

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting October 7, 2014**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Felton, Sacks Gates, Traczyk, and Brisben
Absent: O'Connor
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Senior Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Senior Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Senior Director of HR Steve Cummins, Senior Director of Administrative Services Felicia Starks Turner, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Kamm and Helen Wei, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:59 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement. The meeting was reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

2.3.4 Possible Action Regarding TIF

ACTION REGARDING TIF

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the proposed major financial terms from the Village of Oak Park regarding the 260 Madison and 970 Madison properties and further direct the Superintendent to work with the district's legal counsel and the Village to draft a memorandum of understanding for adoption by October 21, 2014.

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

It was noted that this topic was discussed in executive session prior to this meeting.

Vice President Gates left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Mike Padavic, Regina MacAskill, Michele Suedbeck, Michele Capio, Keri Smith, Donna Middleton, and Paula Andries came to the table. Padavic reported that professional development

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT (Continued)

for the Special Education team focuses on raising the bar with expanded teacher assistant training programs, learning new technologies, studying behavior disorders, and identifying and implementing best practices. Additionally, the middle school special education teams met with an IB principal to discuss ways to support the special education students in the IB environment.

Padavic noted that Common Core is an ongoing discussion, as well as classroom management with instructional teachers, unique learning (DD/DLP teachers), co-teaching between middle school general education and special education teachers, and CPR and CPI training. Additionally, Padavic encourages staff to participate in one external professional development experience per year that is paid for through the IDEA grant.

Padavic reported that the Parent Educator Partnership has been in existence for the last four years and gives the community an opportunity to be engaged in this area. Saturday parent workshops are offered to maximize student strengths, and summer resources for parents are offered. Additionally, common behavior strategies are offered to parents. New student parent information nights are offered, as well as parent support groups. The district also partners with the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board to host the community resource fair and the Collaboration for Early Childhood for services for the younger children.

Padavic shared the success of the co-teaching model where general education and special education teachers partner together to support the inclusion process. He noted the importance of the Legislative Forum scheduled for tomorrow evening as it will focus on Senate bill 16. He noted that the passing of this bill would cause the district to lose about \$2,500,000.

Padavic reported that the program currently has 884 students who are placed by their academic needs.

It was reported that the team is always looking for ways to assess the growth of the special education students as standard testing (DIBELS and MAP) cannot be used for them.

Padavic explained that Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) is the equivalent to PARCC for the special education children, and like ECRA, will focus on increasing student achievement and progress monitoring of student goals.

Padavic noted that student support includes extracurricular sports programs like the Special Olympics, the Bocce Ball State Tournament, a middle school basketball program, and elementary school Special Olympics for younger athletes.

Padavic reported that the department is reviewing and implementing the Accessibility Committee's recommendations, tracking internal and external special education students' use of technology, monitoring and educating faculty and staff regarding disproportionality, and tracking the number of referrals for early childhood. He noted that Fast ForWord has been shared with the local parochial schools that support our children. IDEA grant money is used to pay for most of the teacher assistant salaries, computers, hardware, building improvements, etc., and more early childhood screenings are taking place.

Board comments and questions included noting that the special education population has dropped from 19 percent to 15 percent in recent years. Interest was expressed in ways to make all the schools more accessible, in looking at speech only statistics over time, and receiving information on the success of the individual programs. It was noted that the Collaboration for Early Childhood received \$70,000 over two years to support the collection of data. They will review the KIDS assessments and Preschool for All program. Interest was expressed in

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT (Continued)

knowing how the success of the programs are measured, if the district is providing the right services, and if the services are having an impact.

Vice President Gates left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT

Felicia Starks Turner, Keri Smith, Harla Hutchinson and Jennifer Bretl came to the table. They reported on the Prep for Success, Extended School Year (ESY) and summer enrichment programs offered by the district.

Starks Turner noted that the Prep for Success program, which was launched in 2012, was shortened by one week this year; however the length of each day was extended. The key tenets of the program were the early start model, reteach/preteach consistent entry criteria, and a defined curriculum. The reading and math instruction offered through this program aligned to the Common Core Standards, and MobyMax and Lexia were used. Teachers designed the curriculum integrating project-based learning. It was noted that the data indicates that the students who attended this program are showing growth in reading.

The recommendation of the team is to continue to work closely with the technology department regarding the programs technology needs, to ensure that technology is ready and available to the summer school students and teachers; to set clear guidelines for teacher and principal recommendations, and enforce deadlines to add program participants. Additionally, they will consider having the fifth grade students attend programs at their home schools because some may have daycare needs, and the team will make an effort to complete more kindergarten screenings earlier in the summer.

It was reported that the Extended School Year (ESY) program, specifically designed for students with IEPs focused on language arts and math. This program focuses on academics as well as monitoring engagement, behavior, the ability to follow instructions, and interest.

The enrichment programs (tuition-based) consisted of Music Camp and Math enrichment classes. Moving forward, the team recommended that registration for these programs begin earlier; making more options available to the students and their families.

Board comments and concerns included satisfaction in seeing the students divided by RIT scores. Interest was expressed in knowing how many students attend these programs for multiple years and knowing if there is a compounding effect. It was noted that the Common Core standards should help parents identify if their child needs assistance. Interest was expressed in seeing the survey that was shared with the special education families, and the multi-year participation rates. Interest was expressed in considering ways to use the technology to engage the parents, and a video for parents was recommended. It was noted that students may be able to keep their assigned iPads at home over the summer months; suggesting that additional work could be done at home.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC
COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS**2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the September 23, 2014 Board Meeting**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the September 23, 2014 Board meeting.

Ayes: Traczyk, Felton, Sacks, Brisben, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor and Gates

Motion passed.

2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

Traczyk 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 Action

Ayes: Traczyk, Felton, Sacks, Spatz, and Brisben

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor and Gates

Motion passed.

2.3.1 Acceptance of 2014 Audit

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the Fiscal Year 2014 audit as prepared by its auditing firm, McGladrey, LLP and forward to ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) by its identified due date of October 15, 2014.

Ayes: Sacks, Felton, Traczyk, Brisben, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor and Gates

Motion passed.

2.3.2 Resolution Appointing Legal Counsel in Connection with Tax Rate Objections

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the attached resolution authorizing the intervention in the 2013 and 2014 tax rate objection proceedings through the appointment of the legal counsel Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn as reviewed at the September 23, 2014 meeting.

Ayes: Sacks, Felton, Traczyk, Brisben, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor and Gates

Motion passed.

2.3.3 Approval of School Recognition Applications

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the School Recognition Applications for all ten District 97 schools. The applications, as completed by District 97 administrators, verify that all District 97 schools are in compliance with the School Code and State Board of Education Rules.

Ayes: Traczyk, Felton, Sacks, Brisben, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor and Gates

Motion passed.

COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS

2014 – 2015 PRIORITIES

Common Core and IB Implementation

It was reported that this team has met recently and will be prepared to bring a recommendation to the Board in late November.

Evaluations

It was reported that Dr. Roberts met with Vice President Gates and member O'Connor regarding evaluations. They discussed the timing for reports to the Board and will be prepared to share their first report in late November.

Financial Stability

This team will not meet until the OPTA contract has been ratified. It was reported that FORC has had discussions regarding financial stability and will continue their discussion during their December meeting.

Building and facilities

President Spatz reported that the Board accepted the proposal from the Village this evening. The Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) will be meeting next Tuesday and will discuss this topic at that time.

Equity and excellence in student achievement

It was reported that this team will meet prior to the next Board meeting.

Contract implementation and maintenance

This team will review the data prior to the next Board meeting.

Organization Structure

This team will meet prior to the next Board meeting.

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEES

Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC)

This committee will meet next Tuesday at Whittier School where they will tour the new ADA improvements at that facility. Topics for that meeting will include; the summer 2015 projects and the administration building needs.

Financial Oversight and Review Committee (FORC)

It was reported that the Bond policy has been vetted by the committee and forwarded to the Policy committee for consideration. The committee reviewed the five-year forecast assumptions and noted actual data when possible. Additionally, the committee plans to footnote assumptions that would be affected by Senate bill 16.

It was noted that the FORC committee has an opening for another member. Interest was expressed in advertising the opening and reaching out to those who applied for the committee in the past.

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

The Legislative Forum will be held at Julian Middle School tomorrow evening from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

It was reported that the ED-RED executive board met this morning. They are focused on Senate bill 16 and pensions.

OTHER ITEMS

IASB Report to Membership for the 2014 Delegate Assembly Meeting

This document was shared at the table. Board members were asked to share their opinions with Vice President Gates who will vote on behalf of the Board during the joint conference. They were reminded that there are two resolutions in the packet that were submitted by District 97. President Spatz reported that he is meeting with a representative from another district to help clarify the intent of the District 97 resolutions.

Calendar, Meeting Efficiency Group

Member Brisben shared suggestions for meeting efficiencies, and additional Board retreats were recommended to focus on goals. Brisben expressed the need for the Board to receive special reports in advance and recommended that the presentations summarize information and demonstrate how the topic will make a difference. Additionally, interest in written responses to questions was indicated. Interest was also expressed in making sure that the Super Seven Goals utilize most of the meeting time. Interest was expressed in comparing these suggestions to the Board Protocols and giving consideration to what the Board of Education identifies as success in each category. The Board was reminded to take into consideration items that cannot be pushed to another meeting, and consider the needs of the new Board that will be seated in April, 2015.

Dr. Roberts expressed the need for the Board to be clear about the types of reports they are interested in. Additionally, he noted the need to provide vision, set timing, and let the administrators know what information the Board requires to be successful. He recommended not going back to the “check it off” mentality.

Vice President Gates returned at 9:07 p.m.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Roberts informed the Board that the Julian band trip to Cleveland will actually occur on May 15 – 17, 2015, not May 17 – 19, 2015 as stated in the motion approved during the last Board meeting.

The Board was reminded that the district will be holding an Institute Day this Friday. Dr. Roberts acknowledged Helen Wei and Carrie Kamm for their efforts on Standards Based Grading. He shared that during the Institute Day, the foreign language teachers will be learning how to use Rosetta Stone.

He reported that Ed Council met last week and had a very good session that focused on Standards Based Grading and discussed planning time.

Dr. Roberts reported that the administrators are working on responses to the questions that Member O’Connor shared during the last meeting regarding student performance. The answers require additional data; therefore more time will be needed to respond.

Dr. Roberts reported that he will be attending the Superintendent’s Summit in Road Island from Wednesday through Friday of this week.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

The PTO Council will be reaching out to Board members about attending PTO meetings. Member Traczyk has already been invited to attend the next meeting of the Brooks PTO.

In an effort to help parents understand formative/summative assessments, additional information on Standards Based Grading will be added to the District Website.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

It was reported that the IASB dinner meeting included a session for potential Board candidates and several District 97 potential candidates may have been in attendance. A candidate’s forum was suggested.

The press was acknowledged for supporting the CLAIM committee and their efforts.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PREVIEW OCTOBER 21, 2014 AGENDA

The draft agenda for the October 21, 2014 Board meeting was reviewed and revisions were suggested.

The Board was asked to review the Ad Hoc Data/Benchmark Committee report and submit question to Lou Anne Johannesson by Friday.

The Board will be receiving the technology update in the next few days. They were asked to submit questions to Michael Arensdorff early next week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:18 p.m. to discuss (Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Pending or Probable Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)). Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session at 9:27 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 10:39 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary