

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Special Meeting May 31, 2014**

This meeting was held at the Holley Court Terrace, located at 1111 Ontario Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Sacks, Gates, Felton, O'Connor, Brisben, and Traczyk
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier, IASB representative Barbara Toney, and Jeff Cohn from Brave Dialogue (12:38 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

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President Spatz reported that Oak Park River Forest High School announced settlement of a contract with their teachers' union.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:05 a.m. to discuss (Self Evaluation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16)). Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

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Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 12:10 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

President Spatz called a recess at 12:10 p.m., and the meeting was reconvened at 12:38 p.m. All members of the Board were present, along with Dr. Roberts, Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier and Jeff Cohn from Brave Dialogue.

GOAL SETTING

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REVIEW ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Roberts led a discussion on the districts organizational structure and recommended the addition of two positions; a Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, and a Senior Director of Administration. He noted that the recommended structure would place greater focus on curriculum and instruction. He noted that principal evaluations would be the responsibility of the two Directors of Curriculum, with the Deputy Superintendent overseeing the process. Teacher evaluations would continue to be completed by the principals.

Interest was expressed in seeing the job descriptions or job requisition documents for the new positions. It was agreed that the postings for the two Director of Curriculum positions could occur prior to June 10, 2014. The timeline for the hiring of the other positions was discussed. The Board agreed to take action on the process during the June 10, 2014 Board meeting.

ESTABLISHING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT PRIORITIES

Board members were asked to individually identify the five most important activities/decisions that the district will need to make within the next five year. They were asked to complete the same process for the 2014-15 school year identifying the goals and priorities of the Board and those of the administration. The data was briefly discussed, and will be reviewed in detail at a future Board meeting.

Member Brisben shared a PowerPoint on goals, and priorities. He questioned if Board member's time might be used more efficiently, if the Board were to reconsider the way items are reported to the Board; Board member committee representation, etc.

Dr. Roberts noted that the evaluation overhaul will focus on high expectations, best practice and student/parent engagement, as well as, students taking responsibility for their own success. He noted that IB covers all of this; therefore, Common Core will fall into place.

The Board expressed interest in discussing this in June. Members O'Connor and Brisben will synthesize the data and report back to the Board. Members were asked to complete the spreadsheet that member Brisben distributed.

DATA STEP 1: ECRA – ENHANCING OUR UNDERSTANDING AND HARNESSING ITS POTENTIAL

A discussion about ECRA and the data that is available to the district was shared. It was noted that ECRA is using past District 97 data as a comparison to the current district's data. Interest was expressed in comparing the district to a synthetic district.

Interest was expressed in the percentage of students who make a year's growth per year.

Discussion took place about the need to be honest and clear regarding the achievement gap. Dr. Roberts noted that the district has been transparent with this data. He reminded them that a team of 20 people went to Harvard last summer, the IB initiative in the middle schools, and the support of the Collaboration for Early Childhood are all examples of ways the district is working toward success for all children.

DISCUSSION ON THE DISTRICT'S PERA PLAN

Members O'Connor and Traczyk shared a handout that considered a possible implementation of the plan a year early. It was recommended that the district build the assessments earlier so it can practice them before the process is required during the 2016-17 school year.

Discussion took place about the 180 day committee requirements and how the required assessments will be created and monitored. It was noted that most districts are not even discussing the implementation of PERA yet.

The Board expressed interest in doing the pilot a year early.

PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT: COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH TO THE OPTA AND COMMUNITY

The Board discussed items that they could propose as a Board that would support partnerships with the different areas, (bargaining units, parent community and the community at large). This information will be compiled and brought back to the Board during a future meeting.

A PLUS/DELTA ACTIVITY – WHAT WORKED AND WHAT DID NOT?

The Board was asked to identify what they enjoyed about today's session and what they would want to change for future retreats.

A PLUS/DELTA ACTIVITY – WHAT WORKED AND WHAT DID NOT? (Continued)
Cohn suggested that once the Board figures out how they deal with time management during meetings, that they share it with others (NSBA).

NEXT STEPS

- 1) Discuss ideas in June
- 2) How much open meeting time is needed to discuss priorities
- 3) Proposal for creating PERA assessments work
 - a. Creating roles in OPTA contract that allows for certain teacher leaders to create PERA aligned assessments in ALL grade/levels subject areas
- 4) Board member welcoming packet
- 5) Workshop summary CEO-Supt

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary