

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting April 28, 2015**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Brisben, Sacks, Gates, O'Connor, Iseli, and Felton

ROLL CALL

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, 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, Planning and Communications 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

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Sacks moved, seconded by Iseli, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(1), Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Iseli, Gates, O'Connor, Felton, Brisben, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:52 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL  
REPORTS

**MIDDLE SCHOOL TURF FIELD UPDATE**

Jan Arnold came to the table and presented an update on the Niki Grind Turf field proposal. She noted that in response to District 97's concern for equity, the Brooks Middle School field had been included in the proposal. She reported that the total cost of the two fields would be about \$550,000, however, affiliates were approached for support, and she reported that thanks to their generosity, the project has been fully funded.

Community meetings were held at each school to address questions and concerns. She reported that concerns included questions about parking and the need for a garden on the grounds. One person encouraged the use of natural grass, but the turf specialist at the meeting explained the challenges to maintaining it. Dr. Roberts suggested that lighting on the Julian field should not be a concern, because lighting already exists at that location. Arnold explained that the apartments in the area have their own lighting and the field lighting will be programmed to turn off at 9 p.m.

A draft of the intergovernmental agreement was included in the Board packet for consideration, and included defining the sharing of the space. This item is scheduled to return to the Board for approval on May 5, 2015, and will be submitted to the Park District board for approval on May 8, 2015.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL TURF FIELD UPDATE (Continued)

Arnold explained that once the IGA has been approved by both boards, the design phase will begin. Norm Lane, Therese O'Neill and Dr. Roberts will all participate in that step. The project should be released for bid on June 1, 2015 and the project should be awarded in early July, with an anticipated deadline of October 15, 2015.

Arnold suggested that the total cost of the project and the annual maintenance cost would be similar to that of natural grass. She explained that the lifespan of the turf is 8-12 years, though some customers are seeing a longer lifespan. She noted that replacement of the surface would be around \$200,000 at Brooks and slightly higher at Julian.

Board comments included having the Physical Education teachers weigh in on the field markings.

## STR – ADMINISTRATION BUILDING UPDATE

Jennifer Costanzo came to the table and shared an update on the design phase of the new administration building. She explained that the next steps will include the design of the PrintShop and common spaces.

She reported that the architects are working with Cabinet to create an open and welcoming building that provides a community resource. Costanzo shared the concept of celebrating students by showcasing artwork throughout the building, and noted that Cabinet recommended including the art teachers in the planning of this process. The artwork could include some permanent and some temporary pieces.

Costanzo noted that the recommendations of the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC), where they recommended removal of the exterior overhang and moving the front of the building away from the sidewalk had been taken into consideration and modification were made to the design.

Board comments include consideration of installing empty conduit during construction as it would be less expensive than installation after the building has been completed.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HVAC

O'Neill reported that an air cooled Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) HVAC system was recommended and has been fully vetted by FAC.

## UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Dr. Roberts reported that three firms were interviewed and the team found two of them to be spectacular. Fee schedules will be reviewed and a recommendation will be made to the Board on May 5 or May 12, 2015. He reported that both firms have an Oak Park connection.

## UNDERSTANDING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

Member Brisben noted the importance of communications with the community, and suggested that the Board consider more communication regarding this project.

He shared a PowerPoint that explained the history of the project, (why it is necessary, how it is funded, etc.). He explained that the 970 Madison facility was occupied in 1970 and was intended for use for a few years. The district has now resided at this location for 40 years. He explained that the repairs to the roof and HVAC alone would cost approximately \$2,700,000. Additional repairs are necessary and would then require ADA upgrades.

President Spatz reported that in the mid-1990s, the Madison Street TIF was created, and at the same time, the Village signed an agreement with District 97 that called for distributions. The Village expressed interest as far back as 2006 in purchasing 970 Madison Street for redevelopment. An agreement was signed that replaced the original Madison Street TIF and a

**UNDERSTANDING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION PROJECT (Continued)**

property swap for 260 Madison (old Volvo building) and 970 Madison (current district office) occurred. Additionally, the Village has acquired the Robinson Ribs property (located next to 970 Madison Street) and will be able to advertise the two properties together.

Additionally, the Village agreed to pay District 97 \$6,300,000 in accordance with the Madison Street TIF. This will allow District 97 to build the new facility without incurring any debt and benefits the community with new growth on Madison Street.

An agreement was signed between District 97 and the Village to relocate the district’s Building and Grounds department to the Public Works facility. Rent of \$1 a year will be paid for the next 40 years. Because of this agreement, 541 Madison (current Buildings and Grounds location) can be sold for approximately \$800,000. Additionally, the annual maintenance cost of \$25,000 would be saved.

Member Brisben shared a Sources and Uses of Funds document. He reported that the new administration building will be built with no trade-off for educational programming, and noted that the district anticipates that the operating costs of the new facility should be lower than the current location. He assured the community that no long-term debt will be issued and the district will have a 50 year asset.

Board comments included noting that renovations to the 970 Madison Street location would not be able to utilize the Madison Street TIF dollars. Interest was expressed in knowing if the "In Progress Review" project provides the district administration a high level of confidence that this planned facility will provide the infrastructure necessary to move the district forward in its mission of going from good to great and will it support the district mission statement to "guarantee that each student achieves optimal intellectual growth while developing socially, emotionally, and physically".

Dr. Roberts noted that there is space for collaboration. The focus is clearly on kids. There are four conference rooms to be used by the community. He noted that most, if not all, of the project goals were identified.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anne France, an Oak Park resident and parent, thanked the Board for revisiting the “sit and stare” policy and for the information on standardized testing. She asked when the questions from the community will be answered regarding Pearson grading.

Rick Boultinghouse, an Oak Park resident and parent, questioned the intergovernmental agreements for field maintenance and for the turf fields. He expressed concern that the two contracts seem to be conflicting. He asked if the field maintenance agreement will see a cost saving because the two middle school fields will need less attention. He noted that according to the field maintenance agreement, the Park District is supposed to maintain these fields and they have not.

ACTION ITEMS

**ACTION ITEMS**

**2.1.1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 14, 2015 BOARD MEETING**

Felton moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the revised minutes from the April 14, 2015 Board meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Felton, Gates, Sacks, O’Connor, Iseli, Brisben, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Abstains: None  
Motion passed.

**2.1.2 APPROVE AND RELEASE/KEEP CLOSED MEETING MINUTES FROM 7/16/2014 – 12/19/2014**

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve and keep confidential the executive session minutes for the following dates: Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Gates, Felton, O’Connor, Iseli, Brisben, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Abstains: None  
Motion passed.

**2.1 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Felton 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 as amended during executive session.
- 2.2.3 Approval of Minutes from the April 13, 2015 Special Board Meeting
- 2.2.4 Approval of Minutes from the April 17, 2015 Special Board Meeting
- 2.2.5 Approval of Minutes from the April 20, 2015 Special Board Meeting
- 2.2.6 Approval of Minutes from the April 21, 2015 Special Board Meeting
- 2.2.7 Approval of Policy Exhibits
  - Exhibit for Policy 2:70 (Vacancies on the Board of Education – Filling Vacancies)
  - Exhibit for Policy 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct)
  - Exhibit 1 for Policy 2:120 (Board Member Development)
  - Exhibit 2 for Policy 2:120 (Board Member Development)
  - Exhibit 1 for Policy 2:220 (Board of Education meeting Procedure)
  - Exhibit 3 for Policy 2:220 (Board of Education Meeting Procedure)
  - Exhibit 4 for Policy 2:220 (Board of Education Meeting Procedure)
  - Exhibit 5 for Policy 2:220 (Board of Education Meeting Procedure)
  - Exhibit 1 for Policy 2:240 (Board Policy Development)
  - Exhibit 2 for Policy 2:240 (Board Policy Development)
- 2.2.8 Approval of Mann School Overnight Field Trip – Odyssey of the Mind World Competition

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

**2.3.1 ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION – HOLMES PTO OUTDOOR CLASSROOM INITIATIVE**

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, accept a donation from the Holmes School PTO of enhancements to the Holmes courtyard space to be used as an extension of learning that is consistently utilized to inspire and further develop teaching, concepts, objectives and outcomes explored through core curriculum. The estimated value of this donation is \$60,000. Roll call vote.

Therese O’Neill reported that the maintenance for the new space will be minimal.

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

**2.3.2 APPROVAL OF ADA RAMP WORK**

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, authorize the award of a contract with Abbey Paving in the amount of \$259,665 for the ADA Exterior Ramp and miscellaneous concrete work at five other schools as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools in his memorandum dated April 14, 2015. Roll call vote.

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

**2.3.3 APPROVAL OF THE VOICE OVER IP PROPOSAL**

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the Voice Over IP proposal with Cisco/CDW in the amount of \$450,907.10, for the purchase and installation of the new phone solution, including hardware, phones and software throughout the entire district as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools in his memorandum dated April 10, 2015. Roll call vote.

It was noted that the goals request during the last meeting were included in this Board packet.

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

**2.3.5 APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE OAK PARK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION REGARDING TRANSITIONAL POSITION SALARIES**

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, accept the Memorandum of Understanding with the Oak Park Teacher's Association regarding Transitional Position Salaries.

It was noted that this agreement is necessary to address nine teachers who did not fit into the design of the teacher contract.

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

**2.3.6 ADOPTION OF REVISED CLAIM CHARGE**

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, adopt the revised charge for the Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention, and Monitoring (CLAIM). Roll call vote.

It was noted that the changes include striking the actual names of the participating administrators and replacing their names with their titles.

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

### 2.3.7 APPROVAL OF HVAC PROPOSAL

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, supported by the members of FAC, to install an Air Cooled Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) HVAC system for the new Administration Building as recommended in his memorandum to the Board dated April 28, 2015. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Gates, Felton, O'Connor, Iseli, Brisben, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

### COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS 2014 – 2015 PRIORITIES

COMMITTEE /  
WORK GROUP  
REPORTS

#### COMMON CORE AND IB IMPLIMENTATION

This committee will be meeting next week.

#### EVALUATION

Dr. Roberts reported that all teacher evaluations have been completed and administrators are currently working on Teacher Assistant evaluations.

A PERA slide show was sent to the Board, and a presentation on the PERA timeline will be shared with the Board possibly as soon as the May 12, 2015 Board meeting.

#### FINANCIAL STABILITY

The financial team met with Bruce Ulrich to discuss comparables last week. A preliminary report will be shared with FORC on May 11, 2015, and could return to the Board sometime between May and July.

It was noted that the Forecast5 database is extremely helpful.

#### ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES

This discussion occurred earlier in the meeting.

#### EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

No report was shared.

#### ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

It was reported that six superintendent candidates were interviewed and semi-finalists were brought back for a second time last week. The Board continues to deliberate, and the appointment could occur on May 12, 2015.

The Data Analyst job description has been completed and the job will be posted tomorrow. It was suggested that familiarity with the PMA model be referenced as well as the Forecast5 in the job description.

#### CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE

It was reported that the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) negotiations are scheduled to begin on May 14, 2015.

It was reported that the Master Contract/Intergovernmental Agreement List still needs some financial agencies identified. This item will be discussed during the May 12, 2015 Board meeting.

## **STANDING BOARD COMMITTEES**

### **FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)**

The FAC committee has reviewed the ADA, Voice Over IP, and construction manager proposals. Their next meeting is scheduled on May 19, 2015.

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

This committee has not met recently.

The Oak Park specific Debt Policy was discussed. It was reported that the policy has been reviewed by the district attorneys and the bond brokers. It was noted that the policy does not supply percentages for the Board to stay between. It was agreed to bring the policy or exhibit back to the Board for approval on May 5, 2015 and ask FORC to review the 4.12 document next year and consider if it needs more about information identifying debt.

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

Vice President Gates will email the update from the last committee meeting to the Board.

It was reported that House Bill 8:10 (Privacy) was passed by the House of Representatives, and will move to the Senate. The CLAIM committee will be asked to review this document.

Vice President Gates contacted a representative at IASB who will work with Senator Harmon to draft the data equity legislation.

It was reported that Senate Bill 1 is unlikely to pass during this legislative session because the House created a committee to study it.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

### **SUMMER PROGRAM UPDATE**

Dr. Roberts reported that because of construction around Holmes School this summer, the programs scheduled at Holmes will be moved to Hatch School. He noted that the Vex Robotics may need to be moved to one of the middle schools as well.

It was noted that the Assistant Principals are calling homes to make sure parent know that their children are eligible for summer programs. Additionally, families that qualify for free and reduced lunch know that scholarships are available. Information has been sent home in the electronic backpacks regularly, and the summer enrollment numbers have increased. Additionally, math teachers are reaching out to families who will benefit from the experience.

Board comments included interest in knowing what administration is doing to get the least abled students enrolled, and giving the success of the program last year, can the district invest more funding so more children can participate?

It was reported that the high school changed their math sequence for the fall, so District 97 will need to adjust.

## **CONCLUDING ITEMS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Roberts will be meeting tomorrow with the Brooks parents and Monday with Brooks staff regarding the qualifications needed in the new principal. The job has been posted and the deadline to apply is May 1, 2015. Interviews will be scheduled on May 4, 2015 and May 11, 2015. The district will use the same process to fill this position as other administrative positions this year that brought in extraordinary people.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

The West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence (WSCAE) is hosting a Young Artist Show this Saturday at the Chaney Mansion. There are 13 participating school district; including 15 middle schools and 37 elementary schools. Over 600 pieces of artwork will be on displayed.

The Ethnic Festival is this weekend. The Board members were invited to march in the parade and were asked to RSVP to the Board Secretary.

The new Board members met with Dr. Roberts and the administrators this week.

Holmes School will be hosting the annual Rockin- Lock in on Friday.

## BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was reported that the School Board election results have been certified and the new Board will be seated on Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

Member Felton attended the PTO Council meeting where they shared fund raising ideas. During their next meeting, the group will consider revising their mission.

Member O'Connor attended the district Choral Concert where 900 students participated.

The Collaboration Council meeting was cancelled.

The Collaboration for Early Childhood Intergovernmental Agreement Governing Board meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2015. The Board was asked to share questions/comments with member Felton.

IECO will be held on May 13, 2015 by the Village to discuss possible collaborations regarding sustainability efforts. The Board presidents and CEOs will be invited to participate.

The Board members were asked to confirm their attendance at the May 9, 2015 IGOV assembly at the Township office.

Member Brisben attended the Benefits meeting. Plans will be shared on May 5, 2015 with expecting action on May 12, 2015.

Interest was expressed in an update on the Spanish Immersion study. Dr. Roberts will compile the data and share it with the Board. Interest was expressed in learning about the future of the program and how the program relates to the use of Rosetta Stone.

Member Iseli thanked the Board for the opportunity to sit on the Board. He enjoyed his time and learned a lot. He is looking for ways to continue and contribute.

## BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Roberts was asked to respond to the two public comments.

## PREVIEW AGENDAS

The draft agenda for May 5, 2015 was reviewed and modifications were recommended.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(1)). Roll call vote.

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

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 11:55 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary