

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Special Meeting December 15, 2014**

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

Present: Spatz, Gates, Traczyk, Brisben, Sacks (5:02 p.m.), O'Connor (5:02 p.m.), and Felton (5:08 p.m.)
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, IASB Director of Field Services Barbara Toney, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Brisben moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 5:02 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Self Evaluation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:50 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. After a brief break, the Board reconvened at 8:00 p.m. with all members of the Board present.

OPEN SESSION

DISCUSSION ON BOARD GOALS

Member Brisben led a discussion reviewing the individual summaries of the Board goals and modifications were recommended.

DISCUSSION ON BOARD GOALS

Common Core and IB Implementation (SS1)

Member Sacks noted that the purpose of this goal is to monitor the implementation of Common Core throughout the district and the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at the middle schools. The team has met with administration and is confident that the process is moving forward. Dr. Roberts noted that subtle changes within administration may occur due to the implementation of Common Core and IB, such as, the new Directors of Curriculum and Instruction may take on the principal's evaluations next year. A preliminary report will be presented to the Board in the future, followed by a report of next steps.

Evaluations (SS2)

Member O'Connor led the group through a review of the summary that identified the evaluation goals by year. Dr. Roberts suggested that the process could be a three year cycle (planning and implementation, implementation and monitoring and monitoring and evaluate).

- It was noted that a report on PERA should be scheduled in the mid-winter
- It was noted that section 1, year 4 should be PERA related, and include information based on student data

Evaluations (SS2) (Continued)

- Dr. Roberts explained the current tools used for teacher evaluations. The need for an automated fail-safe system that ensures that evaluations are not only completed, but done correctly was expressed
- Interest was expressed in showing how the teacher evaluation system can lead to better teaching and student success in year three
- It was agreed that Professional Development should include in-district and out-of-district workshops
- It was suggested that the last box in section D.1 should be changed to April, 2015, and it was noted that section D.2 will be completed in compliance with the law
- A sign-off document was recommended as a way to ensure that all teachers are aware of the expectations, and understand them

Dr. Roberts reported that he will share current information on the evaluation process during the open session tomorrow evening. He suggested an informal committee be formed that will work on relating the professional development requirements, support evaluator training and support, and consider a PERA Pilot planning program. It was agreed that the Memorandum of Understanding with the teacher's union should cover this.

It was agreed that the Superintendent's evaluation and bonus discussion should occur in closed session during the month of January, 2015.

Financial Stability (SS3)

It was noted that many tasks have been assigned to the FORC committee, such as multi-year projections, which will eventually indicate the need for a future referendum. It was suggested that this team continue into the future and eventually focus on preparations for such needs. It was agreed that this topic will be reviewed during the next Board retreat.

Administration Building and Facilities (SS4)

It was reported that this item has been turned over to the administration team. It was agreed that the climate control study and the accessibility work can be monitored by this group and will be discussed at the spring retreat.

It was suggested that a timeline be prepared for these items. It was noted that the two Board representatives, members Sacks and Traczyk are not running for re-election.

Equity and Excellence in Student Achievement (SS5)

It was noted that one of the goals of the District's dashboard effort was to include relevant equity and excellence data. Additionally, it was noted that the state report card has been successfully updated, and the Board is waiting to hear from administration on how they would move forward with information from the Data Committee.

Suggested changes to the summary included the need for some wording changes and combining sections B and C. Additionally, concern was expressed about the need for growth measures.

Organization Structure (SS6)

The need for a reference to diversity was suggested in the organization structure summary, and the deadlines identified in the timeline were questioned. It was agreed that section C.1.4 will be deleted.

Contract Implementation and Maintenance (SS7)

The Board Secretary was asked to assist this team in creating a master list of contracts and their renewal dates.

The need for the Board to take a pro-active approach with scheduling (attorneys, architects) was discussed, and periodic reports on the area monitored by the administration were suggested.

The Board members were asked to submit their revised summaries to member Brisben for inclusion into the Board packet for the January 13, 2015 meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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Dr. Roberts reported that the Infosnap contract will be signed tomorrow.

Dr. Roberts reported that 563 students were out sick today, with 170 of them from the middle schools. He reported that the maintenance team will be doing a thorough cleaning of all surfaces over night. A note was sent home to parents recommending that they keep their children home if they are showing any sign of illness.

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. A Special meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 2 p.m. for the purpose of Student Discipline. All meetings will be held at the district Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary