

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting December 16, 2014**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Brisben, Sacks, Gates, O'Connor, Traczyk (8:24 p.m.), and Felton (8:24 p.m.)
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts (8:24 p.m.), 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, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Helen Wei, Senior Director of Special Services Michael Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC HEARING – Tax Levy

PUBLIC HEARING

Therese O'Neill came to the table. She explained the process and reminded the Board that the hearing is not required by law, but is the past practice of the Board.

Those in attendance were invited to speak on the topic.

Macrus Croom, an Oak Park resident, asked that given O'Neill's concerns noted in the last meeting minute to maximize the amount of funds in the Education Fund, how do we interpret a decrease of almost \$300,000 in the Education Fund and the over \$1,000,000 increase in the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

He also asked that regarding the 5Essential survey, how soon will the district be able to take advantage of the data that this instrument can provide and that this instrument was designed to provide in teaching and learning, and what is preventing us from surveying students and parents as this instrument was designed to do?

O'Neill explained that the district wants to maximize the funds coming into the Education Fund. She reported that over the last six years the district has fine tuned its budget. Last year, due to severe weather, the budget was exceeded. Looking at this year, the Operations and Maintenance Fund had to be increased, and the only fund available to take from was the Education Fund. In order to maximize the dollars coming into the Education Fund, O'Neill implemented the Special Education Fund. With this change, the district will be getting the full maximum allowed in the Education Fund. O'Neill noted that the district will be getting 1.5 percent more than last year. She noted that this amount will stabilize the Education Fund. Additionally, O'Neill noted that the district generally allocates some of its state aide to the Operations and Maintenance Fund, but it could allocate it to the Education Fund.

It was noted that Dr. Roberts will be asked to reply to Mr. Croom regarding his comments on the 5Essentials.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS**2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the December 2, 2014 Board Meeting**

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the December 2, 2014 Board meeting.

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

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes from the November 19, 2014 Board Meeting

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the November 19, 2014 special joint Board meeting.

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

2.2 Approval of the Consent Agenda

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

2.3.1 Adoption of the 2014 Tax Levy

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the attached Certificate of Levy and associated resolutions providing for adoption of the 2014 levy.

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

2.3.2 Adoption of Resolution – Acknowledging the efforts of the C.L.A.I.M. Committee

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

Whereas, the Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention and Monitoring, hereby referred to as CLAIM, drafted resolutions regarding data equity and longitudinal data systems that were presented during the Delegate Assembly at the 2014 Joint Annual Conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Association of School Administrators and Illinois Association of School Business Officials; and

Whereas, both resolutions were passed by conference delegates representing more than 350 school districts; and

Whereas, CLAIM's tireless efforts on this important endeavor have raised state-wide awareness of how vital academic data sharing is to non-unit districts, while also paving the way for the creation of data equity legislation that will have a profound and lasting impact on students throughout Illinois; and

Whereas, in addition to its hard work on these resolutions, CLAIM played an instrumental role in District 97 being selected as a pilot for the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), which has enhanced the district's ability to provide the children of Oak Park with access to high-quality learning experiences during the critical first few years of their lives; and

Whereas, CLAIM has also aided District 97's efforts to build a better tomorrow for its students by fortifying the district's relationships with legislative leaders and policymakers and strengthening its voice on key issues;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the District 97 Board of Education that it affirms the aforementioned achievements of CLAIM; and

Be it Further Resolved that, on behalf of the District 97 community, the Board expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the members of CLAIM for their passionate commitment to education and significant contributions to the success of the district's schools and the nearly 6,000 young men and women they serve.

Proclaimed on this 16th day of December, 2014.

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

Chris Jасulca and Lou Anne Johannesson were acknowledged for their help with this endeavor. It was reported that certificates have been printed and will be presented to the members of the committee.

2.3.3 Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreements with the Village of Oak Park

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Intergovernmental Agreement and Lease Agreement between the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Education related to the Madison Street TIF District and authorizing its execution.

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

It was reported that the Village adopted the documents on December 8, 2014. The Board members who assisted in the creation of the documents were acknowledged, and it was noted that the documents are easy to understand. Additionally, it was noted that the legal wording of the Memorandum of Understanding has been available since October, 2014.

2.3.4 Approval of Settlement Agreement(s)

O'Connor moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the settlement agreement with Anthony Maglica and the retirement agreement with Margaret Ndiaye.

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

2.3.5 Approval of Summer 2015 Accessibility Projects

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, authorize its architects to prepare bid specifications and let such specifications for the Accessibility Complaint Work cited by the Attorney General, as well as comparable work at Lincoln, Longfellow, and Whittier Schools and as outlined in the memorandum to the Superintendent dated December 16, 2014.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Felton and Traczyk

Motion passed.

It was reported that the Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) reviewed these projects during their last meeting and agree with the recommendation.

COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS 2014 – 2015 PRIORITIES

COMMITTEE /
WORK GROUP
REPORTS

It was reported that the Board held a retreat on December 15, 2014 that included a two hour public session where the Board Goals were discussed.

At this meeting, each team shared a two page game plan for the rest of the year and received feedback. They were asked to update these documents and send them to member Brisben. He will compile the data and create a calendar that will be included in the January 13, 2015 Board packet.

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEES

Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC)

It was reported that the FAC committee met last week. They discussed the accessibility needs and reviewed information on the classroom acoustical testing. It was noted that the unit ventilators are louder than the old units were when using just the ventilators. The units were also compared to the sound made by multiple fans. Discussion occurred about how to mediate the sound. It was noted that the full report has been posted on the FAC Webpage. It was explained that the distinction is that a unit ventilator actually sits in the back of the classrooms with the duct work; however, relocating the duct work would not be cost effective.

It was reported that the first Focus Group meeting for the administration building occurred on December 10, 2014. The second meeting is scheduled on December 18, 2014. These meetings are being held to gain the insight of local architects and contractors. Two additional Focus Group sessions will be held in February to gain input from the community.

FORC

The FORC committee will not be meeting until January 12, 2015.

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

The CLAIM committee will be meeting in January. They are considering how much writing the committee will have to do regarding the resolutions. It was suggested that since the resolutions were passed through Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), perhaps IASB could help with the drafting of the items. Vice President Gates will reach out and make that request.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Policies

Chris Jасulca came to the table. The policies up for review were discussed. It was also recommended that on election days, the district close or not hold student attendance.

Policies (Continued)

Jasculca reported that Policy 2:140 needed to be changed due to a change in the law. He explained that wording was added that will require an email response be sent in accordance with the legal requirements in this policy. He noted that no individual Board member, including the president may respond to an email, letter, etc. on behalf of the Board. He reported that PRESS's legal department recommends that the Board respond with an acknowledgement that the request has been sent on to the appropriate staff member. Additionally, he noted that if one Board member receives an email from the general public, they should forward it on to the rest of the Board. It was noted that the Board protocols and the FAQs on the Board Webpage will need to be changed accordingly. It was suggested that a response could be discussed at an open session at a future Board meeting, with communication to the writer stating such. Jasculca reported that PRESS thinks that there may be a possibility that this law may change in the future.

It was suggested that this change be shared with the community in the February FYI and that a disclaimer be added to the Board Webpage. Additionally, Jasculca will reach out to other village boards to determine how they will address this change.

Jasculca addressed Policy 8:80 – Gifts to the district, noting the need to move to the PRESS version of this policy. Discussion took place about donations and placing limitations on what needs Board approval. Interest was expressed in knowing the thresholds that the neighboring districts have in place. It was noted that the current policy requires all donations to be approved by the Board. Interest was expressed in reviewing the administrative procedures that support Policy 8:80 prior to the Board taking action on this change. Jasculca will work with the PTOs on what they think is a reasonable threshold.

It was agreed that all items will return to the Board for approval on January 13, 2015 with the exception of Policy 8:80.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

Dr. Roberts reported that 101 second to fourth year teacher evaluations are due by this coming Friday. He noted that currently 91 are complete, and all will be completed on time.

Dr. Roberts reported that administration is monitoring classrooms relative to the influenza outbreak. He noted that several parents chose to keep their children home just to be safe; other students are recovering and will return to school tomorrow. He reported that all classrooms are being deep cleaned during the evening hours.

It was reported that there are three Information Only reports in the Board packet. These reports will appear on the January 13, 2015 Board agenda to address any questions that might arise.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was reported that IGOV met last Saturday. They reviewed the data that member Brisben collated and were surprised. This information will be shared with the Board as an Information Only report in the January 13, 2015 Board packet.

It was reported that the Village has been involved with IDOT regarding what will happen to the expressway expansion. This massive project will touch all the taxing bodies in some way; for example, District 97 may have their bus routes affected. It was suggested that other taxing bodies may want to send representative to those sessions, and it was noted that there is also a Cook County transportation study in the process.

A thank you note was shared from patients at Hines Hospital who were recipients of notes from District 97 students.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

It was reported that the Board participated in their second retreat for the year. The retreat was facilitated by Barbara Toney from IASB, who requested that the community be made aware that out of 900 school districts, only one third participate in an annual self assessment, and most do not hold a second retreat in the same year. Member Brisben was acknowledged for his efforts in organizing this event.

It was reported that Lincoln student, Isabelle Jones was laid to rest today. Dr. Roberts attended the funeral with several administrators and teachers, some who participated in the service. It was noted that Miss Jones won the Optimist Award this year.

Member O’Connor recommended that the Board members read *How Children Succeed* by Paul Tough, and *10 Strategies for Doubling Student Performance* by Allan Odden.

President Spatz and member Felton attended a six hour session at the library on student discipline. The event was hosted by the District 200 Board and attended by about 50 community members. President Spatz expressed interest in staying engaged in this discussion.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Roberts was asked to respond to Mr. Croom in regards to his interest in the 5Essentials data.

PREVIEW AGENDAS

The Board reviewed the draft agenda for the Board meetings scheduled for Tuesday January 13, 2015 at 7 p.m., and modifications were recommended.

It was noted that a written request will be made to the Board to change the CLAIM charge.

It was reported that the district has a tentative agreement with the OPTA and will continue discussion in Executive Session. The target date for ratification is January 13, 2015 with approval by the Board on January 27, 2015.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent:

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 9:16 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 9:16 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 beginning at 7 p.m. at the district Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary