

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting April 12, 2016**

Vice President Felton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Brisben, Gates, O'Connor, Spurlock, Felton, Datta, and Spatz
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Therese O'Neill, Senior Director of HR Steve Cummins, Senior Director of Special
Services Mike Padavic, Senior Director of Policy, Procedures and Communication Chris
Jasculca, Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Director of Curriculum and
Instruction Carrie Kamm and Helen Wei, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Felton moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Collective Negotiation 5 ILCS 12/2(c)(2), Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ayes: Felton, Spatz, Datta, Spurlock, Gates, Brisben, and O'Connor
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

O'Connor moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:58 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:03 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lauren Brown, an Oak Park resident and District 97 teacher, Thanked Dr. Kelley for meeting with her today regarding her grievance and expressed optimism that Dr. Kelley would review the documents shared at that meeting. Brown explained that she is obviously unclear of the outcome from the executive session meeting held earlier this evening, and she asked that the resolution to release first year teachers not be approved by the Board this evening, giving Dr. Kelley time to reflect.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeffrey Brown, an Oak Park resident, reminded the Board of their responsibility regarding employment and reminded them of their oath to the community. He noted that one of the recommendations for approval this evening is wrong and asked them to reconsider. He noted that Lauren Brown is an excellent teacher and releasing her would be bad for the district. He asked that the Board allow the administrators to complete the process and make an educated decision.

REPORTS

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

Dr. Kelley and Dr. Kamm reported that the district has several teachers who are excited about the possibility to earn the title of National Board Certified teacher. They noted that by supporting these teachers, it demonstrates the district's commitment to them and make a positive impact on the school/district.

REPORTS

Because the level of interest is high, the district has been approved as a cohort. Members will attend 12 (2 hours) mandatory sessions throughout the school year, and will be required to sign a commitment statement. There are four components to the training. In 2016-2017 they will explore differentiation in instruction and reflective practitioner, and in 2017-2018 they will study teaching practices and learning environment and content knowledge.

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION (Continued)

Kamm noted that being Nationally Board Certified is the highest level of education you can get as an educator. By hosting the training, it allows the team to support one another and could potentially be a game changer for the district.

Approximately 12 members of the audience were identified as staff members interested in participating in this program.

Board comments included noting that this was one of the initiatives identified in the OPTA contract and fits with the thought that the district wants to employ highly qualified teachers.

Dr. Kelley suggested that one of the Board members share this news at the upcoming West Cook dinner meeting as it demonstrates best practice in action.

VISION DISCUSSION

Dr. Kelley reported that at the last meeting the Board was asked to reflect on and respond to the six word vision statements. She noted the importance of engagement, participation and buy-in to make change. She noted the importance of developing strategies that will help the district guide that decision. Dr. Kelley noted that this process is a continuation of the process started in July during the listening and learning tour, and the January Leadership Retreat.

The next step is to determine the District's ideal self (the vision). The District needs to clarify where it is now in relation to that vision, identify logical next steps, and the milestones to achieve those goals. Dr. Kelley expressed the importance of the Board's participation as the community will react to their thinking and share their own. She reported that 12 meetings will be held between April 12, 2016 and April 30, 2016 (staff, students and community members) where the themes will be shared and vetted, with a goal of obtaining guidance on planning for the upcoming school year.

Chris Jasculca led a discussion on the six word stories, asking the Board members to identify the words that had the most impact on them.

Member Datta identified equity excellence, and inspire. She expressed concern that the word "equity" may need translation to be useful. She noted the value of equity is that every child is receiving what they need. She recommended keeping the idea of "equity" but change it so that the community understands. She shared the following statement; "Every child nurtured, challenged, inspired and thriving". She suggested these words fell under the umbrella notion of "equity", but were open. Member Datta recommended a global approach.

Vice President Felton reported that she shared in the creation of the original list of stories. She shared that she recently listened to a podcast out of Harvard University where the term "every child" was used frequently. She suggested words like empowerment, engaged, challenged and excellence.

Member Spurlock suggested "empowered, balance of empathy and changing all learners to each learner". She supported the global approach using words like "excellence, and high quality". She noted that she likes the word "excellence", but noted that it is used frequently.

Member Spatz noted that the first six word story reminded him of the 2007 Strategic Plan. He noted the importance of not using loaded words like "equity, equitable and excellence", and recommended that the district avoid the clichés; however, he does like "engaged learners and community", and supports the global approach. He suggested that something along the lines of "persevere, succeed, resilience or grit" would be important.

Member O'Connor supported the global approach, suggesting "growth and excellence in all" and agreed about what was said regarding "equity". He noted that "all means all" and suggested that it is all about getting kids ready to be successful adults.

Member Brisben noted that "equity and excellence" represents the Board and community vision and suggested the words "transformative, relentless and collaboration", suggesting that they sound more concrete and mission oriented.

VISION DISCUSSION (Continued)

President Gates supported “equity”, as defining what is merited. He recommended trying to align with the goals, Dr. Kelley’s work and community engagement. He requested time to ponder and will submit his words tomorrow. President Gates is interested in personal excellence and community.

Chris Jasculca and members Datta and O’Connor were acknowledged.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 15, 2016 BOARD MEETING

Spatz moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the amended minutes from the March 15, 2016 Board meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Spurlock, Brisben, Gates, O’Connor, Felton, and Datta
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spatz moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented.

- 2.2.1 Approval of Bill List
- 2.2.2 Personnel Action

Ayes: Spatz, Brisben, O’Connor, Spurlock, Gates, Felton, and Datta
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.3.1 NON-REEMPLOYMENT OF FIRST, SECOND, OR THIRD YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHERS

Spatz moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve and adopt the resolution to dismiss the probationary teachers listed in the attached resolution at the end of the 2015-2016 school terms. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Brisben, O’Connor, and Gates
Nays: Felton, Datta and Spurlock
Motion passed.

2.3.2 DISMISSAL OF FOURTH YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHER

Brisben moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve and adopt the resolution to dismiss the fourth year probationary teacher listed on the attached resolution at the end of the 2015-2016 school term. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Brisben, O’Connor, Spatz, Gates, Felton, Spurlock, and Datta
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.3.3 NON-REEMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT OF PARTIAL ASSIGNMENT TEACHERS

Gates moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve and adopt the resolution to dismiss and re-employ the partial assignment teachers listed in the attached resolution at the end of the 2015-2016 school term. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Datta, O’Connor, Spatz, Brisben, Felton, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.3.4 RESOLUTION FOR HONORABLE DISMISSAL

Spurlock moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve and adopt the resolution to approve an honorable dismissal of educational support personnel at the end of the 2015-2016 school term. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spurlock, Gates, O'Connor, Spatz, Brisben, Felton, and Datta
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.4.1 APPROVAL OF ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR FISCAL YEAR AUDIT

Datta moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, enter into a renewal engagement with RSM US LLP, as its audit firm, for completing the FY 2016 annual audit, at a cost of \$56,200 as outlined in the memorandum to the Superintendent dated March 15, 2016. Roll call vote.

It was noted that this is the same company the district has been using; they simply changed their company name. It was suggested that the new Assistant Superintendent review this agreement when it is due for renewal.

Ayes: Datta, O'Connor, Brisben, Gates, Spatz, Felton, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.4.2 APPROVAL OF PRINTER/COPIER AGREEMENT

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the award of the district wide copier and print shop solution to Canon Solutions of America, as outlined in the memorandum to the Superintendent, which was presented and discussed at the March 15, 2106 meeting, subject to final approval of contract document by legal counsel. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Spatz, Datta, O'Connor, Brisben, Felton, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.4.3 APPROVAL OF A/V BID FOR NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Datta moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the award of a contract to Pace Systems, for the Administrative building audiovisual system bid in the total amount of \$78,081.68 as outlined in the memorandum to the Superintendent included in the March 15, 2016 Board packet. Roll call vote.

It was noted that the new building will be wired for videotaping; however, does not include hosting or labor costs.

Ayes: Datta, Gates, Brisben, Felton, Spatz, O'Connor, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.4.4 APPROVAL OF K-5 MATH CURRICULUM MATERIALS

O'Connor moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the purchase of the K-5 math curriculum materials and professional development from Eureka Math at a cost of \$144,510. Roll call vote.

Ayes: O'Connor, Spurlock, Gates, Brisben, Felton, Datta, and Spatz
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.4.5 APPROVAL OF K-5 NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE RESOURCES

Datta moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the purchase of the K-5 science FOSS (Full Option Science System) kits at a cost of \$243,938.87. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Datta, Brisben, Spatz, Gates, O'Connor, Felton, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.4.6 APPROVAL OF ELA CURRICULUM MATERIALS

Gates moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the purchase of writing curricular materials from Heinemann at a cost of \$59,740.20. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Spurlock, Spatz, O’Connor, Brisben, Felton, and Datta
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.4.7 APPROVAL OF RTI PROPOSAL

Spatz moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the purchase of RTI tier 3 intervention materials from 95% Group, Inc. and EPS Literacy and Intervention at a total cost of \$55,135.10. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Brisben, Gates, O’Connor, Felton, Datta, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.4.8 APPROVAL OF REVISED OPTA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – APPENDIX D

Brisben moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the OPTA Memorandum of Understanding / Appendix D as revised to clarify the evaluation process subject to signature by the OPTA as presented. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Brisben, O’Connor, Spatz, Gates, Felton, Datta, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.4.9 NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION COHORT

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the fee for District 97 participation in the National Board Certification Professional Development District program at a cost of \$30,040.00. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Spatz, O’Connor, Brisben, Felton, Datta, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Motion passed.

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

**BOARD
ASSIGNMENTS**

**STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW
CLAIM**

The next meeting of CLAIM will be this coming Thursday. Carolyn Newberry Schwartz will report on early childhood funding. The following meeting, Bob Spatz will report on the new Senate bill on educational funding.

It was reported that the committee is eager to participate with the referendum. They will prepare and submit questions to the full Board. Member Spatz noted that the rules of engagement will be shared during one of the May Board meetings.

FORC

A summary of the recent FORC meeting will be sent to the Board in the near future.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP

Liaison reports for the Council of Governments and IGOV were shared. It was reported that the PTO and Collaboration for Early Childhood reports will follow.

President Gates acknowledged the Board members for submitting liaison reports and encouraged the community to check out recent reports located on the Board of Education/Liaison Report page of the District Web site.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION WORK TEAM UPDATE

Member Brisben updated the Board on the Superintendent’s evaluation process and asked that they take the quantitative portion of the evaluation and mark it up and return it to member Brisben by April 26, 2016.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ITEMS**

He reported that Superintendent Kelley is currently in the self-evaluation phase that will last for two weeks. He reported that the process is currently on schedule and requested a one hour time block within a two week period in the middle of May. After a brief discussion it was agreed that member Brisben would share a Doodle to find a time that best meets everyone's needs.

REFERENDUM DISCUSSION

A draft PowerPoint of the presentation for April 26, 2016 was shared. It was reported that additional calendar information will be available prior to that date and the presentation will take about 45 – 60 minutes. Members Brisben and Spatz will work with Dr. Kelley and Therese O'Neill to review the information and plan out the presentations needed between now and June 30, 2016. It was requested that the information be share with the Board as soon as possible.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE
ITEMS

FUNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT (FF & E) FOR NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

O'Neill came to the table and reported that three bids were received and the lowest bid was from Lowery McDonnell. She explained that two alternate bids, one for electronic desks and one for storage cabinets with marker boards were received at a value of \$17,000, but administration decided not to accept those bids. Additionally, O'Neill reported that the appropriate electrical wiring will be available for future consideration. She noted that there is a 12 week window for receipt of the goods, and with approval of the bid on April 26, 2016, keeps the project on schedule. It was noted that this bid comes in approximately \$30,000 under the estimated cost.

YOUTH INTERVENTIONIST AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Dr. Kelley reported that the Youth Interventionist Agreement is renewed annually and will come to the Board for approval on April 26, 2016. Both Dr. Kelley and Mike Padavic reported that they see great value and merit in this program.

LANDSCAPING BID

O'Neill reported that the landscaping contract is usually a multiple year contract; however, this contract will only be for October through April. She explained that once the district relocates; maintenance will have a better idea of what will be needed at the new building. She noted that the district received five responses and McAdam Landscaping was identified as the lowest bid. This item will return for action on April 26, 2016.

DONATION – BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL GARDEN

Dr. Kelley asked the Board to consider the PTO request in the Board packet for a garden at the Brooks Middle School. This item will return to the Board for action on April 26, 2016.

POLICY REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Chris Jasculca reported that two policies were identified as needing modification during the policy review. The policies were discussed. This item will return for action on April 26, 2016.

INSURANCE RATES FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

O'Neill reported that the benefits committee, which is comprised of union representatives, has been working with the consultants for the last six months. She reported that the experience this past year has been very good and the overall renewal increase is at 5.6 percent. She reported that the committee also looked at efficiencies within the plans and found improvements that will minimize the cost. It was noted that all the efficiencies will be noted within one resolution. This item will return to the Board for action on April 26, 2016.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

BOARD REMARKS

It was reported that ED-RED is focusing on the state funding. Governor Rauner put out his proposal for school funding and Madigan is working on a bill to change the state constitution regarding education from elementary to secondary levels being a right instead of a goal.

A brief discussion took place regarding sending representation to meet with legislators to discuss funding needs. The Board agreed to send representation to the local government offices. Member Brisben will draft a menu of topic options for discussion at the April 26, 2016 Board meeting.

It was reported that the community meetings on a possible pool have been taking place and a referendum on this topic is planned for November.

The Board was reminded that the choral concert is scheduled for tomorrow evening

The community engagement gap analysis has been completed and is being sent to the Board members this evening. Feedback on the document and ideas on how to address the gaps were requested by April 18, 2016.

A draft Board vision/mission statement was shared with feedback requested by April 19, 2016 with possible action on April 26, 2016. The Board was cautioned to not get ahead of the other vision statement and not preempt the district level vision.

It was reported that the Lake Street TIF meeting took place. A link to the Park District feasibility study was shared.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The April 26, 2016 Board agenda was reviewed and recommendations were made.

O’Neill reported that she met with representatives from the Oak Park Economic Development team and created a draft timeline for the potential sale of the district’s warehouse. She reported that a Realtor in Oak Park has communicated interest in the property. She noted that there are three components requested (limiting sale to a taxable entity, require some element of financial stability and plan of action). Additionally, an update appraisal was suggested. O’Neill reported that the appraiser could have the appraisal completed by April 29, 2016.

LONG-TERM CALENDAR AND PARKING LOT

The Long-term calendar and Parking Lot Documents were reviewed and modified.

BOARD MEETING ASSESSMENT

The next assessment will be given after the April 26, 2016 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Felton moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 9:36 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiation 5 ILCS 12/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Felton, Spatz, Datta, Spurlock, Gates, Brisben, and O’Connor
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Felton moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 10:27 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Gates declared the meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary