

OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 200

Board Briefs

Thursday, December 15, 2022

[Regular Board Meeting Agenda](#)

**Student Showcase:**



**Boys' Cross-Country Team:** Ms. Nicole Ebsen, Athletic Director, introduced the state-qualified Boys' Cross-Country Team. The team had an amazing season this year, the best in a very long time. The team is made up of 85 remarkable young men who worked incredibly hard together, both as a team and as well as individuals. The team won the Fenton Early Bird Invitational and the Richard Spring Invitational and placed second Naperville Twilight Invitational and West Suburban Conference. For post-season, the team won the regional championship, placed third in sectional, and fifth in state (the highest finished in the state meet since 1980). Congratulations to team members: Seniors - Owen Augustine, Paul Delignon, Roan Egan, Liam Newhart, and Nick Parrell; Juniors - Daniel Johnson, Michael Michelotti, Lewis O'Connor, and Henry Schacht; and Sophomores - Andrew Harmon, Finn Kelly, Liam O'Connor, and Connor Schupp.



**Psychology Club:** Led by sponsor Ms. Janelle Smith, the group discussed monthly themed-out discussions around developmental psychology, memories, and careers. Recently, the group had a clinical and a forensic psychologist come to speak to students who may be interested in the field of psychology and the opportunities available. Co-Presidents Morgan Fox and Bella Trotter spoke about some of the things they love about the Psychology Club, such as the assurance of majoring in psychology in college, organizing and selling Psychology Club merchandise, and honest, open conversations among the members of the group.

**Student Council  
Report**

Student Council Jacob Drews gave the following report:

- The Student Council has been planning the spirit week (December 12-16)
- The music played for the passing bell this week has been holiday themed
- Students have been expressing positive feedback about the finals schedule this year. In previous years, testing has been scheduled for Wednesday through Friday, but this year, it's Monday through Wednesday.
- Students have complained that since the weather is getting colder, not too many students leave for lunch. The North Cafeteria is getting crowded, and the balcony is not available for students to eat lunch. The students are seeking an alternate location for lunch.

**Superintendent  
Announcements:**

Dr. Johnson made the following announcements:

- In January, OPRFHS will be sending 21 music students to All-State. This is the greatest number of music students to be invited to All-State in the history of the high school.
- The Science Olympiad team brought home four medals from the Palatine Invitational, including first-place wins in Dynamic Planet for Ezekiel Wells and William Wheeler, and in Write It Do It for Rachel Kralik and Danaan Perry.

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- The speech team brought home nine individual awards from District 211 FREMD Viking Varsity Tournament, including first place medals for Olivia Lee in Dramatic Interpretation, Ezekiel Wells in Extemporaneous Speaking, and Julian Martinez in Impromptu Speaking.
- Congratulations to senior Brad Huseby and sophomore Greg Huseby who were named Outstanding Academic All-Americans by USA Water Polo for the 2021-2022 academic year. They earned this designation by participating in USA Water Polo's Junior Olympics in July and for earning a 4.0 or higher for the academic year.
- Greg Huseby also was named to USA Water Polo's Cadet Olympic Development Program Team. He'll represent the Midwest Zone at the East Regional Water Polo Championship in Dallas, Texas, next month.
- English Division Head Erika Eckart had her previously published poem "Knuckles" translated into Urdu and Spanish for the Thousand Languages Project at Arizona State University. In addition, her piece "Kleptothermy" was published in Tampa Review's most recent issue.
- And finally, I want to share this letter that parent Alison Welch sent to our music department after attending last week's spectacular Prisms concert:

*As I wind down for the evening, I'm finding it difficult to stop playing and replaying in my mind the incredible musical moments from tonight's Prisms of Winter Concert 2022. Wow.*

*I remember last year, when [my daughter] was a freshman, how incredibly blown away I was. I had no idea what to expect. This year, I did know what to expect: I knew that I would see hundreds of OPRFHS students from varying backgrounds, demographics, grades, and skill sets come together as musicians and singers and create memorable music.*

*Yikes, was I mistaken. Yet again, and even more so, I was completely blown away, and my expectations were far, far exceeded.*

*As [my daughter] and I were reflecting on the night while driving home, we talked about how with performing, it's not just about the music that is played or sung, it's how it's played or sung. As musical leaders for the school, you demonstrated so clearly tonight that you inspire the best out of each and every student. The level of emotional depth in the final piece, especially, reflected not only their talents but also the way in which you engage them fully in artistically feeling and sharing those talents.*

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*Thank you for this wonderful gift that will keep on giving, not only to the students but to the whole community.*

**Employee Recognition**

- **Teacher of the Month – Octavius Bellamy.** Here are what people who submitted nominations had to say about Mr. Bellamy:
  - *He is a good teacher & he is funny. I like how he talks about his personal experiences & encourages us.*
  - *Mr. Bellamy is a really fun teacher! He makes me comfortable and happy, and history isn't boring!*
  - *He is academically supportive! He is also understanding. He makes sure everyone is heard.*
  - *He is a teacher. He is a father figure I never had that inspires me. His energy helps me push myself to keep going.*
  - *Mr. Bellamy is very respectful, funny, and relatable. He is like a working father figure to me.*
  - *He is very helpful with classwork and is fun to be around. He is always supportive.*
  - *He is a great teacher who is fun and includes everyone in class.*
  - *Mr. Bellamy is an incredible co-worker who has made me a better educator. He is supportive of his students and creates a space where learning is imperative while also supporting the whole student. He makes teaching and learning history accessible and fun!*
  
- **Employee of the Month – Valda Yarrington.** Here are what people who submitted nominations had to say about Ms. Yarrington:
  - *Ms. Valda always goes above and beyond to make sure that the Welcome Center is running smoothly. Every time I called her for any kind of assistance whether it be to let her know that we have visitors coming she is always so willing to help.*
  - *Val is one of the first faces you see when you walk into our building and she is always so welcoming. There are moments where she is the front person that has to deal with some unpleasantries in the building but she deals with them in such a professional well-mannered way.*
  - *For many of the visitors coming into this building, Val is the first point of contact and always goes above and beyond! She does a fantastic job of managing a long list of duties in her role at the Welcome Center and she does it with a smile. She is always professional and kind. She most definitely emulates those things that are best here at OPRFHS.*
  - *Val keeps the Front desk of the Welcome Center safe at all times. Her kindness is a great asset when greeting our visitors in the building. And the students love her!!!*

**Board Actions:**

- Approval of the Open and Closed Minutes of November 17 and December 1, 2022, and declaration that the audiotapes of the closed session minutes of April 2021 be destroyed.

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- Approval of the personnel recommendations, including new hires, assignment changes, transfers, resignations, and leaves of absence, as presented
- Approval of Board of Education Meeting Dates for the 2023 school year
- Approval of the Cardonex Master Schedule software for one year at a cost of \$30,000
- Approval of the DuPage West Cook Board D200 Voting Member (Resolution)
- Approval of the October 2022 Treasurer Report
- Approval of the October 2022 Monthly Financials
- Approval of the following donation
- Nancy Salman, aunt of two OPRFHS students, Lukas and Isabella Brauc, made a monetary donation to the Food Service department for those students who cannot afford to purchase a meal
- Approval of the December 2022 check disbursements and financial resolutions as presented.
- Approval of the Hyatt Regency Chicago contract for Prom 2023 for a minimum cost of \$62,400. The cost is fully funded by the student tickets and no profit is made from it.
- Approval of the 2022 tax levy at 3.5% CPI, plus new construction at 0.46%, for an overall increase of 3.96%
- Approval of changes to Policy 8:80 – Gifts to the District, as presented.

**Additional Reports:**

Additional reports included: FOIA status.

**Personnel Recommendations**

**New Hires:**

- **Javiah Ervin**, Teacher Assistant, effective December 5, 2022
- **Willie Dill**, Safety & Support Officer (3.0 hours), effective November 28, 2022
- **Max Sakellaris**, Baseball Assistant Coach, effective December 7, 2022
- **Matthew Johnston**, Speech Team Co-Head, effective December 7, 2022

**Assignment Changes**

- **James Pligge**, Physical Education Teacher (1.0 FTE), effective January 6, 2023 – June 2, 2023

**Transfers**

- **John Angelini**, Associate Web Developer, effective December 9, 2022
- **Jessica Celis**, Safety and Support Officer (8.0 hours), effective November 16, 2022
- **Ann Harmon**, PSS Team Secretary, effective January 6, 2023
- **Shane Micek**, Custodian, Set-up Crew, effective December 2, 2022
- **Charles Smith**, Custodial Specialist, effective December 2, 2022

**Resignations**

- **Ryan Magnuson**, Girls' Lacrosse Assistant Coach, effective November 15, 2022
- **Dimitri Willis**, Wrestling, Assistant Coach, effective November 15, 2022
- **Wojciech Wojcik**, Girls' Soccer, Assistant Coach, effective November 20, 2022

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**Leaves of Absence**

- **Brenden Joy**, Teacher Assistant, effective March 31, 2023 – June 1, 2023

**Next Regular Board of Education Meeting**

**January 26, 2023**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Board Room**