

OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 200

Board Briefs

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Student Showcase:



Girls' Cross-Country Team: Nicole Ebsen, Athletic Director, introduced Lenny Sterritt, who, as a junior, has been to state competitions twice. Ms. Ebsen stated that Lenny has consistently improved her time, besting her times from last year by 37 seconds. This is Lenny's third time qualifying for state competition and first time qualifying in the individual competition. During this competition, Lenny placed almost 100 places better than last season, showcasing the grit and determination she brings to every race. Congratulations Lenny, and GO HUSKIES!!!



AP Bridge Program: Dr. Fiorenza introduced students that participated in the AP Bridge Program this past summer. Dr. Fiorenza stated that in 2017, Dr. Tyrone Williams, a History teacher, designed this opportunity to provide academic and motivational support to the students to take on new challenges by enrolling in more advanced classes; Jacqueline Torres and Wilson Caraballo presently instruct the program. Ms. Torres stated that since Dr. Williams has passed on this program to herself and Mr. Wilson, they have instructed over 75 students for the past three summers. Students Xochitl Chavez, Faith Lee, Julia Passo, and Javier Rodriguez stated how fun the class was and how they learned things such as: how to annotate, analyze documents and song lyrics, learn about college life, how to write better and be better prepared for the future.

Student Council Report

Student Council Jacob Drews gave the following report:

- The Tradition of Excellence Ceremony took place on November 11th, and the honor was awarded to three outstanding OPRF alum:
 - Hallie Stephens Drake (Class of 2003) – Entertainment host and producer for Entertainment Tonight Now (ETnow)
 - Josh Wood (Class of 1992) – Event Producer
 - Jerry Saltz (Class of 1969) – Author and Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic for New York Magazine
- There have been some concerns among the students regarding the lunchroom and finding locations to sit for lunch. As the weather is getting colder, students are not going off campus as much, and the space in the cafeteria is getting crowded. Students are also not allowed to use the balcony space for lunch but would like this space open for students to use.

Superintendent Announcements:

Dr. Johnson made the following announcements:

- This past Tuesday, Nov. 15, was Illinois School Board Members Day. For those who may not know, the role of the District 200 board member is unpaid. The folks here at this table volunteer hundreds of hours of their time over the course of four years in service to our students, staff, and taxpayers. It can be a daunting and at

OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 200

Board Briefs

Thursday, November 17, 2022

times thankless role. So, on behalf of the district, I want to take a moment to recognize our School Board members. Thank you for your service and for all you do for this community.

- On Oct. 28, the Illinois State Board of Education released its 2022 Illinois Report Card for all schools in the state. I'm thrilled to share that for the first time, the state has designated Oak Park and River Forest High School an exemplary school. That means that we rank in the top 10% of all high schools in Illinois. This news is particularly gratifying given that last school year we were only beginning to emerge from the pandemic and trying to establish a sense of normalcy. It's a testament to collective effort, and on behalf of the district administration, I want to thank the entire school community for your support.
- Congratulations to the boys' cross country team on its 5th place finish at the state meet, our highest team finish since 1980. The Huskies were led by senior Liam Newhart, who earned all-state honors for his 2nd place finish, and our highest individual finisher since 1980 as well. Congratulations as well to junior Lenny Sterritt, who qualified to compete at state for girls' cross country.
- In girls swimming, sophomore Sadie Murphy, senior Rebecca Dee, and sophomore Kate Walby all competed at state, with Sadie winning an 8th place medal in the 200 yd medley and a 9th place medal in the 100 yds back.
- I also want to take a moment to recognize junior Manolo Avalos and senior Tori Evans who participated this past week in the Conference of Parties, otherwise known as COP 27, summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The summit is attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. At this year's summit were representatives from nearly 200 countries, and this is the second year in a row that we've been honored to have OPRFHS students attend as observers. It's a life-changing experience for our students--and, hopefully, a piece of a community changing effort here in Oak Park and River Forest. Their charge remains as it has been in previous years--a charge that gets more and more urgent every day--to urge our local leaders to make meaningful changes in policies and practices that positively affect our global climate. A huge congrats to Manolo and Tori; we're impressed by your commitment and proud to have you representing OPRF abroad.
- And finally, I want to offer our congratulations to Oak Park Police Chief Shatonya Johnson. After 23 years on the force, she became Oak Park's first female police chief on October 25. Thank you for your service, Chief Johnson, and we look forward to working with you.
- Teacher of the Month – **Ignacio Ponce**. Here are what people who submitted nominations had to say about Mr. Ponce:

Employee
Recognition

OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 200

Board Briefs

Thursday, November 17, 2022

- *Ignacio led and encouraged all Hispanic employees to begin the tradition of a potluck during Hispanic Heritage Month.*
- *This was the first time this had been done, and it was an amazing success, thanks to Ignacio's positivity, energy, and pride in our heritage and culture.*
- *A lot of love came together in this event, and we were able to share our food and pride with all our colleagues throughout the building.*
- *Ignacio also is a caring teacher who truly values his students in the classroom.*
- *Students have nothing but great experiences with him that they bring to Spanish II.*
- *Ignacio is the true definition of a Latino making a difference.*
- *He is a great role model for the Latino students at OPRF.*

- Employee of the Month – **Olivia Meraz**. Here are what people who submitted nominations had to say about Ms. Meraz:
 - *Olivia went above and beyond in planning the potluck for the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.*
 - *She was enthusiastic, and thanks to her effort, we had an amazing turnout that was inviting of all faculty and admin, not just Latinos.*
 - *She went above and beyond in decorating, planning, and helping the event run smoothly.*
 - *She was even willing to take a personal day if need be to help us celebrate. Thankfully, she did not have to do that.*
 - *Thank you, Olivia, for your help with organizing this event and starting with this beautiful tradition at OPRF!*

Board Actions:

- Approval of the Open and Closed Minutes of October 27 and November 3, 2022, and declaration that the audiotapes of the closed session minutes of March 2021 be destroyed and a declaration that the closed session minutes of January 1, 1986, through October 27, 2022, shall remain closed with the exception of the minutes of October 4, December 13 and 21, 1983 and January 14, 23, and 28, 1984.
- Approval of the personnel recommendations, including new hires, transfers, resignations, retirements, and leaves of absence, as presented
- Approval of additional Culture, Climate, and Behavior Committee members
- Approval of the September 2022 Treasurer's Report, as presented
- Approval of the September 2022 Monthly Financials as presented
- Approval of the November 2022 check disbursements and financial resolutions as presented
- Approval of the EHC Industries abatement contract in an amount not to exceed \$119,800
- To accept with gratitude the following donations:

OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 200

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Thursday, November 17, 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Alan Hinds donation of 15 years' worth of Science Journals to Allison Hennings' Science class○ Mr. Joe Kostal, one of our math teachers, donation of two telescopes to the Astronomy Club● Approval of the reciprocal reporting agreement between District 200 and the Village of Oak Park, contingent upon the inclusion of the additional provisions, which explicitly limits the scope of student record information to be shared with law enforcement and explicitly limits law enforcement interviews of minor students on school grounds.● Approval of the application for waiver of school code 105 ILCS 5/27 – 24.3 to the Illinois State Board of Education● Approval of the electrical auction thresholds and further authorize district administration to execute an electrical contract in an amount not to exceed 15% above sealed qualifying round pricing for a term of up to 60 months following the live reverse auction and present the results to the Board at the December regular Board meeting● Approval of the total recommended 2022 tentative levy request of \$77,805,794, which represents an increase of 3.96% compared to the estimated 2021 tax extension of \$74,842,073● Approval of the all-in costs associated with the Track and Fields Project for a price not to exceed \$17,335,486
Additional Reports:	Additional reports included: FOIA status.
New Hires:	<p style="text-align: center;">Personnel Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Louise Dykes, Certified Nurse Assistant Site Instructor, effective November 16, 2022● Linda Enciso, Special Education Secretary/Staffing Scheduling and Records, effective November 10, 2022● Jason McGoey, Teacher Assistant, effective October 31, 2022● Luz Portacio Ramos, Teacher Assistant, effective November 14, 2022● Jane Taub, Duplicating/Mailroom Clerk, effective October 31, 2022● Rebecca Vazquez, Teacher Assistant, effective October 31, 2022● Charles Hinriksson, Girls' Wrestling Assistant Coach, effective November 7, 2022● Alexander Perez-Feliz, Special Olympics Basketball Assistant Coach, effective November 7, 2022● Heather Tisue, Girls' Lacrosse Assistant Coach, effective November 7, 2022
Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Brianna Burton, Motivational Mentorship Program Coordinator, effective November 21, 2022● Yesenia Govea, ELL Instructional Aide, effective November 7, 2022● Ashley Jones, Safety and Support Officer (full time), effective October 10, 2022

OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 200

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Thursday, November 17, 2022

Resignation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ronald C. Anderson, Executive Director of Operations, effective December 2, 2022• Michael Thurman, Food Service Worker, effective December 30, 2022
Retirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah Blausey, Food Service Worker, effective December 30, 2022• Thyesha Gaiter, Food Service Worker, effective December 30, 2022
Leaves of Absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dmitri Willis, Teacher Assistant, November 17, 2022 – March 31, 2023

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting

December 15, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Board Room