

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting August 25, 2015**

President Gates called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Brisben, Gates, Spurlock, Datta, and Felton  
Absent: O'Connor  
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, Senior Director of Administrative Services Felicia Starks Turner, Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Kamm and Helen Wei, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

APPROVAL OF  
THE CONSENT  
AGENDA

**2.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 2.2.1 Approval of Bill List
- 2.2.2 Personnel (Amended at the table)
- 2.2.3 Acceptance of Donation (Irving Teacher Lounge)
- 2.2.4 Approval of meeting change from November 10, 2015 to November 9, 2015

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

New staff members in attendance were introduced.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL  
REPORTS

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Therese O'Neill came to the table with Norm Lane, STR representative Jennifer Costanzo, and Bulley and Andrews construction managers Tim Puntillo, and Bill Truty.

They reported that bid package one came in about \$60,000 less than anticipated, however, bid package two came in above the 90 percent estimated costs. The team reviewed the alternate deducts and were able to lower the costs substantially. They noted that the metal panels (skin of the building) came in at \$147,670 and the millwork at \$117,205. O'Neill recommended rejecting the metal panel bid and continue to work with select vendors to bring the costs down. Additionally, O'Neill reported that STR agreed to fix their fee, saving the district about \$40,000.

Board comments included acknowledging STR for reducing their fee. It was noted that the Board will not award vendors until options have been reviewed by the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC).

Interest was expressed in considering additional ways to cut costs. It was suggested that the district's in-house staff could completed the painting, etc., and interest was expressed in seeing updated numbers in regards to the cost of moving the warehouse, and what it would have cost to remodel the 970 Madison Street facility. The need to keep the community in the loop was expressed, and a brief update from FAC was suggested.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

**ACTION ITEMS****3.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 11, 2015 BOARD MEETING**

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the revised minutes from the August 11, 2015 Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

**2.3.1 APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – RELOCATION EXPENSE**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, revise the language contained in the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) associated with the Superintendent's contract specific to relocation expenses and amend the last sentence of Section 1 of the MOU to read as follows:

In order to be eligible for such reimbursement, the Superintendent shall submit paid invoices or receipts to the District within 30 days of incurring the expenses, for the purpose of documenting the actual cost of the aforementioned relocation expense.

Roll call vote.

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

**2.3.2 ACCEPTANCE OF THE OPTA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – SUMMER STIPEND AMOUNTS**

Felton moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, accept the Memorandum of Understanding with the Oak Park Teacher's Association regarding summer stipend amounts. Roll call vote.

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

COMMITTEE /  
 WORK GROUP  
 REPORTS

**COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS****2014 – 2015 PRIORITIES****FINANCIAL STABILTY**

It was reported that the FYI insert will be completed by the end of August for September distribution. The team recommended that this report focus on the IB certification, Dr. Kelley's entrance plan and the upcoming CLAIM event. It was shared that in October/November of 2009, the district did a larger piece on the district finances, and suggested that they consider doing the same.

**CONTRACT IMPLIMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE**

It was reported that this team wants to ensure that every contract is represented in the annual report, and suggested that it will be the administrations responsibility to determine how that is done.

**EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

This team will follow up with the Board after the retreat.

**ORGANIZATION STRUCTION**

This team met this afternoon to discuss the goals section of the upcoming Board retreat, and it was noted that final documents for the retreat will be sent to the Board on Thursday.

**2.3.3 REJECTION OF ELEMENT/ITEM IN SINGLE BID**

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, reject the metal panel bid from EWS in the amount of \$395,670 and authorize the District's Construction Management firm, Bulley & Andrews, to rebid this element of the new Administration Building. Roll call vote.

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

STANDING  
BOARD  
COMMITTEES

**STANDING BOARD COMMITTEES**

**FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (FORC)**

It was reported that the FORC Committee met on August 17, 2015 and several new members were in attendance, along with the new Data Analyst. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2015, where the committee will review the revised projections prior to levy adoption in December and a review of the audit. It was reported that next year, the committee will review the debt sales and the district guidelines for when the amended budget needs to be reported to the public.

**COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION, INTERVENTION, AND MONITORING (CLAIM)**

It was reported that the date for the forum has not been confirmed. One of the legislators recommended moving the event to a Monday, noting that if the government officials are called down to Springfield, it would most likely occur later in the week.

President Gates, Vice President Felton and Chris Jасulca are working with the CLAIM chairperson to choose new committee members.

Member Spatz and Chris Jасulca have been asked to work with legal regarding the wording of the IASB resolution on data equity between unit districts and high school districts.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

ADMINISTRATIVE  
ITEMS

**2015-2016 OVERNIGHT AND OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIPS**

The 2015-2016 proposed overnight and out-of-state field trips were presented to the Board for consideration. Interest was expressed as to why Julian Middle School did not have a trip identified.

**TENTATIVE 2015-2016 BUDGET**

O'Neill presented the revised 2015-2016 tentative budget and reported that she will continue to compare her totals to the PMA projections. She noted that the Education Fund revenues increased slightly, as well as the state revenues. Additionally, the Education Fund expenditures changed because an additional teacher was needed at Holmes School. This item will return to the Board for action on September 8, 2015. It was suggested that the District have PMA review all funds.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST UPDATE**

It was noted that FOIA requests will be shared in the Board packets as needed.

**CONCLUDING ITEMS**

CONCLUDING  
ITEMS

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Kelley reported that the Illinois State Board members recognized retired District 97 teacher Sandy Noel for her efforts with the Year of the Volunteer Program. She was recognized for encouraging children to increase activity and make good food choices that lead to healthier lives. Noel has received numerous awards in the past, including 2003 Teacher of Excellence, Golden Apple Excellence Award, and in 2012, she was chosen to co-chair the Governor's Council on Health and Fitness.

It was reported that 40 new staff members have been added to the district. The administrators were recognized for their efforts in coordinating the New Teacher training sessions.

Tomorrow morning is the District 97 Welcome Back Kickoff at Dominican University.

The Board was reminded that the students return to school on Monday. Dr. Kelley will walk through all the schools prior to their opening.

A welcome reception is scheduled on Thursday for the new Brooks Middle School principal, and Holmes School is hosting a welcome back to school event.

**BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was reported that the PARCC data should be received in November. At that time, the data will be shared with parents, possibly with the help of the PTOs, and the data will be used to help plan instruction for the students.

The administration and OPTA were acknowledged for their work on the latest Memorandum Of Understanding.

Member Spatz reported that he is a member of the IASB Executive Board and will be participating in a special training on January 16, 2016.

It was noted that 40 percent of the new hires have experience in the Chicago Public School (CPS) system. Interest was expressed in why District 97 is attracting so many CPS teachers.

Members Spatz and Brisben attended an IGOV meeting recently. The group is planning for an all board meeting on October 24, 2015. This event will focus on expenses and intergovernmental agreements. The group is still trying to identify a speaker to lead a discussion about the census numbers in Oak Park and the recent trends. The group will consider the validity of the perceptions. It was reported that IGOV is in need of administrative support, and that the taxing bodies will supply support on a rotating basis. It was noted that this would be a paid position.

The Board was assured that the Board’s representatives on the Collaboration Governing Board were made aware of the Collaboration for Early Childhood’s decision regarding their partnership with Parenthesis prior to the announcement.

It was suggested that the Board place Senate Bill 100 (to alter how the exclusionary discipline are administered) on their radar. It was noted that District 200 has made this a priority.

Vice President Felton will miss the September 28, 2015 Board meeting.

Dates for the Board to participate in the Farmers Market were discussed. President Gates will share a survey to determine availability. The Fourth of July parade was also suggested as a way for the Board to participate in community engagement.

The need to reschedule the September 29, 2015 Board meeting was shared. It was suggested that the meeting be rescheduled to September 28, 2015 so the Board members can attend the IASB dinner where they will receive the Governance Award. Additionally, the Board was asked to consider moving the February 9, 2016 meeting to Monday, February 8, 2016 so Dr. Kelley can present at an AASA event.

**BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**PREVIEW AGENDAS**

The draft agenda for September 8, 2015 was reviewed and modifications were recommended.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Gates declared the meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary