



## NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – December 10, 2013

At the regular meeting of the Oak Park USD Board of Education on December 10, the Board heard reports and discussed the following:

- The Board recognized Ashwarya Srinivas, 14-year old student at Oak Park High School for completing the Microsoft Office certification. She is believed to be the youngest person in the world to achieve this very difficult task.
- The Board heard a presentation by students at MCMS who refer to themselves as the *Hydration Heroes*. These students presented information about the dangers to the environment of plastic water bottles and asked the Board to extend their ban on these items at all of the schools. Last year after a similar request, the Board banned the sale of bottles as part of the regular school lunch program districtwide and installed an additional 16 hydration stations. The Child Nutrition program currently sells water and other approved beverages in plastic bottles as an a-la-cart item at the secondary school cafeterias and in the healthy vending machines. The Board agreed to agendaize this and discuss it in January.
- School safety update by Dr. Knight that included information about the progress of our pilot program of high resolution video surveillance cameras that will be deployed at all of the schools after the conclusion of the testing. Also, two types of ID badge kiosks for visitors are being piloted.

The Board took action and approved the following:

- This was the annual *Reorganization Meeting* of the Board. The new officers are as follows: President – Mary Pallant, Vice President – Sepideh Yeoh, Clerk – Jennifer von Schneidau, Member – Barbara Laifman, Member – Allen Rosen. Allen Rosen was recognized and thanked for his year of leadership as Board President.
- The Board meeting schedule for the year was approved and members were selected to serve on the various District committees.
- The goals for the Board were approved. These include developing a better understanding of the role of the Board in emergency and crisis situations, better communication of District goals, biannual revision of the governance handbook, and a plan to conduct biannual board self-evaluations.
- Approved the purchase of new Cisco switching gear as part of a comprehensive network upgrade to accommodate surveillance cameras, new VOIP phone system, thermostat networking, and wireless access for tablets. The cost is \$450,000 and it will be funded from Measure C6 and Measure R bond funds.
- The contract with construction management firm Balfour Beatty was renewed/approved.
- An agreement with KPI Architects was approved related to the installation of a new boiler in the OPHS gym that needs to be replaced.

- The First Interim Financial Report was approved. The budget for this year is projected to remain balanced and a positive certification is expected. The projected reserve is 3.2%. The required reserve for economic uncertainties is 3%.
- A Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN) was approved. This is a financial instrument routinely used by school systems to borrow money at low interest in order to operate while waiting for the state to provide owed funds due their 'deferral' system of funding public schools. The deferral system allows the state to fund schools from two fiscal years. (Don't try this at home!)
- An agreement was approved to move to an automated substitute/guest teacher system. The program is known as Aesop and is sold/serviced by ESchool Solutions.
- School site capacities and enrollment projections for the 2014/15 school year were presented and approved. The approved plan keeps enrollment numbers fairly consistent with this year's numbers at all of the schools. Enrollment is anticipated to be 4678. It is currently 4672. A total of 277 District of Choice students will be accepted to replace those graduating (175) and overall student attrition (moving, not returning, etc) of 4%.
- The Board approved a new Advanced Band class for Oak Park High School, which will give birth to the school's first marching band!

The Board also discussed and revised policies related to: The length of the school day, dealing with controversial issues, the use of copyrighted materials, and revised the by-laws of the Board related to communication, and others related to reimbursements and remuneration.