

January 13, 2009

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, in the Board Room of the high school.

Call to Order

President Conway called the meeting to order at 10:53 a.m. A roll call indicated the following members were present: John C. Allen, IV; Jacques A. Conway, Valerie J. Fisher, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John P. Rigas. Also present were Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Cheryl Witham, Chief Financial Officer; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board of Education.

Visitors

Kay Foran, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; James P. Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; Toni Hagins, B&G Assistant Head Custodian; Tim McDonnell, Vice President of SEIU; and Amy McCormick, parent.

Visitor Comments

Toni Hagins, resident of 929 S Clinton, Oak Park, and assistant head custodian for the OPRFHS Buildings & Grounds Department, addressed the Board of Education regarding agenda item "Third Party Vendor Timeline." She asked to the Board of Education to stop the third party bidding process. She asked them to consider the emails, testimonials, and other materials in support of the custodial staff the Board of Education received last March. She asked them to think about what the custodians in this building do for this school, e.g., the care of a very aged, 100-year old building including preventive maintenance to make sure the floors, the walls, and the furniture stay as pristine as possible. What is projected when someone comes into this building is a building that is in good shape and is clean. If the Board of Education considered outside bids, what is it that it would get? Ms. Hagins referred to the email she sent the Board of Education listing the items that the B&G had accomplished over winter break, and reiterated how proud she was of the staff for completing those projects. She asked the Board of Education to consider the dedication of the custodial staff. She ended by saying that the District saves money by performing preventative maintenance and students are receptive and respectful of the custodial staff's presence in the building, especially after hours.

**Approval of
Vendor
Distribution List**

Mr. Rigas moved to approve the Vendor Distribution List dated January 13, 2009, as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of the meeting); seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes. Mr. Allen was absent from this vote. Motion carried.

Open P.O.'s were usually used in B&G, e.g., paper products could be ordered up to an amount of \$15,000.

Mr. Edgcombe reported that the opening of the math division chair for next year was being posted in the national publication, *Education Week*, on the IASB's website, those of state colleges and universities in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Indiana, as well as the high school's own website. An analysis had not been done as to the cost effectiveness of advertising in *Education Week* in attracting the right candidates, but candidates from around the country have applied for positions at OPRFHS.

Third Party Timeline

The Board of Education was provided with the Third Party Vendor Timeline for discussion to insure that all Board Members were clear about the procedures to be followed as the issue of outsourcing is explored. Discussion ensued, including responses to Ms. Patchak-Layman's questions.

- Q: Will backup information be provided at the January 22 hearing in order to make comparisons at the public hearing?
- A: That public hearing is an opportunity for the community to give comments on this process only.
- Q: Is another public hearing scheduled?
- A: By holding a public hearing, the District complies with the law. Other opportunities to make public comment would be at the March Finance Committee and the March regular Board of Education meeting.
- Q: Which employees would be affected by this outsourcing?
- A: It is the custodial staff at the high school.
- Q: What would the status of the other employees in B&G be?
- A: All others would remain employees of the District and members of the bargaining group.
- Q: Will the outcome of the bargaining unit remaining have any impact on what happens to the employees being considered within this bid process for outsourcing in the long run? Which indicator would be used for comparison? Would it be the benefits of the employees still in the union? Would it be the benefits under the old contract? If there were continuing negotiations, where would that information fit?
- A: Bidders would only be able to provide comparable bids based on the existing contract and not on the employees that remain, although the benefits may be similar. The requirements state that the benefits would be based on those paid to custodial employees.
- Q: Will the bid specifications be given to the Board of Education for review and information?

A: It was the intent to send out bid documents January 26 and they were not slated to appear on any other Board of Education agenda, but Ms. Witham was happy to share the bid specifications with Board of Education members. Board of Education members were encouraged to give feedback to Ms. Witham after seeing the bid specifications.

Because the Board of Education gave the administration the direction to explore outsourcing bids in closed session, Ms. Patchak-Layman felt that the Board of Education should have a vote on this process in open session at the January 22 meeting affirming its intent to do so, as this is a public process. Mr. Conway stated that there had been consensus for the administration to move forward on this process.

Closed Session

At 11:15 a.m., Mr. Rigas moved to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing the 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. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

The Board of Education resumed its open session at 11:48 a.m.

Adjournment

At 11:49 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, Mr. Rigas moved to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Jacques A. Conway
President

Dr. Ralph H. Lee
Secretary