

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting January 14, 2014**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Gates, Sacks, Felton, O'Connor (6:36 p.m.), Brisben and Traczyk
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jасulca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Director of HR Steve Cummins and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:32 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:01 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

OPEN SESSION

SPECIAL REPORTS

OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

Executive Director Deb Abrahamson and Board President Molly Galo of the Oak Park Education Foundation came to the table. They shared highlights of the foundations five programs (Architecture Adventure, Art Start, Geared Up, Science Alliance, and Vex Robotics), and Base Camp. They reported that;

SPECIAL REPORTS

- Science Alliance had 1,163 participated last year
- Architecture Adventure increased their business partnerships where projects were on display in local businesses
- Geared Up was part of the third grade curriculum and insects were built out of Legos. A special program was done on Presidents' Day
- Art Start welcomed a new coordinator last year and some new partnerships were developed
- Vex Robotics helped launch seven new middle school teams in Illinois with a goal of having an Illinois middle school championship. The program is serving 20 percent more students than in the past. The annual Vex Robotics competition will be held on February 1, 2014. Teams will compete to be eligible to attend the state and national competitions.
- They also participated in the Project Lead the Way
- Base Camp was extended to full-day options and increased by about 100 students. Scholarships were available
- 95 percent of parent feedback was positive or very positive

OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT (Continued)

Galo reported that the Foundation is in year two of a three -year strategic planning process. She explained that metrics are formed for each program, and surveys are developed and analyzed after every program. Additionally, the Vex Robotics participants are surveyed at the beginning and end of the year.

They explained that data is being compiled and new training for volunteers is being developed. A new fee based income is being considered. Several new programs were added to Base Camp and an event is scheduled on Martin Luther King's Birthday. They reported that the Foundation is working to create new program models in the middle school, and working to find the best fit for programs and experts.

Abahamson shared that this is the Foundations 25th year and the mile-stone will be celebrated during the annual Staszak dinner scheduled on April 12, 2014. Additionally, she shared that Trisha Davis has been hired as the Director of Communications. Davis is professionalizing the operation, and working on fundraisers and marketing. Abahamson reported that the Foundations budget is now over \$300,000 and they are very proud of doing so much with so little. She shared that a call for ideas will be sent out to the community and ideas will be considered for future programs.

Galo thanked the Board and district administration for their partnership. They acknowledged Lisa Schwartz and Dr. Roberts for their engagement and support by participating on the Foundation's Board. Member Traczyk was noted for communicating with the high school regarding Vex Robotics and the district for supplying space for the Base Camp program. Additionally, they expressed gratitude for being nominated by the Board of Education for a Those Who Excel Award and recognized all the great teachers who support the programs and their willingness to participate.

Board comments included support of programs held on days when school is not in session. Interest was also expressed in recalculating the in-kind support of the Foundations budget and an expression of hope was shared that the families recognize the difference between the Education Foundation and the School District.

COMMON CORE ROLL-OUT (ELA AND MATH)

Director of Teaching and Learning Lisa Schwartz and Principal Suzie Hackmiller came to the table. They reported on the history of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) initiative, noting that the standards were developed to ensure equity, clarity, preparation, and collaboration. Schwartz noted that the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) was passed in January, 2010 and requires that performance evaluations for certified staff must include data and indicators of student growth. The District 97 Common Core timeline was shared. Schwartz noted that during the 2011-12 school year the process began with an overview of professional development for all staff. In the 2012-13 school year, professional development focused on English Language Arts and developed English Language Arts calendars to pilot in April, 2013. During the 2013-14 school year, professional development focused on Mathematics and the development of the Math curriculum guides. The full implementation of Common Core for ELA, Math and the new CCSS aligned report card for Kindergarten through fifth grade were developed. During the 2014-15 school year, the district will continue professional development, align curriculum material and focus on the PARCC Assessment.

The new report card for the Kindergarten through fifth grade students was shared. Schwartz reported that communication will continue with parents to help them understand the new grading process.

COMMON CORE ROLL-OUT (ELA AND MATH) (Continued)

A list of professional development opportunities was shared. Schwartz reported that since 2011, eight of the institute days have been dedicated to Common Core. She noted that professional development has also been geared toward specific teaching groups.

Schwartz reported that instructional shifts in language include balance of informational and literacy texts; building knowledge in the disciplines; staircase of complexity; text based answers written from sources and academic vocabulary.

She reported that the Summer Summit for teacher leaders was offered in partnership with District 90. It included 24 District 97 teachers and provided a three-day professional development opportunity during the summer and follow-up sessions through the school year. The team developed a monthly ELA calendar for grades Kindergarten through eighth grade that focused on specific standards to assess each month; common performance based assessments for standards each month; rubrics developed for each assessment and materials selected that are aligned with CCSS expectations. The ELA calendars were fully implemented for the 2013-14 school year.

Hackmiller explained how the Language Arts instruction looks different. She noted that the textbooks are being used as a resource and more information texts are being used. Additionally, fewer multiple choice assessments are being given and more performance based assessments are being used. She noted that common assessments for all standards are being used at each grade level.

In math, the instructional shift began with professional development in 2013 and is continuing during this school year, with 26 Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers developing math curriculum guides. Additionally, they will focus on a way to incorporate applicable Everyday Math materials, and review other state models that are used as a foundation. Middle school staff will work together to realign the existing curriculum and continue with the ongoing development of assessments and identification of resources.

Next steps were identified as matching the Kindergarten through fifth grade textbooks/resources and review for 2014-15 adoption; review ELA calendars and determine supplemental materials to purchase; summer professional development; consider release time for collaborative planning and develop unit and lesson plans, and continue IB unit plan development at the middle schools. Electronic versions of texts are also being considered.

Additionally, Schwartz noted that parents and community members will need to be educated on Common Core. She shared that in the past, the district offered a few parent forums, school sessions and a report card guide. Plans for the future include a parent Math night in March 2014, parent/community forums with the PTO Council, and a CCSS District 97 parent guide posted online by the fall of 2014.

Schwartz noted that the district will continue to utilize the Education Council group for input and troubleshooting; implement the Ed Council action plans; continue to focus on the collaboration of teachers and administrators to move forward with CCSS; provide sufficient curriculum resources for all teachers and begin to review the Next Generation Science Standards and C3 Framework for Social Studies.

Schwartz noted the need for time, ongoing professional development and resources. She shared that the district will need to continue to work with the special area teachers. She noted that even three years from now the district will need to remain focused on the standards.

COMMON CORE ROLL-OUT (ELA AND MATH) (Continued)

Board comments included;

- Noting that practice is needed as the teachers like the rigor of the Common Core standards, but they say it is a struggle
- Partnering with other districts was suggested. It was suggested that the district review the progress in June and talk about how teachers feel supported then, compared to now
- Staff understanding the Common Core is predicated upon fewer and clearer essential standards and that if it is not in the standards, it is not in the curriculum? Wigwam building is fun and kids are good at it; but is it essential?
- Has the scenario simulations on how to share the existing technology over the PARCC 20 day assessment window in the 3-5 and 6-8 classrooms for the 2015 performance based and summative assessments?
- An assessment of our student's ability to not only keyboard extended constructed but navigate the TECRs (technology enhanced constructed responses such as Drag and Drop, Cut and Paste, Highlighting appropriate text, arranging text in sequential order)
- As one of the key tenets of the ELA program, is the inclusion of the technical subjects as ELA educators, help the Board understand the comfort and capability level of our elective staff regarding Common Core
- I look forward to hearing about how Tier 2 and Tier 3 academic vocabulary is implemented in class as an essential focus of all ELA staff, core and elective
- Plans to make sure that all our parent stakeholders have a working knowledge of the Common Core, understand the ELA and Math shifts, the necessity of at home reading to increase vocabulary, and the increased rigor inherent in the Common Core
- Common Core assessments to be rolled into local assessments along with MAP testing to meet the multiple assessment mandate of PERA
- When will the Next Generations science curriculum presentation come before the Board and when can the materials and textbooks be made available for perusal and adoption?
- It was noted that the OPTA contract governs the teacher's time. Concern that some schools had Title I money for bookrooms and others do not
- Concern was expressed about kids learning things without the background needed to accomplish the task

The faculty and administration were acknowledged for their extraordinary efforts for getting this initiative up and running.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn Deaton, Oak Park Resident and District 97 FLES Teacher Leader, thanked the district for hosting a program on Raising Global Children with author Stacie Berdan. The event was well attended and the topic was deemed very important. The author noted the importance of learning a second language early in life. Deaton commended the Board and past boards for supporting FLES. She acknowledged Dr. Roberts for supporting the International Baccalaureate program which requires a second language. She encouraged the Board to participate in the World Language Advisory committee meeting next Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Julian Middle School.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION
ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the December 3, 2013 meeting

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the December 3, 2013 meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes from the December 14, 2013 Joint Board meeting

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the December 14, 2013 joint Board meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.1.3 Approval of Minutes from the December 17, 2013 Special meeting

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the December 17, 2013 meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

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

2.2.1 Bill List

2.2.2 Personnel

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.3.1 Adoption of Policies

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the following policies:

Policy 3:60 – Administrative Responsibility of the Building

Policy 4:100 – Insurance Management

Policy 5:50 – Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohibition

Policy 5:90 – Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Policy 5:100 – Staff Development Program

Policy 5:120 – Ethics and Conduct

Policy 5:200 – Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal

Policy 6:60 – Curriculum Content

Policy 6:250 – Community Resource Persons and Volunteers

Policy 7:185 – Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Policy 7:300 – Extracurricular Athletics

Policy 8:30 – Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.3.2 Approval of Brooks Out-of-State Field Trip

O'Connor moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Brooks Fine Arts' Department seventh and eighth grade music tour to St. Louis, Missouri on May 16 through 18, 2014.

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

2.3.3 Acceptance of PTO Donation to Whittier School

Felton moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept a donation of enhancements to the Whittier playground and outdoor classroom from the Whittier School PTO. The enhancements planned include;

- Add planting and benches to the designated areas near the main (south) playground
- Design and install pavers and seating to create an outdoor classroom near the north end of the property (near the Greenleaf Garden)
- Install a garden shed to organize tools for garden maintenance and outdoor classroom supplies

It is estimated that these enhancements will exceed \$5,000.

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

2.3.4 Approval of Board of Education Responsibilities, Procedures and Protocols

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Board of Education Responsibilities, Procedures and Protocols as presented to the Board during the December 17, 2013 Board meeting.

Changes and edits were made after the last meeting. The Board was acknowledged for having such a document.

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

2.3.5 Resolution Regarding the Consideration of Building the District 97 Administration Facility Adjacent to Village Hall

President Spatz read the following statement:

While we are voting tonight to officially remove the space behind Village Hall as an option for our administration building, we thank the Village for the time and effort they invested in the exploration of this potential project. We also remain committed to working with the Village and the other local governing bodies to identify ways we can work together to best meet the needs of the community, including sharing space, services, etc.

We certainly understand and appreciate the Village's desire to further study the possibilities that may exist in conjunction with constructing a new facility on its parking lot; however, it has not provided us with a compelling argument or information about how this option will benefit the community from an economic standpoint. Therefore, after a year of exploring this concept, we have reached a point where we need to move forward with plans not only for our administration

building, but for other capital projects and expenditures that are critical to the effective operation of our schools and play an important role in our ability to educate our students.

We also thank the citizens of Oak Park for the passion and candor they contributed to the discussion about this topic. While we held opposing viewpoints on various aspects of this possible concept, the feedback we received from residents throughout the process highlighted not only the numerous opportunities that exist for community engagement and involvement, but also the value we place on them. We look forward to continuing the dialogue with community members about this and the other important issues that contribute to the success of our schools and the children we serve.

O'Connor moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the following resolution;

Whereas the 2006 Madison Street Plan, which was adopted by the Village Board on June 5, 2006, included the concept of using the existing surface parking lot and open space to integrate Village Hall into a civic campus; and

Whereas this concept included the potential creation of a mixed-use development that would incorporate the existing Park District facilities and District 97 properties; and

Whereas in December 2012, a concept for an administrative center that would align with the goals of the Madison Street Plan was presented to the Village Board, and

Whereas the Village board expressed interest in further investigating the concept for an administrative center; and

Whereas the economic conditions have changed significantly since the Madison Street Plan was adopted and continue to be difficult to accurately project; and

Whereas the likely case numbers prepared by the Village in January 2013 may or may not reflect their current likely case scenario; and

Whereas the composition of the Village Board and the District 97 Board have changed since the proposal in December 2012;

Whereas the Village Board did not present evidence at the joint meeting on December 14, 2013 or in the time since about how building behind Village Hall will effectively serve the economic interest of Oak Park; and

Whereas District 97 is committed to finding an expedient solution for our administrative offices that best meets the needs of the community;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that District 97 is no longer considering the space behind Village Hall as one of the options for our administration building;

Be It Further Resolved that District 97 will continue to seek input from the Village board about the economic impact of options under consideration; and

Be it Further Resolved that District 97 will also continue to seek input about this important endeavor from the citizens of Oak Park to ensure that the final decision we make is in the best interest of the community.

Proclaimed on this 14th day of January, 2014.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE TOPICS

BUDGET AUTHORITY RESOLUTION

President Spatz noted that this is a routine item that gives authority to the administrators to begin preparing the budget for next year. This item will return for action on January 28, 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE
TOPICS

BROOKS SPECIAL OLYMPICS FIELD TRIP

Mike Padavic came to the table. He explained that several special education and regular education students will travel to Bloomington Normal to participate in the Special Olympics. Padavic noted that the event is a leadership model and the Special Olympics will pay for the housing. He reported that two certified staff will be chaperoning and the district will need to supply transportation. Padavic reported that the Best Buddy program does great work with the general education and special education students. This item will return to the Board for approval on January 28, 2014.

Padavic and his staff were commended for their efforts with the special education department.

COMMITTEE/WORK GROUP REPORTS

COMMITTEE /
WORK GROUP
REPORTS

POLICY REVIEW UPDATE

Nothing

FACILITIES UPDATE (FAC)

Dr. Roberts reported on the temperature control study directed by the Board. He reported that the scope of the study included classroom locations. As the team reviewed the plan, they determined that the study would be better if they used three classrooms per building, as it would scope all levels of the building. He explained that a controlled use of classrooms on each floor would address the equity issues and give a better picture for future decisions and supply reliable data. A timeline was shared identifying review of the bids and action by the Board during the April meetings. Costanzo expressed concern about the approval date and the ability to order some of the air conditioning pieces in a timely manner allowing for completion of the projects during the summer.

It was reported that FAC will be meeting next Tuesday, January 21, 2014. They will review the summer work requests and share their recommendations with the Board.

Therese O'Neill and Jennifer Costanzo from STR came to the table. They reported that a work schedule has been prepared and a timeline was shared.

O'Neill reported that three small accessibility projects will go out to bid on February 19, 2014, with anticipated approval by the Board on March 18, 2014. Funding for the two projects were discussed.

Board interest included the scope of the data that would be collected during the temperature control study. A statement of work that defines what will be measured and the method that will be used will be brought back to the Board prior to their approval of the bids. The Board agreed to consider 23 classrooms for the study.

FINANCIAL UPDATE (FORC)

It was reported that FORC will be meeting tomorrow night on the financial metric and will consider a policy on debt and borrowing.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (CLAIM)

It was reported that the CLAIM committee will be meeting next Thursday evening. President Spatz and member Gates have been drafting language that will be presented to Senator Harmon regarding data sharing between district. This information will be shared with the Board, Districts 90 and 200.

The need for CLAIM and FAC charges to be modified to identify staggered terms of office was expressed. Members Felton and Sacks will work on this update.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (CLAIM) (Continued)

It was noted that two new FORC members and one CLAIM member are being sought.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION UPDATE

Dr. Roberts reported that he shared some historical principal evaluation data with member O'Connor. O'Connor expressed the need to review Fast ForWord data as well. This item will return to the Board on January 29, 2014 along with a preview of the new evaluation scoring process.

MADISON STREET PROPERTIES UPDATE

It was reported that the three options for the TIF disbursements were discussed during the Council of Governments on Wednesday, January 8, 2014; however, no feedback was given. The Library requested a meeting with the district to explain the options to them. It was noted that the Village board met last night and no news has come out of that meeting. It is the expectation of this Board that funds will be released in January.

Other possible locations were discussed. Rental properties in other locations (off of Madison) were shared with the Village and they were asked if they would be interested in the district using a location other than on Madison Street. More information should be available during the January 28, 2014 meeting.

AD HOC DASHBOARD/BENCHMARK COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark Committee will be meeting on January 22 and 29, 2014. It was noted that the meeting on January 29, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. will include a presentation on the 5Essentials survey. It was suggested that Dr. Roberts encourage the principals to attend and that an invitation be extended to Districts 200 and 90 and their communities.

CALENDAR COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Calendar Committee met today. It was suggested that this discussion be added to the next meeting. Everyone was asked to review the draft document and send their questions and concerns to member Sacks.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that he is very busy with negotiations.

This Thursday the district will continue their work with the RBT training.

The last Education Council meeting was extremely positive. The group sorted through Common Core. He reported that some very strong teachers came up with an action plan that was well done and well received.

Dr. Roberts recognized the administrative team for taking on more than their single roles. He commended their synergy.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was reported that member Traczyk is working with the high school to build a robotics program and encourage the use of the Education Foundation programs there.

The Raising Global Children Forum held last night was excellent.

Member Felton attended the Irving PTO last week.

It was reported that the PTO Council is eager to be involved with forums.

Member Sacks was scheduled to attend the Whittier PTO meeting but will be unavailable. Member Felton offered to go in her place. President Spatz will be attending the Lincoln PTO meeting on March 5, 2014.

The ED-RED Legislative Dinner is scheduled on January 27, 2014. Board members were encouraged to let the Board Secretary know if they would like to attend.

Suggestions were requested for possible presentations at the next Joint Conference. It was noted that the application for proposals needs to be submitted by February 14, 2014.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PREVIEW AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 14, 2014 MEETING

The draft agenda for the January 14, 2014 Board meeting was reviewed and changes were identified.

BOARD 2013-14 TIMELINE

The Board timeline was reviewed. An additional Common Core presentation was suggested for later in the year, and it was suggested that the dates identified for planning for the spring Board retreat be moved up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 10:09 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 11:01 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 11:01 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary