District hold joint board meetings with Districts 90 and 97, either together or separately. She did not feel that just a couple of Board of Education members would give full value and share the concerns from each district. Joint board

meetings have not occurred in many years and it is a responsibility for the high school, in particular, regarding planning, e.g., what is the impact on the feeder districts as well as the general brainstorming to talk about school leadership, K-12 or early childhood education, so that everyone is presenting a community-wide perspective and approach and then to be able to feed into the work the Foundation. It is important to have the other districts and their boards involved. January would be a good a time to do that.

Mr. Conway stated that the focus would need to be narrowed and suggested achievement relative to reading, etc. All boards share the same interest and receive feedback from their parents and students about the transition process. Dr. Lee felt that the political issues to be discussed in the April elections for at least half of the taxing jurisdictions would be 1) why are taxes so high and continue to rise; and 2) why should money be wasted on three separate school districts. He felt the boards could discuss the pros and cons of having one school district because it would be far more efficient and less expensive to the taxpayers. Mr. Rigas stated that the discussion of combining the three school districts was a big and long one and he was not sure what benefit would be seen in the end, but he did suggest that the Districts share some positions, e.g., a superintendent of buildings and grounds. Much efficiency could be gained from combining some positions more quickly. He continued that District 200 worked with District 97 on a lunch program and he also suggested collaborating on health insurance. Some people do not think every school needs a principal. Previously, scheduling the three boards has been a very difficult thing to do. He agreed that the boards of education should meet and one thing that could come out of that would be a subcommittee that would meet regularly to give the Board of Education feedback.

Ms. Patchak-Layman reported that Lake Forest has a model of collaboration with their feeder schools and high schools and it has worked well for them to have this shared activity.

Ms. Fisher added that the administrative staff meets regularly with Districts 97 and 90 to exchange ideas about what other districts are doing. She felt the Board of Education had dropped the ball on this. Three years ago, she tried to start regular monthly meetings with two representatives from each board. For various reasons, the other boards could not commit at that time to send their personnel, but she felt this was important to do. There are differences at the Board of Education level that could bear discussing.

Dr. Weninger noted that the initial conversation with Dr. Hagerman, Superintendent of District 90, and Dr. Collins, Superintendent of District

97, had to do specifically about the District 90 Board of Education wanting to know more about transitional activities from the eighth to ninth grade and District 97 then concurred. That was the reason for his asking two Board of Education members to volunteer to talk about this further. His mention of the Board of Education meetings was different than what Ms. Patchak-Layman's was noting. Ms. Fisher responded that this reminded them that the boards needed to get together. Ms. Patchak-Layman added that all could stand to hear the same conversation that the elementary boards are hearing on transitioning. She suggested having the meeting in January.

There was consensus that Mr. Conway and Dr. Weninger work with the presidents of the other boards of education about selecting a date and setting an agenda.

Closed Session

At 9:45 p.m., on December 18, 2008, Dr. Millard moved to go into 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; Collective Bargaining and/or Negotiations; 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. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 12:30 a.m. on Friday, December 19, 2008, the Board of Education reconvened its open session.

Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Rigas moved to approve the memorandum of understanding with the Faculty Senate; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted four ayes and three nays. Ms. Patchak-Layman, Mr. Conway, and Mr. Allen voted nay. Motion carried.

Student Discipline

Mr. Rigas moved to expel Student EXP 12-18-09-03, for the remainder of the 2008 school term, with restitution, and that the expulsion be held in abeyance predicated on enrollment at an alternative placement. In addition, the school will seek to conduct a re-evaluation of the student's handicapping condition and placement during the expulsion period; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes, one nay, and one abstention. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay because she wanted

additional alternatives explored for this student. Mr. Conway voted nay because of his personal knowledge of this student.

Dr. Lee moved to expel Student EXP 12-18-09-04, for the remainder of the 2008-09 school term and that the expulsion be held in abeyance predicated on enrollment at an alternative placement, and that as part of that placement the student receive anger management through alternative placement personnel. In addition, the school will seek to conduct an evaluation of the student for the purposes of determining Special Education eligibility; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Calendar Waiver

Mr. Rigas moved to approve the application for a waiver request; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in four ayes and three nays. Mr. Allen, Ms. Fisher, and Mr. Conway voted nay. Motion carried.

Mr. Allen had noted that the date of November 11 Veterans' Day was a holiday that should be honored and families should be allowed to plan around that day to pay their respect to veterans. He felt it was important to maintain the date of November 11, acknowledging that the District was proposing it in order to have two full weeks of instruction. He stated that this country's engagement in two wars had a higher priority than the two weeks of instruction.

Board Member Comment

Mr. Allen also stated that at a Village of River Forest Trustee meeting last month, a River Forest trustee reported that OPRFHS did not have a high ranking and OPRFHS Board of Education attended to refute it. Mr. Allen stated that the point was wrong because OPRFHS ranked high in the *Chicago Tribune*, *US News & Report* survey, the *Sun Times* among Illinois and national schools. The trustee stated it as fact and it was not. This Board of Education does not discourage comments, but it asks that the facts are correct before criticisms are made.

Adjournment

At 12:35 a.m. on Friday, December 19, 2008, Dr. Lee moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Dr. Millard. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Jacques A. Conway
President

Dr. Ralph H. Lee
Secretary