

OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 200

Board Briefs

Thursday, October 27, 2022

Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Student Showcase:



Girls' Varsity Tennis – After finishing 3rd in the West Suburban Conference/Silver Division, OPRFHS hosted their first IHSA sectional tournament for the first time in four years. The team finished 2nd in the tournament and qualified two doubles teams for the state tournament. Neither team was seated in the 64 draws at State, but both teams won first-round matches. OPRFHS placed 19th overall as a team, putting four Silver Division teams in the top twenty. Congratulations to Clara Ottati, Maya Schwartz, Martha Brennan, Maeve Marzec, and Coach Fred Galluzzo on their accomplishments and great season. **GO HUSKIES!!!**



Sketch, Comedy, and Improv Club – This is one of our newest clubs at OPRFHS, and it's all about performance and being quick on your feet. Students Joey DiMaso, Jake DiMaso, Francesca Cajina, Zee Johnson-Shackelford, and Millea Lessin gave their experience as part of this club. Along with their sponsors, Mr. Andrew Brown, this is a student-run and student-created club based on the vision those students have. Jake DiMaso stated that the club is natural, has no hierarchy, and has excellent space for students to explore their identities. Joey DiMaso noted that the club creates a good, safe space where students look forward to meeting every week.

Superintendent Announcements:

Dr. Johnson made the following announcements:

We have a variety of good news from our performing arts programs:

- In theater, six OPRFHS students have been chosen to participate in the Illinois High School Theatre Festival All-State production of Shrek the Musical. Congrats to cast members Joshua Bonds, Blake Donalson, Victoria Hutson, Cameren Truelove, and Jessica Wolthusen, and to crew member Ian Kedrowski. In addition, the production is directed by our theater department chair Michelle Bayer and choreographed by alum Connor Cornelius.
- In music, 44 students have been selected to participate in the Illinois Music Education Association District 1 Music Festival next month. This includes students in choir, band, orchestra, winds orchestra, jazz, and vocal jazz.
- And in Marching Band, the Marching Huskies placed 3rd in their class at the Mustang Music Bowl, their first time back to this competition in more than eight years.

In sports, we have several items as well:

- Special Education teacher Octavius Bellamy competed in the Veteran Wrestling World Championships in Bulgaria and won the 88 kg gold medal in Greco-Roman.
- Our Girls Tennis Doubles teams earned spots to compete at state. Congrats to Martha Brennan, Maeve Marzec, Clara Ottati, and Maya Schwartz.
- During a recent home swim meet, sophomore Sadie Murphy shattered the school and pool records in the 200 Individual Medley with a time of 2:04.60.

And finally, I want to share a delightful note from Howard Halliday, a tourist from England. He and his wife were staying in Oak Park and wanted to see a high school football game. After attending our Homecoming game, he took the time to write to us about his experience, saying, "What a wonderful time we had, and what a great thing to experience alongside your local community."

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Employee Recognition

“It was a real pleasure to sit in the stands with the relatives and friends of the students, and see the joy and pride that they had in their children. The boys on the team, and the boys and girls in the marching band, cheerleaders and drill squads were so impressive - such a level of skill, organization, and coordination in children of that age. They were a credit to all their coaches and teachers.

“And what a great community event, to see so many of the non-participating students in attendance on a Friday evening, cheering on and supporting their colleagues.

“We know that on a visit to Chicago, we will see some amazing and historic sights, but our Friday night at the Oak Park & River Forest High School game will be one of our warmest memories. I'm looking forward to wearing my new Huskies hoodie (shout out to the very friendly and helpful staff selling the Huskies merchandise) when I get back to the UK and telling anyone who asks why I'm wearing it and what a great experience it was.”

- Teacher of the Month – **Lucas Pang**. Here are what people who submitted nominations had to say about Mr. Pang:
 - *Lucas choreographed and organized the faculty dance for the Homecoming Spirit Assembly.*
 - *In a true test of differentiation, he was able to include us all in a dance that was fun and engaging for students, faculty, and staff alike!*
 - *I have also heard only great things from students about him as a Physics teacher.*
 - *He makes learning Physics a challenging subject, fun, and accessible for all students.*
 - *Finally, his dancing "defies the laws of Physics" in the words of one commenter on the YouTube video of the dance.*
- Employee of the Month – **Humberto Celis**. Here are what people who submitted nominations had to say about Mr. Celis:
 - *Humberto is THE BEST.*
 - *I can't say enough how helpful and kind he is.*
 - *Earlier this year, when everyone was asking for a million things before school began, Humberto went the extra mile to make sure I had everything I needed to feel ready to start the year.*
 - *Amid all the construction and cleaning, I didn't think my requests would be at the top of anyone's list.*
 - *But Humberto checked in frequently with updates and offered to help in whatever ways he could.*
 - *I feel lucky when I run into Humberto coming in each morning since he always starts my day off with his contagious kindness and positivity.*
 - *He ALWAYS goes the extra mile to be helpful, and I'm so grateful he's a part of our Huskie family!*

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Board Actions:

- Approval of Open and Closed Session Minutes of September 22, and October 13, and declaration that the audiotapes of the closed session minutes of February 2021 be destroyed
- Approval of the personnel recommendations, including new hires, assignment changes, transfers, resignations, retirements, and leaves of absence, as presented.
- Approval of the October 2022 check disbursements and financial resolutions as presented.
- Approval of the August 2022 Treasurer's report as presented
- Acceptance with gratitude donations from Tom and Nancy Holmes of a Selmer Signet bassoon to the Music Department and Ms. Kathleen Lavery Byrne of high-quality fabric to the Clothing Construction classes to be shared with the Theater Department
- Approval of the Illinois State Board of Education School Maintenance Grant for capital projects for FY 2023.
- Approval of the 20-classroom bid at an amount not to exceed \$2,778,222.
- Approval of utilizing Nania Energy to perform the reverse auction process, starting with a sealed RFP to establish a threshold of price acceptance on the live auction day.
- Approval of the 2023-2024 course proposals as presented.
- Approval of the increase of medical insurance budget for 2023 by 4% for the estimated cost of \$253,248.
- Approval of the mathematics sequence as presented.

Additional Reports:

Additional reports included: FOIA status.

Personnel Recommendations

New Hires:

- **Michael Kramer**, Food Service Driver/Stock Person, effective October 11, 2022
- **Betty Williams**, Food Service Worker, effective October 24, 2022
- **Lyneice Lush**, Hip-Hop Club Sponsor, effective September 28, 2022

Assignment Changes:

- **Rodney Ross**, History Teacher (1.0 FTE), effective 2nd semester of the 2022-2023 school year

Transfers

- **Laeontene Johnson**, Special Education Secretary/Staff Scheduling and Records, effective October 11, 2022

Resignations

- **Nicholas Anderson**, Theater Technology & Design Teacher, effective December 21, 2022
- **Marisol Beltran**, Technical Support Specialist, effective October 28, 2022
- **Jacklyn Micek**, Teacher's Aide, effective October 17, 2022
- **Kevin Lampley**, Safety and Support Officer, effective October 31, 2022
- **Nicholas Bouchard**, Boys' LaCrosse Assistant Coach, effective October 10, 2022

Retirements

- **Jeffrey Ochs**, Food Service Driver/Stock Person, effective December 31, 2022

Leaves of absence

- **Carley Tarantino-Spoor**, History teacher, effective April 10, 2023 – June 2, 2023

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting

November 17, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Board Room