

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS™ OAK PARK / RIVER FOREST



**Oak Park River Forest District 200
September 27, 2011**

Johan Walsh, Substitute Observer

In attendance: President Dietra Millard, Vice President Terry Finnegan, Board Members Valerie Fisher, Ralph Lee, Amy McCormack, Sharon Patchak-Layman, and John Phelan

Public Comment: Three complaints were registered on the impact of closed campus and one on insufficient rodent control.

Reports: The President noted three Freedom of Information Act requests were received and two resolved. No Student Council Liaison Report was made as the presenter was absent. Faculty Senate Report was presented.

Superintendent's Report: The Principal indicated that the lunch-time task force consists of 29 individuals who have met weekly to identify and resolve issues of communications, hall congestion, rules, and teacher-student relations. Discipline issues are decreasing as a result of the modified campus. The new policy prohibiting food in classrooms will reduce pest problems. Homecoming activities were summarized. The Class of 1943 gifted \$5,000.

The public hearing on the proposed 2012 budget was then opened. No public comments were received and the hearing was closed.

Treasurer's Report for August was reviewed including investment information.

The Director of Buildings and Grounds reported he is meeting with Legat Architects and Henry Brothers Construction to tighten estimates on the approved list of construction projects. Bids will be brought to the Board in January. Closed campus will be an add-on to that list.

A proposal to amend facility rental fees was introduced and discussed in August and deferred to this evening. Tonight the Board reviewed a 20-page report from staff providing detailed financial analysis and a recommendation to charge teams \$10 per player. Considerable discussion followed, after which the Superintendent suggested that tonight's review be deemed a first reading with a second reading scheduled for October 13. The Board concurred.

An updated five-year financial plan was reviewed for each of the High School's eight funds.

Illinois Central School Bus was awarded a three-year contract for bus services last March and in recent weeks has failed to meet its obligations for charter trips due to insufficient staff and equipment. A new agreement with former charter provider, R&D Bus Services, was proposed for charter services, as well as an amendment to Illinois Central's contract striking charter provisions.

A report on Financial Advisory Committee activities was reviewed for August and September. A new budget management tool has been developed to track progress of the budget and all related finance meetings.

A second amendment to the contract of Legat Architects, Inc. for architectural services was reviewed for summer 2012 projects.

The Director of the History Department presented a detailed overview of the department. Board goals were linked to curriculum.

Thrive Counseling Center of Oak Park has named a new counselor to provide substance abuse prevention and intervention services to the High School. The counselor will be introduced to the Board at a future meeting.

Discussion centered next on a protocol proposal developed by a Board member to guide and limit the extent of Board member discussion at the Board table. Four protocols were introduced last month as follows: Protocol 1: Default or normal procedures protocol; Protocol 2: Adoption of specific language; Protocol 3: Reports to the Board of Education; Protocol 4: Unanticipated prolonged discussions or catch-all. In all protocols, Board members would be limited to a set number of minutes to express opinions. Considerable debate followed.

At this point in the meeting, the Board double-backed on its agenda to vote on several items discussed earlier this evening, as well as several items that had not been discussed. (Approval was unanimous unless otherwise noted.)

Budget for 2012-2013

Disbursements and financial resolutions for September, and August Treasurer's report

Personnel recommendations as outlined by the Human Resources Department. Several of the new hires will work in food service.

Assurances of District Compliance. Before the vote, questions were raised by a Board member on actual compliance in three areas. Some discussion followed. The President noted that time could have been saved by raising these questions with the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting.

Application to State requesting recognition of High School

Amendment to Legal Architect's contract for summer 2012 construction work

Illinois Central School Bus charter amendment and R&D charter agreement (6-1 nay Phelan)

Illinois State Board joint conference attendance by two Board members

Board protocol procedures (5-2 nay Patchak-Layman and Phelan)

August and September minutes; destruction of Nov 2009 audiotapes (6-1 nay Patchak-Layman)

At approximately 10:45 p.m., the meeting adjourned to executive session to discuss matters of personnel and collective bargaining. The Board also met in executive session at 6:35 p.m.; however, observer did not attend the 6:30 p.m. roll call when purpose was stated.

Official minutes at www.oprfhs.org