

Oak Park River Forest High School Board
May 25, 2017
Mary Haley, Observer

Present: Jackie Moore- President, Sara Dixon Spivy -Vice-President, Tom Cofsky, Craig Iseli, Matt Baron, Jennifer Cassell and Fred Arkin

Dr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7:36.

Public Comments: Paul Collins, an OPRF wrestling coach, announced that the Husky wrestling family will be developing a sexual violence prevention program. Using a \$5,000 grant from the Rotary, the group will work with Sarah's Inn to develop the program.

Six students spoke about the change in funding for the IRDI (Investigational Research, Design and Innovation) science class. Since this class requires expenditures for each student's specific research project, students have often self-funded their research. The proposal to allocate \$3500 from the district budget will, in the opinion of the speakers, diminish the students' ability to do advanced research that has solidified program's national reputation for excellence. Grant writing, financial aid and scholarships were suggested a ways students would be able to afford their costs.

Consent Items: All items excluding item G were passed unanimously. Item G passed by a vote of 4-3.

Action Items: Dr. Pruitt-Adams and Karin Sullivan asked the board to approve a contract with UNICOM ARC, a communications firm, to provide support for IMAGINE OPRF. This body was formed last year to develop a thorough analysis of the school's long-term facility needs. The district will share all previously gathered data with UNICOM. Tom Cofsky asked why only three companies presented bids for this contract. Sullivan explained that many districts nationwide are working on facilities planning and that not all communication firms have the specific skills needed by OPRFHS. The item was passed unanimously.

Discussion: Dr. Pruitt-Adams and Phil Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, spoke about the need to educate the community about why the tier system called for in the state plan to implement the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds) Act. While districts don't know where they will be ranked, a variety of factors will be considered in making that determination. Exemplary schools (Tier I) will be looked at as models for other districts; Mr. Prale noted that many of those districts are expected to be smaller and relatively homogeneous districts.

Jan Arnold, executive director of OPPD and Mike Sletten, executive director of RFPD, spoke about the possibility of collaboration in developing a recreation center that OPRF would use for some of its swimming needs. Swimming classes

would remain on campus, necessitating a smaller solution to replacing the current OPRF pools. The center would have an indoor track and other amenities. Three sites have been considered, and the cost of construction ranges from \$36M-\$47M dollars. The center would be a revenue-producing source. This matter remains an ongoing discussion in which OPRF is invited to participate.

The final matter for discussion was developing hiring protocols. An increased role for the Human Resources department was suggested by the board. Among the criteria for hiring were diversity, connection with needed extracurricular positions and budget concerns.

Information Items: Dr. Pruitt-Adams emphasized the need to approach the Strategic Plan as part of an ongoing cycle. After receiving feedback from a variety of sources, Pruitt-Adams said a document would be presented at the June board meeting for approval as a working document.

More than 80 people volunteered for the IMAGINE OPRF working group. 33 members were selected, and student members will be added in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 p.m.