

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting September 13, 2016**

President Gates called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Gates, O'Connor, Felton, Spatz, Spurlock, Brisben, and Datta (6:38 p.m.)  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Dr. Alicia Evans, Assistant Superintendent of HR Dr. Laurie Campbell, Chief Academic  
and Accountability Officer Dr. Amy Warke, 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, Senior Director of  
Technology Michael Arensdorff, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Kamm,  
and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Felton moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss (Possible Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Collective Negotiation 5 ILCS 12/2(c)(2)) Roll call vote.

Ayes: Felton, Spatz, O'Connor, Spurlock, Brisben, and Gates  
Nays: None  
Absent: Datta (at time of vote)  
Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Spatz moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:56 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. Member Spurlock left at 6:56 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING - BUDGET**

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

Alicia Evans presented the revised budget and explained that the difference between the two documents reflects the fact that the district had to estimate the grant revenue in the earlier document and those figures are firm in the final version. She reminded the Board that they will be taking action on the Deficit Reduction plan later this evening.

Board comments included suggesting that the district consider education resource strategies.

The public was invited to speak on this topic and no one expressed interest in doing so.

**2.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

CONSENT  
AGENDA

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, 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 (Revised at the table)
- 2.2.3 Acceptance of Additional Board Meeting date on October 17, 2016 (Retreat)

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

None

**2.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 15-16, 2016 BOARD WORKSHOP**

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the minutes from the August 15-16, 2016 Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

**2.1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 16, 2016 BOARD MEETING**

Spatz moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the minutes from the August 16, 2016 Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

**2.1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 23, 2016 BOARD RETREAT**

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the minutes from the August 23, 2016 Board retreat. Roll call vote.

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

**2.3.1 DISPOSAL OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, adopt the resolution to dispose of the technology equipment at various locations and fitness equipment at Brooks Middle School. Roll call vote.

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

**2.3.2 APPROVAL OF THE DEFICIT REDUTION PLAN**

Spatz moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the Deficit Reduction Plan as presented on August 23, 2016. Roll call vote.

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

**2.3.3 ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION – IRVING WATER FOUNTAINS**

O'Connor moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, accept the donation of four water fountains from the Irving PTO with an approximate value of \$5,297.25. Roll call vote.

It was noted that there is a lot of excitement at Irving about the new fountains. Administrations was thanked for following up on the questions and concerns expressed during the August 23, 2016 meeting.

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

**2.2.4 APPROVAL OF THE 2016-2019 OPTAA AGREEMENT**

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the terms of a new three year Collective Bargaining Agreement between the board of Education and Oak Park Teacher Assistants’ Association (OPTAA). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Spatz, Brisben, Datta, Felton, and O’Connor

Nays: None

Absent: Spurlock

Motion passed.

The negotiation team was acknowledged and retirees Therese O’Neill and Dr. Al Roberts were recognized for their efforts in this process.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S  
UPDATE**

Dr. Kelley announced that she will be a guest on the Doris Davenport radio show on Sunday, September 25, 2016, where she will share the district vision. The show airs live from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on station AM 1490.

She also shared that the Collaboration approached the district to explore the possibility of participating in an early development instrument project along with the Erikson Institute. The Collaboration needs to know by October 10, 2016. The district is currently gathering input from elementary principals and Kindergarten teacher leaders. Dr. Kelley will be meeting with Carolyn Newberry Schwartz from the Collaboration for Early Childhood, and the District 97 Kindergarten teachers on September 21, 2016. A decision will be made after that meeting. It was reported that the Collaboration will be sharing information about this topic during the Collaboration IGA Governing Board meeting on September 28, 2016.

The first official community conversation for the year will be held at the Dole branch of the Public Library on Wednesday, September 14, 2016. Kelly Young, Executive Director of Education Reimagined will be the keynote speaker for the evening and will discuss the equity leadership work in the district and reframing the conversations about visioning so the district can educate all students.

Several administrators joined Dr. Kelley yesterday to see Padro Noguara and participate in his workshop on Excellence and Equity. Dr. Kelley offered to share a copy of the presentation with the Board members. Noguara spoke on ways to make the learning experience relevant for all students and choosing content that is relevant to all students. Dr. Kelley noted how fortunate the district is to have teachers who are willing to write the literacy frame work for the district, and she shared a fifth grade sample curriculum. She recommended that the Board invite student to share their experiences sometime later in the school year, if time permits.

She noted that equity is a key element in the District’s Vision/Action plan, and expressed the need to make it accessible to all members of the community. Dr. Kelley reported that on September 15, 2016 the National Equity Project (NEP) facilitators will be working with the School Improvement Teams to design their playbooks. Dr. Kelley will give some thought as to how the Board will receive more information on the planning process.

**BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

**BOARD  
ASSIGNMENTS**

**STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP**

It was suggested that the Board/Administration consider how Board committee openings are posted, noting the need to fill the positions as quickly as possible.

**FAC**

The last FAC meeting was held on September 7, 2016 and a liaison report will be sent out in the near future. It was noted that the FAC committee will present their annual report to the Board on October 13, 2016 in the new administration building.

**FORC**

It was reported that the most recent liaison report for this committee was included in this Board packet. The next FORC meeting is scheduled on October 25, 2016, allowing the committee to review the 5-year forecast before it is presented to the Board on October 26, 2016. (Note – the dates were identified incorrectly at the Board table. The next FORC meeting is scheduled on October 24, 2016, allowing the committee to review the 5-Year forecast before it is presented to the Board on October 25, 2016).

## CLAIM

It was reported that the legislative forum will be held on October 18, 2016 at Julian Middle School. The main topic of the evening will be to ask the State Legislators about their views and how they can help the district support the district's vision and goals.

It was noted that the October 13, 2016 meeting will be rescheduled and the committee is hoping to have Dr. Kelley speak on the district visions and goals. It was reported that Ben Boer from Advanced Illinois recently spoke at a CLAIM meeting.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP IGOV

The next IGOV meeting will be held on September 24, 2016. It was reported that IGOV created its initial FYI insert which has been distributed to the community. Additionally, each taxing body has selected a liaison who is copied on agendas and meeting notes. Chris Jасulca will act as the District 97 liaison.

## COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD IGA GOVERNING BOARD

The agenda for the upcoming meeting has been distributed.

It was noted that since the Collaboration is not working with just one service provider, interest was expressed in hearing about their numbers.

It was noted that the Erikson pilot also appears on the agenda. It was noted that this pilot has been in the planning stages for a while, waiting for Erikson to coordinate the funding. A member asked if the EDI would replace KIDS, and it was reported that KIDS is a state requirement and therefore EDI would not replace it.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUTION COMMITTEE

It was reported that member Brisben requested to have member O'Connor take his seat on the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee so that he can focus on the needs of the referendum.

## 2016-2017 BOARD GOALS

It was reported that the draft Board goals and norms have been shared with Dr. Allan Alson, the retreat facilitator. Alson is in the process of creating an agenda for the upcoming October 17, 2016 Board retreat and will share a draft in the near future. Additionally, Alson recommended that the Board members not be assigned to goals until the goals have been finalized, and recommended that the Board develop a work plan which could be considered after the retreat.

## REFERENDUM DISCUSSION

The Board was reminded that they just approved a deficit reduction plan that includes referendum dollars. It was noted that the next step in the process will be to determine the size and type of the needed referendum. A timeline for future activities in this area was shared.

It was noted that the Deficit Reduction Plan is based on estimates and assumptions. It was noted that the estimates are more reliable in current years and less reliable in later years, and the actual information could be different from the estimates based upon funding (revenues) and inflation and other factors (expenditures).

The assumptions on the revenue side include noting that a successful referendum campaign will generate additional revenue of \$7,000,000 beginning in Fiscal Year 2018, and in the subsequent year, local property tax revenue will increase by another \$6,000,000. Property tax revenue will grow at an average rate of .07 percent in the Education and Operation and Maintenance Funds, the Federal grants will remain steady with a slight decrease, and the General State Aid will be impacted by legislative changes in Fiscal Year 2019 and be reduced by \$5,000,000 overall.

The assumptions on the expenditure side include noting that instruction would need to be reduced by \$2,400,000 in Fiscal Year 2018, support services would need to be reduced by \$314,000 in Fiscal Year 2019, and payments to others would need to be reduced by \$500,000 beginning in Fiscal Year 2018. It was noted that the budget would be balanced in Fiscal Year 2018 if the referendum passes and the cost cutting measures are put in place.

Board comments included noting the need to collect additional demographics data. Saad Bawany will be asked to benchmark the Eller's reports for accuracy and Dr. Evans will be asked to seek additional demographics data from the Village. Additionally, the Facilities Committee (FAC) will be asked to leverage expenditures over 30 years. The need to demonstrate due diligence was recommended.

## REFERENDUM DISCUSSION (Continued)

It was noted that the historic data will be shared during the September 27, 2016 Board meeting, along with a discussion on when to communicate the progress to the community. It was noted that a study session may be necessary to help the Board determine the wording of the question that will appear on the ballot. It was noted that the soft deadline for the wording is mid-November, with final wording due on January 17, 2017. Additional questions that the Board will need to consider include; How long do we want this referendum to last? Do we want to run it big enough so we do not run another for eight to 12 years, or do we run one for six to eight years?

## POTENTIAL BOARD LEVEL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORK TEAM DISCUSSION

It was reported that the Community Engagement work team, comprised of President Gates and member Spurlick, drafted a Board level community engagement concept. The document has been reviewed by Dr. Kelley and is currently being reviewed by Dr. Allan Alson. The document will be shared with the Board once it has been returned. This item will be included in the agenda for the Board retreat scheduled for October 17, 2016.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE  
ITEMS

### SCHOOL RECOGNITION APPLICATIONS

It was reported that the Board is required to annually approve the School Recognition Applications. This item will return to the Board for action on September 27, 2016.

### POLICY REVIEW

Chris Jасulca reported that the Policy Committee is submitting three types of revisions in this packet. Some of the policies contain revisions provided by PRESS, one addresses the Debt Service needs and the others have minor changes that were identified during the quarterly policy review process. The changes were reviewed and it was agreed that all will return for adoption on September 27, 2016 with the exception of Policy 8:90 (Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs). The committee was asked to further investigate BRAVO and CAST to determine why they are not registered as 501(c)3 status.

## CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING  
ITEMS

### BOARD REMARKS

A request to have all Board meetings identified in one Google document was made.

Interest in hearing a turf field update was expressed. It was noted that administration is waiting on a report from the EPA. It was noted that the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) recommended a community conversation with the Board on this topic.

Vice President Felton will not be in attendance during the October 13, 2016 Board meeting and member O'Connor will not be in attendance at the October 17, 2016 Board retreat.

Member Datta left the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Member Spatz will be attending the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability Forum on September 20, 2016 with keynote speaker Tony Smith. He will also be attending another meeting with Senator Lightford on educational funding on that day. On September 22, 2016 he will present, along with Superintendent Ken Wallace from Maine Township to reprise the ED-RED presentation on contract negotiations for the Kishwaukee Division meeting.

Member Spatz will be attending the National Association for Education of Young Children's Conference in November and has been selected to be a panelist for the World Forum for Early Childhood Education on Delivery Systems in New Zealand next May.

Interest was expressed in an update on the current number of Nationally Board Certified staff in the district. The Board was asked to consider adding a "Parking Lot" item regarding the hiring summary (National Board, how many came from Chicago Public Schools, etc.), however, it was suggested that these items be included in the Personnel Report and the Board be asked to identify what information they would like to include.

### BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### BOARD MEETING AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The draft agenda for the September 27, 2016 Board meeting was reviewed and modifications were recommended.

**LONG-TERM CALENDAR AND PARKING LOT**

It was suggested that the Long-Term Calendar and the Parking Lot be reviewed and that the remaining items be prioritized.

Notes were shared regarding member Datta's questions about a student technology survey. Dr. Kelley and Michael Arensdorff reviewed the request and determined that the data would not be determined by information gathered in a survey. It was noted that to obtain this information, it would involve additional staff hours and incur additional costs. It was agreed that the Board will review the request and discuss again in the future. It was noted that Comcast offers a \$10 a month low-end Wi-Fi, and it was suggested that an organization like the PTO or Chamber of Commerce be asked to consider holding a fund raiser to support this initiative.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Gates declared the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary