

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting May 5, 2015**

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

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

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(1). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:54 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC
COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS

2.1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 23, 2015 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

ACTION ITEMS

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the minutes from the April 23, 2015 Special Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 24, 2015 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Felton moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the minutes from the April 24, 2015 Special Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 28, 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 28, 2015 Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.4 SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY FOR A TENURE TEACHER

Gates moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, suspend, without pay, tenured teacher Yolanda Manns for 1 employment day and send Yolanda Manns notice thereof. Roll call vote.

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

2.5 APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PARK DISTRICT REGARDING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TURF FIELDS

Sacks moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, dated May 5, 2015, in approving the final Intergovernmental Agreement between the Park District and District 97 specific to the installation of turf fields at both Brooks and Julian Middle Schools. Roll call vote.

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

2.6 APPROVAL OF DEBT POLICY

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve Debt Policy 4.40 as presented at the April 28, 2015 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.7 APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Sacks moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, dated May 5, 2015, in employing Bulley and Andrews as the construction management at risk firm at a total fee of \$575,000 for the work associated with the construction of the new District 97 Administration Building; and further direct the Superintendent to authorize the District’s legal firm to prepare such contract for final execution.

Dr. Roberts reported that the team did their due diligence. They shared the plan with FAC, but there was no clear direction from the committee. He shared the importance of being able to hold one person accountable for the construction process. He reported that three firms were interviewed and the lowest qualified bid is also the vendor of choice. He reported that “at risk” means that all contracts are turned over to this person and he deals directly with all contractors and assumes liability. It was reported that this expense was included in the architects estimated construction cost, and it came in below the estimated. Roll call vote.

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

2.8 APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL FIRM

Felton moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, dated May 5, 2015, in appointing the legal firm Robbins Schwartz, effective July 1, 2015 to serve as its District's legal counsel for a three year contract to commence on July 1, 2015.

It was reported that nine firms expressed interest and three were interviewed. Additionally, members Felton and O'Connor are on this committee, and all the committee members were in agreement with the recommendation. It was noted that Robbins Schwartz has a lot of experience with educational law and are a good match for District 97. Roll call vote.

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

2.9.1 MOTION TO CERTIFY OFFICIAL RESULTS – SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION OF APRIL 5, 2015

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, certify the official results of the April 7, 2015 school board election as reported by the Cook County Clerk's office, naming Robert Spatz, James O'Connor, Rupa Datta and Holly Spurlock as elected to four-year terms as members of the Board of Education of School District 97. Roll call vote.

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

2.9.2 PROCLAMATION OF NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Sacks moved, seconded by Iseli, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, adopt the proclamation noting that Robert Spatz, James O'Connor, Rupa Datta and Holly Spurlock have been duly elected members to the District 97, Oak Park Board of Education. Roll call vote.

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

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Spatz, O'Connor, Datta and Spurlock came to the table and repeated the oath of office for a four year term.

Member Iseli expressed gratitude to the Board for the opportunity to participate, and reported that he enjoyed his tenure. He noted that he enjoyed getting to meet all of the Board members, and appreciates all the hard work they put in.

Member Sacks thanked her family for their support while she was on the Board, and the community for allowing her to represent them. She thanked the citizens who volunteer at the schools, and Dr. Roberts and the administrative team for their hard work. She thanked the Board members, including past member Peter Barber and Peter Traczyk.

ADJOURNMENT OF OLD BOARD

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The Board took a 15 minute break.

CONVENE NEW BOARD

The new Board was convened at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Gates, Felton, O'Connor, Brisben, Spatz, Datta, Spurlock

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, nominate Bob Spatz as temporary President and Sheryl Marinier as temporary Secretary during the reorganization of officers. Roll call vote.

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

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Brisben moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, nominate Jim Gates as President. Roll call Vote.

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

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor that the Board of Education, District 97, nominate Amy Felton as Vice President. Roll call Vote.

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

ELECTION OF BOARD SECRETARY

Felton moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, nominate Sheryl Marinier as Secretary. Roll call vote.

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

Bob Spatz was acknowledged for all his time, effort and leadership, especially as Board President. It was suggested that this Board accomplished more than any other Board in its history.

President Gates and Vice President Felton thanked the Board for their support and for the opportunity to serve the Board in a leadership role. They expressed interest in moving the district from fantastic to world class.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ON OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER

Felton moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the resolution read in recognition of outgoing Board member Denise Sacks.

Whereas Denise Sacks was elected by the citizens of Oak Park to serve on the District 97 Board of Education on April 5, 2011; and

Whereas Denise Sacks' dedicated service as a member of the board and strong commitment to helping students learn, grow and achieve were instrumental in the implementation of the International Baccalaureate and Project Lead the Way programs in our middle schools, the creation of collaborative agreements with the Park District of Oak Park regarding cooperative planning and the shared use of facilities, and the negotiation of innovative contracts with the Oak Park Teachers' Association and Service Employees International Union; and

Whereas Denise Sacks' expert leadership on the citizen-led Facilities Advisory Committee contributed to the success of several key projects (e.g., schoolyard upgrades, hiring a new district architect, undertaking a comprehensive temperature control pilot in our elementary schools, and the plan to construct a new administration building) that have greatly enhanced the long-term sustainability of the district's facilities and infrastructure; and

Whereas Denise Sacks' tireless advocacy on behalf of students with special needs advanced the goals of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, led to the establishment of the district's Accessibility Committee and helped vastly improve accessibility at several of our buildings; and

Whereas Denise Sacks displayed her steadfast belief in the importance of early childhood education by serving as the board liaison to the Collaboration for Early Childhood, aiding the Collaboration's efforts to establish an integrated early childhood system in Oak Park, and endorsing the district's participation in the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) pilot project, which is helping measure kindergarteners' skills and knowledge and inform educators about the learning and developmental needs of students in preschool through the early primary grades; and

Whereas Denise Sacks' hard work as a member of the district's policy review team, which included updating the practices, procedures and protocols that guide the day-to-day activities of the board, enabled the board to continue operating efficiently, effectively, and in the best interest of our schools and the children we serve; and

Whereas Denise Sacks strengthened the district's relationships with several of its community partners by serving as the board representative to organizations such as the Oak Park Education Foundation, PING and IGOV; and

Whereas Denise Sacks' support of the iLearn 97 initiative helped fulfill the district's referendum promise to increase the integration of technology in the classroom, while also ensuring that students have access to the resources they need to reach their full potential;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the District 97 Board of Education that it affirms the aforementioned accomplishments of Denise Sacks; and

Be It Further Resolved that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Denise Sacks on behalf of the District 97 community for helping to build a better tomorrow for our students during her four years as a member of the board.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ON OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER (Continued)

The Board members shared their individual well wishes with members Sacks and Iseli.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS

COMMITTEE /
WORK GROUP
REPORTS

2014 – 2015 PRIORITIES

REVIEW INSURANCE OPTIONS

Steve Cummins came to the table. He reported that the district was able to market and look for savings. An eight to 10 percent increase in medical was recommended. Blue Cross Blue Shield was recommended for the dental insurance. Orthodontia will be included, and the 12 month waiting period for major services will be removed. VSP was recommended for vision insurance, which is paid fully out of pocket. Additionally, the Flexible Spending Accounts will now have a debit card added to the plan and the administration costs will be lowered.

This item will return to the Board for approval on May 12, 2015.

REVIEW TENTATIVE BOARD CALENDAR FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

The tentative Board meeting calendar for the 2015-2016 school year was reviewed. It was agreed to bring this item back for discussion on May 12, 2015 with action on May 26, 2015.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Lynn Allen was acknowledged for the very successful Ethnic festival. Dr. Roberts commented on an article in the paper that suggested that the district wants to disband the Multi-Cultural Center. He explained that the information in the article is not true, that the district embraces the Multi-Cultural Center and wants to help it thrive.

The WSCAE Art Show was also last weekend. 38 different schools participated. Approximately 2,000 people attended to view about 600 pieces of student art. The only cost of the event was for the Chaney Mansion personnel. Dr. Roberts acknowledged Jan Arnold for her help in making the first annual Art Show a success.

BRAVO performed Mary Poppins last weekend as well.

Cabinet continue to meet with the architects. This week’s meeting discussed landscaping ideas. Dr. Roberts suggested that the hiring of the Construction Manager will help to jump start the process.

Joanna Klonsky will be filling in for Chris Jasculca for a month while he is on paternity leave.

An inequity in stipends was identified in the OPTA contract. Both ESY and Prep For Success will receive \$3,000, and Math Enrichment will receive \$2,400. A Memorandum of Understanding will need to be approved to clarify these changes.

Dr. Roberts has met with the Brooks principal search team, which includes staff and community members. The screening interviews will take place tomorrow, with the hopes of filling the position by the end of May. Dr. Roberts assured the Board that the team will not sacrifice quality for speed.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was reported that FAC appointed Catherine Lawrence Ward to the committee.

COG will be meeting tomorrow.

The I-ECO meeting will be held on May 13, 2015 to look at sustainability.

The Collaboration Intergovernmental Agreement Governing Board (ECC IGA Governing Board) will be meeting tomorrow. Member Spatz and Vice President Felton will be in attendance. It was noted that Member Datta will be presenting on behalf of the Data Committee.

Day in Our Village is June 7, 2015. Pencils and erasers have been ordered.

The Board was reminded that IGOV will be meeting this Saturday at the Township Senior Center.

A temporary Board Committee document was shared. President Gates recommended that these assignments remain in place until after the Board retreat. President Gates noted that the Board Secretary is the official holder of all Board documents, and asked the Board members to ensure that all documents be forwarded to her care.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PREVIEW AGENDAS

The draft agenda for May 12, 2015 was reviewed and modifications were recommended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Felton moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 8:34 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(1)). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Felton, Brisben, Gates, O'Connor, Datta, Spurlock, 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 10:17 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 10:17 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary