

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

**Special Board Meeting  
Thursday, December 11, 2008  
7:30 a.m.  
Board Room**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Introduction of Visitors Jacques A. Conway
  
2. Visitor Comments
  
3. Calendar Waiver Application Hearing Action
  
4. Motion to Adjourn Action

C: Board Members  
Administrators

***Oak Park and River Forest High School  
District 200***

*201 North Scoville Avenue • Oak Park, IL 60302-2296*

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Jason Edgecombe  
DATE: December 11, 2008  
RE: Illinois State Board of Education Waiver Request – Veteran’s Day

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**BACKGROUND**

Under School Code of Illinois regulations Veteran’s Day is only a non-attendance day for students when November 11<sup>th</sup> falls on a school day. Since Veteran’s Day is contractually a holiday for the non-certified collective bargaining groups of the District, this circumstance results in the inconvenience (administratively) of a floating holiday for the affected employees. In order to avoid this administrative inconvenience and to better serve the needs of students, the Administration is seeking authorization from the Board of Education to request a waiver of this holiday from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The purpose of this waiver is to permit the commemoration of Veteran’s Day on a standard day of the District’s choosing.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Attached to this memorandum is the official application to ISBE with an explanation of the rationale for the request. District 97 has also requested a waiver of Veteran’s Day with a similar rationale. Currently, the proposed standard day for commemorating Veteran’s Day is the first Friday in November. The use of this day would regularly provide a minimum of two consecutive weeks of uninterrupted instruction prior to the traditional break for Thanksgiving.

District 90 has been granted a waiver from commemorating Veteran’s Day with a non-attendance day for students.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

To forward the proposed Waiver Application request to the regularly scheduled December Board of Education Meeting for approval as presented.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
 Rules and Waivers Unit  
 100 North First Street, S-493  
 Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
 Phone 217/782-5270

**APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OR MODIFICATION  
 OF STATE BOARD RULES AND/OR SCHOOL CODE MANDATES**

This application is to be used for seeking a waiver or modification of State Board of Education rules or of School Code mandates in accordance with Section 2-3.25g of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g]. The completed application must be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the above address. Please use the instructions on reverse side when completing this application.  
**Please note that action on incomplete applications will be delayed until all required documentation is received.**

1. The application is for: (Check appropriate box(es) below.)

- WAIVER OF SCHOOL CODE**     **WAIVER OF ISBE RULE**     **MODIFICATION OF SCHOOL CODE**     **MODIFICATION OF ISBE RULE**

2. APPLICANT'S NAME AND NUMBER Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 <hr/> APPLICANT'S ADDRESS 210 North Scoville Avenue Oak Park, IL <hr/> SUPERINTENDENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dr. Attila J. Weninger <hr/> COUNTY Cook	CONTACT PERSON Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources <hr/> CONTACT PERSON'S TELEPHONE NUMBER/EXTENSION 708 - 434 - 3215 <hr/> CONTACT FAX NUMBER 708 - 434 - 3919 <hr/> E-MAIL ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON jedgecombe@oprfrhs.org <hr/> Can we contact your e-mail address? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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3. Provide citation or language of the rule(s) or School Code mandate(s) which are the subject of this application. If you are requesting a modification, display it here, using strike through or underlining.

The language is from 105ILCS 5/24-2 Holidays - Please see attachment.

4. Attach a narrative identifying and justifying the specific request.

a. For proposed waivers and modifications of rules or modifications of School Code mandates that are based upon meeting the intent of the rule or mandate in a more effective, efficient or economical manner, a narrative description must provide all of the required information (see Item 4(a) on the reverse side).

Please see attachment for rationale.

b. All proposed waivers/modifications requested to stimulate innovation or improve student performance, **including all proposed waivers of School Code mandates**, shall provide the specific plan for improved student performance and school improvement upon which the request is being based and how the applicant will determine success (see Item 4(b) on the reverse side).

c. Applications requesting waivers from Section 17-1.5 of the School Code must include the amount, nature, and reason for the requested relief and all remedies that have been exhausted by the district to comply with the administrative expenditure limitation.

5. **Public Testimony:** Attach a description of the testimony provided, to include the information enumerated in item 5 on the reverse side.

6. This application is for:  **INITIAL WAIVER/MODIFICATION**     **RENEWAL OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WAIVER/MODIFICATION**  
 This application requests waiver/modification for 5 years (from 2010 school year through 2014 school year).  
 (See Item 6 on reverse side for limits on the duration of waivers/modifications.)

7. Attach a copy of each public notice required. Any request not meeting the requirements will be returned as ineligible for consideration.

8. Compliance with Notice and Hearing Requirements

I certify that a hearing concerning this application and any associated plan for improved student performance was held on December 11, 2008 and, **for those applicants requesting waivers or modifications of the daily physical education requirement**, that the regular <sup>(date)</sup> board meeting(s) were held on XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX of that month.  
(date)

I further certify that the applicant has met all the notification and hearing requirements enumerated in items A and B on reverse side and that the board of education/board of directors of the applicant identified above approved this application on December 18, 2008.  
(date)

December 18, 2008

Date

Signature of Applicant (i.e., District Superintendent/Executive Director/Regional Superintendent)

***Oak Park and River Forest High School  
District 200***

*201 North Scoville Avenue • Oak Park, IL 60302-2296*

**APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OR MODIFICATION OF STATE BOARD RULES AND/OR  
SCHOOL CODE MANDATES ATTACHMENT**

1. **Application Item #1** - Applicant: Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 (14 - 016 – 2000 – 13)
2. **Application Item #3** – Language of 105ILCS 5/24-2 Holidays

Teachers shall not be required to teach on Saturdays, nor shall teachers or other school employees, other than non-certified employees whose presence is necessary because of emergency or for the continued operation and maintenance of school facilities or property, be required to work on legal school holidays, which are January 1, New Year's Day; the third Monday in January, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; ~~February 12, the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln\*\*~~; the first Monday in March (to be known as Casimir Pulaski's birthday); the day designated as Memorial Day by federal law; July 4, Independence Day; the first Monday in September, Labor Day; the second Monday in October, ~~Columbus Day~~; ~~November 11, Veteran's Day~~; the Thursday in November commonly called Thanksgiving Day; and December 25, Christmas Day. School Boards may grant special holidays whenever in their judgment such action is advisable.

**\*\*District 200 has already been granted a waiver for the commemoration of February 12, the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln.**

3. **Application Item #4** – Rationale for Modification

District 200 seeks a waiver from celebrating Veteran's Day on the specific day of November 11. It is the District's belief that the changing nature of this holiday (the day of observance rotates annually) is not conducive to the continuity of instruction for students. A standard day of observance would better suit the instructional needs of students. In addition, a holiday commemorated on a Friday or Monday has a reduced impact on the issue of continuity of instruction. Finally, the creation of a standard day of commemoration would give the District an opportunity to partner with local organizations in the appropriate recognition of this important holiday for the benefit of its students. The District requests the option of determining which day of the week best meets its needs in the commemoration of Veteran's Day.