

Oak Park River Forest High School Board
March 24, 2016
Mary Haley, Observer

Present: Jeff Weissglass-President, Tom Cofsky, Steve Gevinson, Sara Dixon Spivy, Fred Arkin and Jennifer Cassell

Absent: Jackie Moore

Mr. Weissglass called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

Public Comments: Clay Reagan, Division Head of Physical Education, asked the board to consider reducing the teaching load for all Division Heads to one class per semester. Increased time is needed for observation, mentoring and collaboration due to the adoption of the Performance Evaluation Reform Act passed by the state legislature.

A group of seniors spoke eloquently about the vote for graduation attire, opposing the decision that the traditional attire with the addition of an option to wear a dark dress, skirt or suit would be adopted. The students explained their reasons for preferring the option to wear caps and gowns. Their major point is that such attire is the most gender neutral, protecting the rights of a minority of students who are gender fluid. Allowing a popular vote to determine a decision that affects a minority's right, one student noted, is not how our country works. Dr. Isoye, Mr. Rouse and the board members complimented the students on how they have conducted their campaign. Dr. Isoye said there is more awareness of this issue because of their activism.

Consent Items: All items passed unanimously.

Action Items: The discussion of bookstore policy and of the recommendation for 2016-2017 IMF fees were joined as the two topics have implications for each other. If the recommended fee of \$320 were accepted, the cost of staff salaries and benefits as well as the cost of materials of students who receive waivers would be borne by the other students. This is in conformity with the current policy that requires that the bookstore be self-sustaining. If fees are lowered and the district subsumes the cost of salaries, benefits and waiver costs, the district might be forced to go referendum sooner than anticipated. A compromise position was proposed by which the cost of waivers would be subsidized by the district but the overhead costs for the bookstore would be covered by markups on the books and materials was accepted by a vote of 5-1. Sara Spivy voted against the proposal saying it didn't go far enough.

The board also voted on the 2016-2017 FTE (Full Time Employee) recommendation from the administration. Mr. Cofsky questioned why fewer teachers were needed while the number of non-instructional staff was being increased. Dr. Isoye answered that number of special needs staff and technology personnel had increased. Sheila Hardin, the Faculty Senate representative, stated that this is not a new need and that such personnel was needed last year. [Michael Carioscio](#), Chief Information Officer, commented that as the district moves closer to providing each student with a Chromebook, the need for more technology staff shouldn't be surprising. The vote was 5-1 with Mr. Cofsky voting against the item.

Discussion Items: Dr. Isoye has signed a letter of intent to participate in a multi-district grant to work with Equal Opportunity Schools, an organization that helps schools identify students to participate in AP courses who might not otherwise be selected.

The board also looked at the Compensation Philosophy report that focused on how to attract and keep excellent staff. Mr. Weissglass stated his opposition to the concept of merit pay. Other board members expressed support for the concept, and it was decided that further discussion is needed. Legat Architects are developing new options for the pool. Community input will be sought at series of meetings in early April.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 A.M.

For further information, please visit <http://www.oprfhs.org/board-of-education/Agendas-Minutes-Packets.cfm>).