

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting November 4, 2014**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Felton, Sacks, Gates, O'Connor (6:30 p.m.), Traczyk (6:19 p.m.), and
Brisben
Absent: None
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 HR Steve Cummins, Senior
Director of Administrative Services Felicia Starks Turner, Directors of
Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Special Services
Michael Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 5:00 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), Student Discipline 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:58 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting was reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

SPECIAL REPORTS

TEMPERATURE CONTROL UPDATE

Norm Lane, Dena Bell, and Ralph Muehleisen came to the table. They shared an update on the classroom temperature sensors, noting that, as part of the pilot program, almost all classrooms now have a temperature sensor installed.

SPECIAL
REPORTS

The sensors that gauge temperature and humidity are linked to Thermoworks Easylog which accumulates and compiles data from every classroom. The sensors can store 500,000 samples locally, record data every minute, and alarms can be set to notify staff members at assigned degrees. Muehleisen shared data from classrooms with the air conditioning on and off and noted the comparison. Additionally, he noted that the analysis of the data could be used to identify faulty HVAC equipment/settings, determine hottest/coldest classrooms in each building, study patterns of hot and cold with season changes and classroom usage, and compute a thermal comfort/heat index.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL UPDATE (Continued)

Outdoor weather stations will be installed at each school to identify the local weather conditions and be used as a comparison for the indoor temperatures. Muehleisen noted that although it can be perceived that the cooling units are on when it is cold outside, the units are programs to cycle in outside air and can heat when necessary. Alarms have been set to trigger when the temperature in a classroom is below 70 degrees and above 85 degrees.

Concern was expressed about who will be assigned to analyze the data. Administration was challenged to determine what will be done with the data.

5ESSENTIALS

Felicia Starks Turner, Angela Dolezal and Jonathan Ellwanger came to the table. The 5Essentials survey was distributed to the Board members in the October 21, 2014 Board packet. The Board was asked to share questions prior to this evenings meeting, and questions were answered at this time.

It was reported that all principals agreed to share the results of the survey with their school improvement teams, PTOs and staff, who will be asked for their opinions on how to utilize the information, and the school Web pages will promote a link to the survey data. It was suggested that principals be able to use the data from the survey to align with their goals, and make changes based on that information.

Dr. Roberts indicated that the survey results are based on perception, and he expressed the need to ensure that the perception is correct. He noted that the districts action/response would be different depending on the perception. He also recommended placing the results on the Website and communicate that the district will be digging deeper into the results with a promise to come back and update the Website after the data has been reviewed. Dr. Roberts suggested implementing the survey every other year, giving the district time to respond in between surveys.

Board comments included interest in advertising the participation window in a different way, as some PTO members indicated that they were not aware that there was a deadline for participation. It was reported that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has superior documents and videos that explain the 5Essentials, however, some of them charge a fee for use, but it was suggested that the district might consider piloting them. It was suggested that the survey lends to the transparency that the district strives for, and has the potential to be very robust, however, until it is employed universally, there could be a bit of confusion on how to use it. A conversation with the community framed to help them understand the survey was suggested. It was noted that a statement will accompany the survey with a timeline for the action plans.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

2.3.4

Resolution to issue General Obligation Limited School Bonds

Felton moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the attached formal resolution providing for the issue of \$3,600,000 General Obligation Limited School Bonds, Series 2014, of School District No. 97, Cook County, IL, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund for said School District and for providing the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest of said bonds.

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

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the October 21, 2014 Board Meeting

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the October 21, 2014 Board meeting.

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

Nays: None

Absent: 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 Action

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.3.1 Approval of Summer 2015 Capital Projects

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, authorize its architects to prepare bid specifications and set such specifications for the summer 2015 capital projects as recommended by FAC and detailed in the memorandum to the superintendent dated October 21, 2014.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.3.2 Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park District – Field Maintenance

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve entering into an intergovernmental agreement with the Park District of Oak Park, terminating on June 30, 2019, for the maintenance of grounds delineated in the memorandum to the superintendent dated October 21, 2014.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

It was reported that McAdam Landscaping is open to amending the existing contract to reflect the changes that will occur based on the new Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park District.

2.3.3 Approval of Policies

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

Policy 2:20 – Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification

Policy 4:60 – Purchases and Contracts

Policy 4:90 – Activity Funds

Policy 4:175 – Convicted Child Sex Offender; Criminal Background Check and/or Screen;
Notification

Policy 5:30 – Hiring Process and Criteria

Policy 5:260 – Student Teachers

Policy 7:20 – Harassment of Students Prohibited

Policy 7:180 – Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Policy 7:240 – Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.3.4 Action on Student Discipline

Brisben moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District No. 97, Cook County, Illinois (“Board” or “District”) conducted a hearing in closed session on November 4, 2014, in the matter of the discipline of Student 20140410 (“Student”), pursuant to Section 10-22.6 of the School Code; and

WHEREAS, on the basis of all testimony and evidence presented at said hearing, the Board has determined that Student 20140410 is guilty of gross misconduct and/or disobedience; and;

WHEREAS, the Board has considered: (1) the egregiousness of the student’s conduct; (2) the history or record of the student’s past conduct; (3) the likelihood that the conduct will affect the delivery of educational services to other students; (4) the severity of the punishment; and (5) the interests of the student;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the 10-day out of school suspension of Student 20140410 should be upheld, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that student 20140410 should be expelled from the district for the 2014-15 school year, and that said expulsion shall be held in abeyance for the 2014-15 school year so long as student 20140410 complies with all of the conditions set forth in the Student Behavior Contract attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

Section 1: That the 10-day out of school suspension of student 20140410 is hereby upheld.

Section 2: That student 20140410 is expelled from the district effective immediately and for the 2014-15 school year and that the expulsion is held in abeyance for the 2014-15 school year so long as student 20140410 successfully complies with the conditions listed in the Student Behavior Contract attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Failure to comply with the conditions in the Student Behavior Contract shall result in student’s 20140410 immediate expulsion and will go into effect without any further action by the Board.

Section 3: That the Superintendent or his designee shall send written notice to the parents of student informing them of the Board’s decision.

Section 4: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this 4th day of November, 2014, by the following vote:

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

COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS
2014 – 2015 PRIORITIES

COMMITTEE /
WORK GROUP
REPORTS

Common Core and IB Implementation

The implementation draft was shared. It was reported that a presentation to the Board will occur on February 4, 2015, and will include actual demonstrations on how Common Core and IB are being implemented. The Board will be asked to share meaningful topics with member Felton and Dr. Roberts to guide the information presented. A 15 minute demonstration with a brief question and answer session following was recommended.

It was suggested that the timing of the reports should be analyzed after this process to determine the needs for next year, and it was suggested that the first draft of what success in each Super Seven category will look like would be presented during the mid-term retreat.

Evaluations

It was reported that Vice Preside Gates, member O'Connor and Dr. Roberts met to discuss the evaluation process. Time during a November Board meeting was suggested to update the Board on the completion status of the teacher evaluations, and a plan to accomplish the task by the end of the school year. It was suggested that the task be divided into thirds, and the team will update the Board on the status at the end of each of those periods.

Financial Stability

It was reported that this team is waiting to meet until the OPTA contract has been ratified, however, it was noted that they will meet before the Board goal setting meeting.

Building and Facilities

Dr. Roberts reported that he met with member Sacks and Therese O'Neill last night. They coordinated an administrative committee that includes FAC architects Dirk Danker and George Beach. All members of the FAC committee were asked to submit questions to be used during the STR interview. The administrative committee reviewed the questions and were asked to probe if questions were not answered clearing. STR met with the administrative committee last night. They shared a detailed presentation, highlighting their qualifications and expertise, and introduced their team. They shared examples of their work for other districts and shared lessons learned. They identified the challenges and the opportunities for 260 Madison Street. Dr. Roberts reported that they understood the Village requirements; they addressed some of the environmental issues at that location, and addressed the budget and timeline.

Dr. Roberts reported that the administrative committee met after the interview and no concerns were expressed. They were impressed with the kind of design capacity STR has, noting that they understand our community, challenges, and working on short timelines.

It was recommended that the district engage the interior designer early in the process, and gain her insight on design and furniture placement.

It was noted that beyond STR, a surveyor, an environmental consultant, and technology and security specialists would be needed to complete the project.

Building and Facilities (Continued)

Dr. Roberts reported that if the district moves quickly and gets full cooperation from the Village, the building could be ready by June, 2016.

President Spatz reported that the next steps will be for Dr. Roberts and Therese O’Neill to create an addendum to the current STR contract with the adjusted amount. This could come to the Board on November 18, 2014. It was noted that the Village Manager would like to move forward with this process at the next Village board meeting scheduled for December 8, 2014.

Discussion took place regarding the timing and the need for more time to review the data. It was suggested that the STR presentation be shared with the full FAC committee during their meeting next week, suggesting that STR could be in attendance if necessary. It was noted that STR has a large community engagement team.

It was agreed that the Board will not make a decision on this topic until the November 18, 2014 Board meeting after they receive the recommendation from the FAC committee.

Equity and Excellence in Student Achievement

Vice President Gates and member Brisben are crafting a document for the December 16, 2014 Board meeting on equity and excellence in Student Achievement. The presentation will include a mission and vision statement on the topic, will define what equity and excellence is, and explain how they complement each other. They will present research on equity and excellent and identify the challenges of achieving both, offer a profile of the 21st century student who needs to have both content knowledge and cultural resiliency. They will recommend a triage system that will identify students who are at risk, those who may be identified as at-risk in the future, and data that identifies where the district stands on that continuum.

Organization Structure

Members Brisben and O’Connor will be joining an administrative committee coordinated by Dr. Roberts. Dr. Roberts reported that the district has done a great job of finding high quality team members. The committee will look at the processes and procedures and bring a report to the Board in late December or early January.

Contract Implementation and Maintenance

This team has not met yet. The Park District intergovernmental agreement will be signed in the near future. A draft list of contracts and expiration dates has been created and will be reviewed and updated. It was noted that the SEIU contract negotiations should be scheduled in the near future. The Board was reminded that their policy requires review of long-term contracts every five years.

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEES

Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC)

This committee will be meeting next Wednesday. At that time, the committee will review the STR proposal. It was noted that this committee held their last meeting at Whittier School, allowing committee members to tour the accessibility changes made there.

Financial Oversight and Review committee (FORC)

It was reported that five candidates have expressed interest in the open position on this committee; however, a new member has not been identified at this time. This committee will meet again on December 4, 2014.

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

A document was shared identifying the 25 resolutions that will be voted on during the Joint Conference where Vice President Gates will vote on behalf of the District 97 Board. The

Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention, and Monitoring (CLAIM) (Continued)
individual Board members votes on the resolutions were shared. A statement has been prepared that explains the District 97 resolutions and will be read during the assembly.

It was noted that the Data sub-committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss a strategy for potential student data legislation.

OTHER ITEMS

IGOV Update

Vice President Gates shared a recap of the joint IGOV meeting that was held on October 25, 2014. The meeting was reported to be enlightening and very informative. The next meeting of IGOV will be held on November 15, 2014. At that time, next steps, and survey results will be shared.

Collaboration for Early Childhood – Intergovernmental Agreement- Governing Board Update
Member Felton reported that the Collaboration’s Intergovernmental Agreement Governing Board meeting was held on October 29, 2014. An update was shared, benchmarks were identified, and financial data was discussed. It was reported that a substantial financial balance exists, and it was agreed that the heads of the governing bodies will discuss how this should be handled.

The Joint Governing Board meeting will take place on November 19, 2014 at the high school. A financial update and a full report from the Collaboration will be shared at that time. Additionally, the Collaboration will report on the progress with Chapin Hall.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is scheduled in February, 2015.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Review Preliminary Levy

O’Neill came to the table. She reported that this is the third consecutive year of the EAV declining, and when that occurs, the rates tend to increase. She noted that in order to get the full value of the CPI, she is introducing a Special Education levy for consideration. She assumed a 7 percent additional reduction but in the event that it is greater, in order to ultimately protect the district in receiving the full value of a 1.5 percent CPI increase of extended dollars, introduction of the Special Education levy becomes important. By introducing the Special Education levy, the district can absorb a 9.5 percent EAV decrease (2.5 percent more than the built-in assumption of 7 percent) and still receive the full value of 1.5 percent CPI increase over 2013 extended dollars.

This item will return to the Board for approval on November 18, 2014.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The Village distributed a notice that a special public hearing will be held on December 8, 2014 regarding a proposed amended Madison Street Business Corridor Tax Increment Financing District Redevelopment Project and Plan.

A document was shared with the Board addressing their questions regarding the Prep for Success summer program.

Dr. Roberts reported that Jan Arnold from the Park District is anxious to get started with the new field maintenance agreement, and has sod ready to replace areas of the fields at Beye, Whittier, Hatch, Longfellow, Holmes schools, and Field and Taylor Parks.

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (Continued)

IGOV expressed interest in knowing the percentage of the staff members who reside in Oak Park. In response to that request, Dr. Roberts reported the following:

CATEGORY	RESIDENCE / TOTAL STAFF
Administrative Support	6 / 16
OPESP Members	25 / 55
Teachers	164 / 484
Teacher Assistant’s	45 / 87
Maintenance	9 / 50
TOTAL	249 / 692

It was reported that the Youth Survey has been shared with the Board and will be posted on the district Web site.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was agreed that the Board self-evaluation retreat will be held on Monday, December 15, 2014 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the administrative office. It was noted that goals need to be addressed before the end of the calendar year.

A brief report on the Middle School grading policy was requested. It was suggested that this become a question for the Super Seven 1 group to address. Dr. Roberts asked that everyone send their questions to him and member Felton.

Several reasons were shared to note why the district should be commended for issuing the 5Essentials survey.

- D97 is a leading district for participating in this process
- It is free
- Administration would not need to create a survey
- Show the community that we have a growth mindset and what to improve
- It only takes 20 minutes
- It supports the social emotional work that SAY is doing
- Research supports that if you are strong in the 5, you are 10 time more likely to improve student achievement
- Change over time can be shown if the survey is administered yearly
- It is helpful to the administrators and the board members to gauge how the district is doing, and interest was expressed in administering the survey annually. It was noted that the Brooks PTO has also expressed an interest in administering the survey on an annual basis

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PREVIEW NOVEMBER 18, 2014 AGENDA

The Board reviewed the draft agenda and recommended modifications.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:34 p.m. to discuss (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: Sacks, Felton, Traczyk, Gates, O'Connor, Brisben and Spatz
Nays: None
Absent: Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:14 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 10:14 p.m.

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

Board President

Board Secretary