

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting May 24, 2016**

President Gates called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Present: Brisben, Gates, O'Connor, Spurlock, Felton, Datta, and Spatz  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Senior Director of Special Services Mike Padavic, Senior Director of Policy, Procedures and Communication Chris Jasculca, Sr. Director of Administrative Services Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Kamm and Helen Wei, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Felton moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 5:32 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 120/2(c)(2), Setting the Price for Sale of Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6), Purchase of Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7)) Roll call vote.

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

**OPEN SESSION**

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 7:04 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dox Raskin and Estelle Slocum, Oak Park children representing their B'Nai Mitzvah class, explained that the class chooses a social action project and they chose to research equality of suspensions in District 97. Raskin noted that white students make up 56.7 percent of the school population and 21 percent of students suspended, black students make up 21.3 percent of the population and 50 percent of them are suspended. He expressed concern that the racial disparity is very troubling. Additionally, Raskin expressed concern over the number of students with IEPs or mental disabilities that are suspended.

Raskin noted that District 102 has worked to lessen their suspensions, and use alternative methods. They focus on corrective consequences as opposed to punitive measures. They have incorporated social workers to assist with a restorative approach and have used some more formal proactive measures to help curb inappropriate behaviors. They have also encouraged all staff to capitalize on the positive and issue students what the administrators call "Park Pats" where teachers catch students doing the right things.

Slocum suggested that there are alternatives to suspending kids, noting that OPRF has a program called Menta. She explained that one of Menta's objectives is to provide life skills training enabling the student to successfully live independently. She suggested that OPRF is choosing aid over abandonment of the students.

The students suggested that it is unacceptable that one third of the suspensions this January were students with IEPs, and 2.5 percent of suspensions of black children for every 1 suspension of a white child. They asked the Board to make changes and be more transparent in their efforts.

Lynn Allen, an Oak Park resident and District 97 staff member, expressed her love and longtime support for the community. She noted that as the Administrator of the Multicultural Center for the past 13 years,

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (Continued)

she has seen the impact of multicultural education on our students and on students in neighboring communities who have access to the Center's collection.

Allen expressed support for the idea of moving the collection to the Dole Library, noting that it is a great opportunity to move forward in terms of leadership in the area of diversity. She noted that the Center has resources no other facility has: hands on access to a rich array of experiential cultural materials that teachers use to infuse diversity into the lessons they build. She noted that our children will be better prepared to interact with people from around the world because of their exposure to the materials that the center provides. She noted that the move to the Dole Library supports the Village's Strategic Plan and the long standing mission of promoting diversity in our community. She noted that such a collaboration would be a tremendous asset to District 97, the Village of Oak Park, the community and the region at large. It would reinforce our reputation as a community that values diversity, history and the arts, as well as providing an incredible and unique institution that is very accessible for education though out our region. Allen asked the Board to carefully consider ways to ensure that access to the materials for our teachers and students is preserved and expanded, and that curriculum assistance will still be available as the Intergovernmental Agreement with the library is created.

**REPORTS**

REPORTS

**PRESENTATION OF 10-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN**

Jennifer Costanzo from STR came to the table with Jim Gould, and were joined by Therese O'Neill (by phone) who led the discussion. O'Neill acknowledged George Beach, Dirk Danker and Paul May, along with the entire FAC Committee for their hard work vetting this report. O'Neill reported that a complete accessibility study was done and last year Whittier was updated. Two years ago, a temperature control study was completed. Additionally, Ehlers completed a demographics study this year. O'Neill reported that every 10 years, school district are mandated to complete a 10-year life safety survey and must complete the identified items within a designated amount of time. The importance of understanding the scope of the 10-year capital plan as it relates to the referendum was stressed.

O'Neill explained how the demographics report was used to rate the items. She noted that Beye School ranked at the top of the list, but capacity needs were given the highest priority, so Holmes School moved to the top of the list.

O'Neill reported that the following timeline was being recommended:

2017

Holmes addition  
Life Safety A and B work  
21 Century Science Lab

2018

Longfellow and Lincoln capacity issues  
Three remaining school Life Safety issues

O'Neill reported that the dollar amounts are significant, but much of the work must be completed by law. She noted that many unit ventilators (identified in Category H) have already been installed during a classroom pilot. She explained that although the ventilators are not considered "life safety", many of the current units are reaching their expected life and will require replacing.

O'Neill shared options for an addition to Holmes School. She reported that the addition alone would cost approximately \$2,000,000; however, the renovations to the existing portion of the school would cost about \$6,000,000. The Board questioned the possibility of redistricting or moving boundaries to meet the capacity needs. O'Neill reported that most of the buildings are close to capacity.

It was reported that the district currently has between \$3,500,000 and \$4,000,000 a year set aside for capital projects. According to the district's financial policy, the district would have to cut back on some of these plans to go for a referendum. It was noted that the FORC committee talked about checking comparable districts.

It was reported that Costanzo walked every school with the principals, reviewed the Demographics Study and projected enrollment for the next five years. She then took the data by grade level and mapped it out by number of classrooms that will be needed. Discussion took place regarding the accuracy of the Demographics Study.

Dr. Kelley explained that administration reviewed the Demographics Study to project the level of enrollment. They then had school by school conversations about enrollment and spaces used for K-5 classrooms. They reviewed classroom spaces and putting classrooms into spaces that might have been used for other means. This information was shared with FAC and a sub-committee that worked with STR.

It was reported that the district has seen massive growth, noting that since 2005, the district has grown by 19 percent. Interest was expressed in the space available at Whittier School.

Additional information was requested and the need to delay action on this item was discussed. Administration was asked to explain why an addition is the best option at this time, and what money is available to fund the project.

#### SUMMARY OF PROJECTS HOLMES SCHOOL ADDITION

The design options for the Holmes School Addition were shared. It was noted that the Board received several requests to not disturb the outdoor classroom space at the school.

Costanzo noted that the recommended options (C1 and C2) do not disturb the outdoor classroom space, but she is waiting on a response from the Village regarding easement issues. She reported that Holmes and Irving school are the only two schools that have not updated their offices.

This item will return to the Board on June 14, 2016, with anticipated action on June 28, 2016. At that time, the Board will discuss two or three options and hear rationale for not accessing available space at Whittier School. Life Safety, capacity and the Julian Multicultural Center needs will also be discussed.

#### WAREHOUSE SALE UPDATE

O'Neill reported that the process to sell the warehouse has begun. She noted that the District has been approached by the Village of Oak Park. The appraisal price was shared with the Village and the district is waiting to hear back from them. There is no specific timeline associated with the sale of this property.

#### ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

##### **2.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 10, 2016 BOARD MEETING**

Gates moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the minutes from the May, 10 2016 Board meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Datta, Spatz, Spurlock, Brisben, O'Connor, and Felton

Nays: None

Motion passed.

##### **2.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Spatz moved, seconded by O'Connor, 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, O'Connor, Datta, Brisben, Spurlock, Gates, and Felton

Nays: None

Motion passed.

##### **2.3.1 APPROVAL OF CUSTODIAL BID**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, award its 2016-17 Custodial Supplies contract, in the total amount of \$113,870.18 to the following companies, as delineated in the memorandum to the Superintendent dated May 10, 2016.

List of Vendors

Buckeye, Garvey's, HP(PCS), Inlander, Kranz, Metro, NA Corp., Seaway, Supplyworks, Unique, Valdes  
Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spurlock, Brisben, O'Connor, Spatz, Felton, Datta, and Gates

Nays: None

Motion passed.

### **2.3.2 APPROVAL OF SECOND STEP**

Gates moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the purchase of Second Step curriculum, a social and emotional learning curriculum for grades K-8, at a cost of \$75,127.20. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Spurlock, Brisben, O'Connor, Spatz, Felton, and Datta

Nays: None

Motion passed.

### **2.3.3 APPROVAL OF ROLES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Datta moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the Roles Committee recommendations for the 2016-2017 school year as outlined in the memo to the Board of Education dated May 6, 2016. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Datta, O'Connor, Gates, Brisben, Spatz, Felton, and Spurlock

Nays: None

Motion passed.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
UPDATE**

#### **DISTRICT GOALS**

Dr. Kelley referenced the goals document that was included in the Board packet.

#### **OTHER DISTRICT UPDATES**

Dr. Kelley recommended that Atlantic Research Partners be hired to perform an internal audit. She reported that she has already checked their references and received wonderful remarks from everyone she contacted. She suggested that with several new staff members in leadership roles, the audit would add efficiencies.

Dr. Kelley and Dr. Starks Turner met with David Seleb from the Public Library. Dr. Kelley reported that the Library is still interested in hosting the multicultural collection. The library expressed interest in being solely responsible for the collection and looking for the district to transfer the assets to the Library. Additionally, the Library staff would be available to support District 97 in the Language Arts (including Social Studies) curriculum. The Board indicated support of the plan; therefore, Dr. Kelley will meet with Library director to create an Intergovernmental Agreement.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS AND EVERY DAY HEROS**

Dr. Kelley acknowledged Hatch Administrative Assistant Deb Tamondong for going above and beyond this year. Deb has taken on additional projects and helped with the standardized PARCC testing

### **BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

**BOARD  
ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW**

##### **CLAIM**

A CLAIM liaison report will be sent out in the near future. Member Spatz was acknowledged for his presentation on the evidence based educational school funding model during the last CLAIM meeting.

##### **FORC**

The FORC committee met last night. It was reported that the committee is trying to figure out how to go about developing guidelines on what is a reasonable amount of debt. This committee will meet again in August.

##### **FAC**

The liaison report from the recent FAC committee meeting was submitted to the Board members today.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP

It was reported that IGOV is interested in creating an FYI insert that contains approved content (history of IGOV) from all six governing bodies for August release. The cost of the project would be \$562.

The Collaboration for Early Childhood Governing Board met in May, 2016. It was reported that the Collaboration is interested in expanding that research to include Kindergarten – third grade. It was agreed that the Board can discuss this further during their summer retreat. It was reported that Chapin Hall was able to work out an agreement between the Collaboration and the State, encouraging more data sharing. District 97 volunteered to host the next Joint Board meeting at the new Administration Building on November 30<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that there are some technical amendments that the three governing bodies need to transfer into a contract. This information will be shared with the Board on June 14, 2016 with anticipated action on June 28, 2016.

It was reported that the Calendar committee is seeking direction. The team will be meeting next Tuesday to work on an innovative calendar, create a timeline and approve a calendar for the 2017-18 school year by the end of September. Discussion took place regarding a possible survey of the community; however, the Board did not think that a survey would be beneficial to the process.

## REFERENDUM DISCUSSION

The preliminary budget will be discussed during the June 28, 2016 meeting and the Referendum “Does and Don’t” discussion will take place in July.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

It was reported that the District 97 School Board is committed to building an even stronger connection to its community. Over the last couple months, the Board has developed goals related to this effect.

A discussion took place regarding the Board’s interest in communication vehicles that they would like to develop further. The Board members were asked to review the long list of outreach options, prioritize them and return them to Vice President Felton and member Spurlock. Board members were asked to consider what kind of communication the Board is seeking.

## BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

President Gates noted that he made committee assignments to goal areas, however; it may need to be revised after the summer retreat. It was agreed that each Board member will need to identify a natural roll off from each committee assignment. It was agreed that the Annual and Multi-year maintenance team did not meet last year and will be collapsed into the responsibilities of the Board Secretary.

## RETREAT / BOARD SELF-EVALUATIONS

August 23, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. was identified as the next Board retreat. The location will be determined at a later date.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

### EIGHTH GRADE GEOMETRY

Carrie Kamm came to the table and expressed the need to build money into the budget for District 97 to work with District 90 during the summer. She reported that District 200 did not choose a new geometry textbook yet. The three districts will continue their tri-district work, and she noted that the teachers have been flexible with changes to the program.

ADMINISTRATIVE  
ITEMS

## CONCLUDING ITEMS

### BOARD REMARKS

The Day in Our Village is scheduled for June 5, 2016. Vice President Felton will work with Chris Jасulca to coordinate.

Interest was expressed in participation in the Farmer’s Market and inviting the Collaboration to participate. President Gates will pursue options.

It was noted that District 200 is also considering long-term facility’s needs, and it was suggested that the two district meet and consider using the same terminology. Member Spatz will pursue.

CONCLUDING  
ITEMS

It was reported that Amendment one to the House Bill 128 was introduced and should take effect during the summer of 2017.

The CLAIM committee recommended that the Board send letters to the local legislators.

President Gates, Vice President Felton and member Brisben attended the retirement party.

**BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Kelley will respond to the students.

**LONG-TERM CALENDAR AND PARKING LOT**

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

**AGENDA MAINTENANCE**

The June 14, 2016 Board agenda was reviewed and recommendations were made.

**BOARD MEETING ASSESSMENT**

Next assessment will be administered on June 28, 2016.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Gates declared the meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary