

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting February 19, 2015**

This meeting was rescheduled from February 10, 2015.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Brisben, Sacks, Gates, O'Connor, 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, Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction Helen Wei and Carrie Kamm, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Selection of Person to fill a Public Office 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3)). Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Gates 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.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

2.3.3 Adoption of Proclamation for Peter Traczyk

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the Proclamation in honor of Peter Traczyk.

ADOPTION OF
PROCLAMATION
FOR PETER
TRACZYK

PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR PETER TRACZYK

Whereas, Peter Traczyk was elected by the citizens of Oak Park to serve on the District 97 Board of Education on April 17, 2007 and was re-elected for a second term on April 5, 2011; and

Whereas, Peter Traczyk's hard work, passionate commitment to education and tireless advocacy on behalf of children had a profound and lasting impact on our schools and the students we serve; and

Whereas, Peter Traczyk's fervent belief that Oak Parkers should have an active voice in shaping the future of the district led to the establishment of the Finance Oversight and Review Committee and the Facilities Advisory Committee—two standing Board committees founded on the principles of citizen engagement and participation that have provided valuable guidance and

expertise on the district's fiscal operations, financial investments, facilities management and capital improvements; and

Whereas, Peter Traczyk's unparalleled leadership played a pivotal role in the successful passage of the referendum in April 2011, which has lessened the negative effect of state cuts on the district's finances and enabled us to invest in initiatives that have enhanced student learning; and

Whereas, Peter Traczyk's wealth of knowledge and keen aptitude for negotiations, coupled with his pragmatism, dogged persistence and common sense approach to problem solving, were integral to the creation of innovative agreements with the Village of Oak Park, the Park District of Oak Park and District 200 that will benefit the long-term growth and development of our community, as well as a transformative teacher contract that will shape the future of our schools and help our students reach their full potential; and

Whereas, Peter Traczyk's sincerity, integrity and collaborative spirit helped strengthen the district's relationships with our stakeholders, led to the establishment of positive and productive partnerships with the other local governing bodies, and earned him the honor of being the Wednesday Journal's Oak Park Villager of the Year for 2011; and

Whereas, Peter Traczyk's sharp wit, infectious laugh and unforgettable smile made him a wonderful person to serve with, and an even better person to know; and

Whereas, Peter Traczyk's kindness, generosity and compassion were priceless gifts he openly and willingly shared in the roles of public servant, mentor, coach, volunteer, neighbor, husband and father that he proudly assumed during the 18 years he lived in Oak Park; and

Whereas, Peter Traczyk's noble words and deeds reflect a lifetime of dedicated service that was the hallmark of his proud and storied legacy;

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

Be It Further Resolved, that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Peter Traczyk not only for the significant contributions and wonderful memories he provided during his eight years as a member of the Board, but also for being a cherished friend and beloved colleague who we will hold in our hearts forever.

Proclaimed on this 19th day of February, 2015.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

SPECIAL REPORTS

OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION (OPEF) ANNUAL UPDATE

This item was tabled.

SPECIAL
REPORTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jon Leonard, an Oak Park resident, asked the Board to consider providing administration with direction to create a parent and student friendly opt-out option for the PARCC testing. He explained that he took the high school demo of the test and found it to be difficult to take. He believes that the State needs to deem the test a breach, but they will not. He understands that the

PUBLIC
COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)

district has no choice but to administer the test, but he feels that to keep amicable relations with the parents, he would appreciate an opt-out policy that would not put his daughter in a position that would make her feel like she did something wrong, or is being punished. Additionally, he noted that Pearson has given no direction as to how they will grade the PARCC test.

Sergio Hernandez, an Oak Park resident, agreed with Mr. Leonard’s request for an opt-out policy that does not embarrass the students. He explained that he has been a bilingual educator for the last eight years, and he has seen students broken by the standardized testing. He understands how the standardized assessments can help track student needs, but expressed concern about losing the developmental piece. He shared that he feels that standardized assessments are a time sucker and encouraged the district to consider different ways to evaluate the student’s social and emotional growth. He suggested that the Board consider the amount of time that is spent preparing children for the assessments and the time that is spent actually administering them.

It was reported that notification was sent out to parents a couple weeks ago explaining that District 97 has opted to go with the paper/pencil option this year, which should alleviate some of the pressure felt by the students.

Dr. Roberts expressed his understanding and share of concern, but reported that the State has been contacted regarding this concern and giving students the opportunity to opt-out of taking the PARCC testing is not allowed.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the January 20, 2015 Special Board Meeting

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the January 20, 2015 special Board meeting.

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

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes from the January 27, 2015 Board Meeting

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the January 27, 2015 Board meeting.

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

2.2 Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

2.3.1 Approval of a Computer Lease Agreement

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97 adopt the attached formal resolution, prepared by its legal counsel, to enter into a Lease/Purchase Agreement with Providence Capital Network, LLC, for the provision of 60 administrative desktop devices.

**RESOLUTION
TO ENTER INTO LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT
WITH PROVIDENCE CAPITAL NETWORK, LLC**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District No. 97, Cook County, Illinois (“Board”) has determined that it is in the best interest of Oak Park Elementary School District No. 97, Cook County, Illinois (“District”) to procure the computers listed in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10-22.25a of the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-22.25a, upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board members, the Board has the authority to enter into a lease or installment purchase agreement, for not longer than five (5) years, for the purchase of computers; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that a financing agreement covering the equipment in Exhibit 1 will not cause the School District to exceed its aggregate debt limitations allowable under Section 19-1 of the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/19-1.

WHEREAS, the computers will be used for educational, instructional, research, and other purposes for which it is being purchased.

NOW, THEREFORE, It Is Hereby Resolved by the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District No. 97 as follows:

Section 1. The recitals first written above are hereby incorporated into this Resolution as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. The Board authorizes the purchase of computers as shown in Exhibit 1 and any other contracts necessary for installation of such equipment, and a lease or installment purchase agreement with Providence Capital Network, LLC, to finance such equipment and installation at a total cost, excluding interest, of \$78,765.00, over a period of three (3) years.

Section 3. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent or designee to execute all related documents required to enter into the above agreement(s), subject to review by the Board’s legal counsel.

Section 4. The Board does not intend to issue more than \$10 million in tax exempt obligations, including the cost of this financing agreement, during the 2015 calendar year.

Section 5. The Board hereby designates this transaction as a qualified tax-exempt obligation pursuant to Section 265(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 6. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 19th day of February, 2015, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Gates, Sacks, Felton, O’Connor, Brisben, and Spatz
Nays: None

Absent: None
Motion passed.

2.3.2 Approval of Memorandum of Understanding – National Board Certification

Felton moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education, District 97 accept the Memorandum of Understanding for National Board Certification with the Oak Park Teachers’ Union (OPTA).

President Spatz reported that this agreement was discussed in length during negotiations. He explained that teachers, who earn the title of National Board Certified, would be eligible for a higher salary. He reported that within the next 90 days, a committee must be formed that will identify positions that are not eligible (nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, etc.) for this certification and identify an alternate equivalent certification for them.

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

COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS
2014 – 2015 PRIORITIES

COMMITTEE /
WORK GROUP
REPORTS

COMMON CORE AND IB IMPLIMENTATION

It was reported that the Common Core report was included in this board packet and will be presented to the Board during the February 24, 2015 Board meeting.

EVALUATIONS

Dr. Roberts reported that the evaluation process is up to date and he shared the timeline that is being followed.

Information on the PERA pilot was requested during the Superintendent’s Report.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

It was reported that Dr. Roberts, Therese O’Neill, and President Spatz, met with Steve Miller from PMA to discuss the roll-out of the new projections.

During the next Board meeting, information will be shared that relates to the negotiations. This information will be reviewed by FORC on March 23, 2015. During the first meeting in April, the Board will have a look at the longer projections.

It was noted that member Brisben will replace member Traczyk on this workgroup.

It was shared that the district needs to keep reserves because it is required by law to make staffing decision in March, but the State does not make decisions on its budget until much later.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND FACILITIES

Discussion of Options to Sell 541 Madison Street

The sale of 541 Madison Street was discussed. Member Sacks will take the lead on this workgroup with member Felton as the alternate. It was reported that the committee met with the Oak Park Economic Development team, and an update will be shared in Executive Session. It was noted that the District is not allowed to engage a broker until it puts the property up for auction.

Discussion of Options to Sell 541 Madison Street (Continued)

The Board was reminded that the second forum seeking community input on the new administration building will be held at Irving School on February 26, 2015. It was noted that the Website allows for input on this topic as well.

EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

It was reported that this workgroup continues to meet; however, there are no updates at this time.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

Consideration of Deputy Superintendent Position

Member Brisben reported that the stakeholder activities were rescheduled to this week. Marinier and Jasculca were acknowledged for their assistance in the rescheduling of these events. It was noted that the preliminary report from Hazard, Young and Attea (HYA) indicates that approximately 75 people, including village officials, Board candidates and OPTA leadership participated in the information gathering process. He reported that 13 people attended the two public forums, and 228 people responded to the online survey. HYA currently has 19 applications for the job. He noted that the next major event will be next week when the Board receives the Leadership Profile. It was reported that HYA will share the profile with the Board in advance and attend the February 24, 2015 meeting to report in detail and fine-tune the profile. Brisben noted that as of today, the timeline is back on track to have the initial slate presented to the Board on April 13, 2015.

Discussion took place regarding the next steps for the filling of the Deputy Superintendent position. The Board agreed to ask HYA to keep their eyes open for applicants who may not be quite ready for the Superintendent's position. They all agreed that it would be beneficial to the district to not fill this position until the new Superintendent can weigh in. Additionally, they all agreed to not ask HYA to initiate a separate search for this process.

CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE

It was suggested that the contracts for legal services and transportation should be completed before Dr. Roberts retires. It was suggested that the Board should interview three law firms, and the contract for legal services should be approved during the month of May.

It was suggested that another column be added to the current list of contracts to identify which contracts require Board action. Additionally, the need to determine the cycle in which this discussion returns to the Board was expressed.

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEES

Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC)

It was reported that FAC met last Tuesday evening. STR reported the options being considered for the administration building and members of the committee shared some valuable input.

Summer work was reviewed and discussion included how to ensure that the work is completed on time and in accordance with the law. It was noted that the bids were opened today. A recommendation will come to the Board on February 24, 2015 and action should be taken on March 17, 2015.

The sound level of the classroom air conditioning units was also discussed.

Financial Oversight and Review Committee (FORC)

It was reported that FORC will be meeting on Monday, March 23, 2015.

Discussion took place about the status of the Debt Policy. It was agreed that member Felton will send the document to member Brisben who will check on the status with Bruce Ulrich.

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEES (Continued)

It was noted that President Spatz will replace member Traczyk on this committee.

Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention, and Monitoring (CLAIM)

It was reported that President Spatz and Vice President Gates will be meeting with Greg Smith regarding the need for a new mission statement for CLAIM.

Other Committee Assignments

Member Brisben will replace member Traczyk on the Benefits Committee. It was noted that 403(b) is the big issue on this committee. Member Sacks will replace member Traczyk on the Calendar Committee, and Vice President Gates will participate on the D200 Citizen's Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE
ITEMS

POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Policy 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board) – Review exhibit created by PRESS

A detailed memo outlining changes and recommendations was shared and discussion took place.

District 97 Board of Education Responsibilities, Procedures and Protocols

It was noted that amendments to the Board protocols and procedures were shared, and the IASB Trust and Communication graphic was included.

Discussion took place regarding the need to close school on bad weather days and how to respond to families who express concern.

It was noted that many items on the agenda have changed since the document was created, particularly, noting that the purpose for each item appears in parentheses.

Proposed Plan for Monitoring Policies in the Future in Accordance with the “next steps” from the Board’s self-evaluation in December 2014

It was reported that the Board, during their self-evaluation in December, 2014, identified the need to develop a plan for monitoring policies in the future. The Board assigned the completion of this task to the policy review team.

Based on the size of the manual, as well as the other policy-related work that must be done on an annual basis, the policy review team believes the most efficient and effective way to monitor the district's policies moving forward is to perform a staggered check in on a quarterly basis. The first step in this process is to determine how much time it will take to review each section of the manual (eight sections) and develop a calendar based on those estimates. Once the calendar has been established, the policy review team will go through each section of the manual during its allotted time period and place every policy into one of three categories; review only, review and possibly revise, or review and spot check for enforcement.

At the conclusion of each quarterly review session, the policy review team will provide the Board with a written report summarizing its activities. If the activities involved policies in the review only or review and spot check for enforcement categories, this report will likely be information only. If the activities led to policy revisions, those revisions will be presented to the Board for the first reading during one of its meetings, and a second reading and approval at a subsequent meeting.

It was agreed that these items will return to the Board for review on March 17, 2015.

BROOKS / JULIAN FIELDS

Dr. Roberts reported that the district is still trying to work out a plan with the Park District to install Niki turf at the middle schools. He noted that member Traczyk had reached out to some of the stakeholders regarding financial support, but that information was not available. Dr. Roberts noted that if the district is able to come up with a plan, the Park District is willing to move forward. The total cost of the project would be approximately \$1,500,000, with \$900,000 covered by the Park District. It was noted that O'Neill was able to identify money that could be set aside for this project. Dr. Roberts will schedule a meeting with the Park District and the community groups to see if a plan can be developed. He asked the Board to share any questions that they might have.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that the PARCC assessments have been a major discussion during administrative meetings. He noted that parents have a genuine concern and noted that there are more than a few ways to assess what children know. However, he noted, the district must abide by the law. He noted that the administrators will be analyzing how much time is actually spent on assessments.

The Education Council met today. They will be rethinking and repurposing this group.

The weather today was again a concern. Only one bus delay was reported and that was due to a stalled truck blocking the road. Dr. Roberts received seven emails about the weather today, noting that they were questioning how this week's weather differed from that in January.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Felton attended the Hatch PTO meeting. Those in attendance seemed pleased with the input to the principal search. They asked the Board to be mindful of the process, as we are interviewing for a principal and a superintendent at the same time. They questioned why there are assessments scheduled in March and again in May, and asked what the administration plans to do with the two PARCC tests in conjunction to MAP. Dr. Roberts explained that MAP will no longer be administered in the spring. He noted that he will meet with Carrie Kamm and Helen Wei, and will send a communication to the Hatch PTO members.

Member Felton attended the League of Women Voters meeting. Members from District 90 and 200 were also in attendance.

Member Felton also attended the Oak Park Education Foundation meeting. They agreed to move forward with plans for a Spoken Word program. The MakerSpace program is also being piloted. She reminded the Board that the Foundation is the designated charity for Peter Traczyk. It was noted that the administrative team will be making a donation.

It was reported that Senate Bill 16 has been renamed to Senate Bill 1.

The Buzz Café Candidates Forum was held last week, and the League of Women Voters will be held on March 5, 2015 at 6 p.m.

Interest was expressed in the PERA timeline. Dr. Roberts reported that the OPTA will be attending a workshop on March 18, 2015.

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

CONCLUDING ITEMS (Continued)

Interest was expressed in the 5Essentials rank from last year and how we are doing this year.

Additional thought regarding Peter Traczyk were shared.

It was reported that the next IGOV meeting will be held this coming Saturday. During that meeting, the next assembly of the governing boards will be discussed.

February 7, 2015 was the Vex Robotics Competition. District 97 earned seven of the 10 major awards.

This Saturday will the Historical Society’s Antique Road Show at Julian. The district was acknowledged for the use of the space.

ED-RED hosted a meeting on Early Childhood during the month of January. They will be looking at the budget in the near future.

The Board expressed interest in submitting an application for the IASB Board Governance Award.

It was reported that Districts 90 and 200 partnered on a submission to the Joint Conference to present on Early Childhood.

The Early Childhood Collaboration will be holding their Annual Symposium at Julian. Early registration is required and can be accessed online.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

It was agreed that Dr. Roberts will communicate with the parents regarding their concerns with PARCC testing. In that communication, he will share the response from the state and share the contact information for them to express their concern. It was suggested that a statement could be released from the Board in early March expressing frustration and the need to comply.

PREVIEW AGENDAS

The draft agenda for February 24, 2015 was reviewed and modifications were recommended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 9:27 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(1), Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Setting Price for Sale of Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)). Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent:

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 10:29 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 10:29 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 beginning at 7 p.m. at the district Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary