

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting February 25, 2014**

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

Present: Spatz, Gates, Sacks, Felton, O'Connor, 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 Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Director of HR Steve Cummins and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:32 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), Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21), Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:10 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:13 p.m.

2.1.1 Ratification of the Oak Park Teachers' Assistant Association Collective Bargaining Agreement

RATIFICATION OF OPTAA COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the terms of a new three year collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Education and Oak Park Teachers' Assistant Association (OPTAA) Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

OPTAA representatives Monica Madan and Mary Pat Erci-Sullivan came to the table. Madan expressed gratitude for the professional, courteous process that was followed, and reported that the union members voted 52 to six in favor of the agreement.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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AD HOC DASHBOARD/BENCHMARK COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee members Rupa Datta, Denis Roarty and Gudelia Lopez came to the table. Datta explained that the task of the committee is to review data and determine ways to store, review and present it as new strategies and goals arise. She noted that the team continues to call themselves a dashboard committee, but they believe that the Board wants more. She explained that the

committee anticipates that the dashboard document will be more multifaceted than a typical dashboard. She presented the domains that the committee has identified and Lopez led a discussion on the draft dashboard document and asked the Board for feedback. It was noted that much of the data will not be progress indicators, but is important to be recorded systematically so the important elements are available when reviewed. Datta suggested different documents for the Board and the community, noting that the Board would prefer more detail. Datta noted that the committee has representation within the STRIVE group and with the Collaboration for Early Childhood, ensuring that they are in alignment.

Board comments included noting that the committee is comprised of highly skilled data professionals.

Board members were encouraged to share additional feedback by emailing President Spatz and Chairperson Datta.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BEST BUDDIES PROGRAM

Mike Padavic came to the table with teachers Sue Hoyer, Tim McDonald and Beth Uhen. McDonald explained the history of the districts involvement in the Special Olympics, and expressed his gratitude to the Gates Foundation for purchasing basketball and bocce ball equipment.

Hoyer explained the Best Buddies program and reported that the district is now one of the project unified school districts, a program that brings regular and special education children together to encourage an inclusion environment. Six regular education and six special education students were invited to participate in the program. Four of the students were in attendance at the Board meeting and shared their experiences.

Padavic noted that District 97 is truly an inclusive environment and he acknowledged the staff and students. The teachers were thanked for the time and effort put into the program and it was reported that the America Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) in Oak Park has launched its own Best Buddies program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Rick Boultinghouse, an Oak Park resident, expressed his interest in the news about the Village holding Madison Street TIF funds, and asked the following questions;

1. Can the Board clarify and provide more information on news that the Village of Oak Park intends to withhold Madison Street TIF distributions?
2. At the Joint Village of Oak Park/District 97 meeting back in December, 2013, the Village put forth a proposal to District 97 (and to the public) to extend the Madison Street TIF and potentially fund the construction of a new Administration Building for District 97 in exchange for the title and ownership of the current property occupied by District 97. Are there any developments with this proposal?
3. Relative to my first question, what plans has District 97 developed to deal with a potential for the Village to withhold Madison Street TIF funds for a prolonged period of time, knowing that the Village has earmarked those funds for summer of 2014 expenditure and realizing that this development is so new, that there may not have been sufficient time to formulate any plans?

Therese Souders, an Oak Park resident and Irving School parent, reported that her nine year-old son misses his teacher. She expressed concern about removing teachers from classrooms during the school year, and reported that both of her children had excellent experiences with the teachers

in question. She noted that Mr. Gray teaches to the kids, and she has seen no indication that the personal relationship between the teachers has had any effect on the kids. She reported that this weekend parents were condemning and insulting these teachers, however, she wishes the district could do more to support them and she hopes they return quickly. She understands that this is a personnel issue, but questioned the process. She noted that the children are not in immediate danger and suggested that the teachers be released in a way that does not disrupt the children. She quoted Dr. Roberts saying, "Having a teacher absent for any length of time affects the consistency and continuity of the learning environment which is critical to the student's growth and development."

ACTION ITEMS

2.2.1 Approval of Minutes from the February 11, 2014 meeting

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the February 11, 2014 meeting.

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

2.2.2 Approval and release/keep Closed Meeting Minutes from 7/1/2013 – 12/31/2013

Traczyk moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the executive minutes from July 16, 2013 through December 17, 2013 and release the executive session minutes for the July 16, 2013 and September 28, 2013, keeping confidential the minutes from July 9, 2013, August 16, 2013, August 20, 2013, September 10, 2013, September 24, 2013, October 8, 2013, October 22, 2013, November 5, 2013, November 19, 2013, December 3, 2013, December 14, 2013 and December 17, 2013.

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

2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

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

2.4.1 Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with the Police Department

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between District 97 and the Police Department for the purpose of exchanging information between the school district and the law enforcement about criminal offenses committed by students. This reciprocal reporting agreement is required by the Illinois Code, regulated by numerous statutes, including the Juvenile Court Act, the School Code (Section 10-20.14), the Illinois School Student Records Act (ISSRA), and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

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

2.4.2 Approval of Life Safety Amendment and Maintenance Project Grant

Traczyk, moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Life/Safety Amendment prepared by the District’s architectural firm, STR Partners, LLC, for early childhood classrooms at Whittier School (temperature controls and casework associated with same), as well as approve District 97’s applications to the Illinois State Board of Education for a Maintenance Project Grant for the work described within the amendment.

O’Neill came to the table. She explained that this grant opportunity was presented to the Board in a weekly report, and requested that they approve the application this evening so the process can move forward in a timely manner.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS

COMMITTEE /
WORK GROUP
REPORTS

POLICY REVIEW UPDATE

It was reported that the district specific policies will be reviewed in the near future.

FACILITIES UPDATE (FAC)

Therese O’Neill and Norm Lane came to the table. It was noted that the Facilities Committee will review the Whittier Elevator bids prior to action by the Board. It was noted that the bids are only for the purchase of equipment, and bids for the installation will be received separately. This item will return to the Board for action at the next meeting.

O’Neill noted that the quantity of unit ventilators was increased to 26 units, which will include two early childhood classrooms at Whittier School. She noted that the bid came in less per unit than originally estimated. This item will return to the Board for action at the next meeting.

STR and FAC will discuss the details of the temperature control pilot program during the April FAC meeting.

FINANCIAL UPDATE (FORC)

It was reported that the committee met on February 10, 2014. Sarah Buerger, Mike Lofgren and Miguel Zarate were invited to fill the three open seats on the committee. An orientation will be done prior to their first meeting to get them up to speed. The committee will be reviewing a few policies and make recommendations to the policy committee. It was noted that a draft of the dashboard will be reviewed by this committee and Forecast 5 will be discussed.

It was reported that the audit bids are due by March 6, 2014 and will be sent to the committee on March 7 or 8, 2014. This item will be presented to the Board on April 8, 2014 for review with anticipated action on April 29, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (C.L.A.I.M.)

It was reported that the committee is amending the committee charge to accommodate for staggering terms and will adjust the charge that identifies the number of required committee members. The first reading of the charge will be presented to the Board on March 18, 2014 with anticipated approval on April 8, 2014.

It was reported that the committee has invited Rick Boultinghouse to fill the empty seat on this committee.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (C.L.A.I.M.)

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for April 7, 2014. Additionally, the committee is looking to establish new goals.

Dr. Roberts reported that he met with the superintendents of Districts 90 and 200 regarding the letter to be sent to Senator Harmon. The superintendent of District 90 requested time to share the document with the District 90 Board of Education. The superintendent of District 200 expressed interest in pursuing this directive.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION UPDATE

Member O'Connor noted interest in using ECRA data in this evaluation and request that he be given time on the next agenda for this topic.

Vice President Gates noted that the online evaluation document is progressing and should be available in the near future.

MADISON STREET PROPERTIES UPDATE

President Spatz noted that the Village confirmed that they are not distributing the TIF dollars by the January deadline. Although a timeline has not been defined at this time, it was reported that District 97 has clearly shared its urgency on this matter.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN UPDATE

The need was expressed for 20 minutes on the March 10, 2014 FORC agenda to discuss DSEB.

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION UPDATE

Vice President Gates recommended holding the annual Board retreat at Holley Court on May 31, 2014. He will confirm the availability of Jeff Cohn or an alternative from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), and will report back to the Board on March 18, 2014 with a rough timeline of what will need to be accomplished between now and the retreat. Interest was expressed in the need for a second facilitator.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that the OPTA contract articles need to be reviewed prior to the next negotiations meeting. He received updates from some of the committees and noted the need to clean up the language and ensure that this contract represents the new way of thinking and rewards quality performance.

Dr. Roberts is working on the administrative contracts; he will be reviewing salary and benefits comparisons with the Evanston elementary school district.

Dr. Roberts attended the MSAN meeting today. He emphasized the importance of this group, noting that one district shared the World Café as a way to develop an understanding on what support is needed to help kids go from cradle to career. He plans on contacting Sophia Lloyd from the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation, as he noted similarities between the World Café and STRIVE.

He expressed concern regarding the 5Essentials survey. However, he noted that the OPTA leadership is in favor of the process, recognizing its short comings. After hearing from the teachers, he suggested that the district complete the survey. It was noted that Districts 90 and 200 are not participating in the survey process.

Dr. Roberts reported that there will be no weekly report to the Board this week.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Gates reported that the PTO Council was asked about choosing meeting dates for Board members to attend. The Council will work on a plan and process for next year.

Member Sacks attended the Julian Band Concert.

Member O'Connor reported that the Irving Fun Fair was a huge success.

Member Felton volunteered at the Collaboration for Early Childhood Symposium. President Spatz noted that there were 330 attendees, 40 – 50 volunteers and about 20 presenters.

Member Brisben recognized Julian Eighth grader Meghan Slade. He reported that, as part of pursuing her Silver award with the Girl Scouts, she organized a fundraiser for pediatric cancer research at Longfellow School. The event was in honor of four year-old Evelyn Kelly and raised over \$2,000 for research.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Boultinghouse will email his questions to President Spatz and Dr. Roberts and they will respond.

President Spatz, Dr. Roberts and Therese O'Neill will respond to Therese Souders.

PREVIEW AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 18, 2014 MEETING

The March 18, 2014 draft board agenda was reviewed and revisions were recommended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 8:57 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)). Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

O'Connor moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:30 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary