



NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – November 18, 2014

At the regular meeting of the Oak Park USD Board of Education held on November 18, the Board heard reports from members, the student member, and the superintendent. Brookside, MCMS, and OPHS School Site Councils also gave reports to the Board. The Board presented the Partner in Education Award to Irene Lyle for her service to OPUSD. Irene is president of the Oak Hills Elementary School PTA and has served on the Board of Friends of Oak Park Schools and volunteered in other capacities as well. Debi Fries, OPHS counselor was recognized at her retirement. Outgoing Board Member Sepideh Yeoh was recognized and thanked for her service as a Board member and long time volunteer and involved parent.

The Board turned back three legal claims made against the District, determining them to be both untimely and insufficient.

The Board took action and/or approved the following:

CONSENT ITEMS

- Overnight trips for the OPHS boy's basketball team, Future Business Leaders of America, and potential upcoming trips depending on qualification for CIF post season play.
- Notices of Completion for parking lot and playground repairs at Brookside and Red Oak and roof repairs at Red Oak.
- Disposal of obsolete property.

ACTION ITEMS

- Appointed Denise Helfstein to fill the 2-year vacancy created by the resignation of Sepideh Yeoh. The Board chose from six well qualified candidates who they interviewed the day before at a public meeting.
- Nomination of the two members running for the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly.
- Set the annual organizational meeting for December 9, 2014.
- Approved a service contract with Ventura County Community College District to fund the 2014-15 California Career Pathways Trust Grant, which will total \$284,872 over three years. This will help fund courses that are being developed in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). The OPHS Robotics Team was also there and made a presentation to show the future applications of these types of courses.
- A project to upgrade portions of the OPHS baseball field with artificial turf. The Board is requiring the use of a new product known as

Futrfill, which is potentially safer for the environment and safer for students. The District will monitor the quality of the new turf and consider using it as a standard for all future artificial turf applications. The cost of the project will be paid by donated funds from the Booster Club, however, the \$14,000 upgrade to the Futrfill turf will be paid by OPUSD. Total cost is approximately \$64,000.

- Accepted with gratitude a \$5000 sponsorship by The Boeing Company of the Oak Park High School Rocket Team.
- 2015-16 Classified Employee Calendar.
- Collective bargaining agreements with the Oak Park Teachers Association and the Oak Park Classified Association to provide a 5% salary increase retroactive to July 1 of this year.
- Compensation adjustment - 5% increase for administrative, confidential, and unrepresented employees.
- Amendment to the contract with the Superintendent to provide a 5% salary increase.

POLICIES

Policies related to the following were approved:

Homework – the Board approved a policy that restricts homework assignments over certain breaks. The Board also approved policies related to personnel reduction procedures, teacher support and guidance, evaluation and supervision of employees, dropout prevention, and gifted and talented students.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The Board asked that a policy related to the placement of telecommunication (cell phone) towers at or near school sites be brought to the next meeting. The Board also discussed sending new Board members to CSBA new board member training and the Masters in Governance program. The Board decided not to attend the annual CSBA conference due to the cost.