

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting February 26, 2013**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, Spatz, and O'Connor  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of HR and General Counsel Joanne Schochat, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike 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 6:17 p.m. to discuss (Appointment/Employment/Compensation/Discipline/Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel of the Public Body, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Setting of a price for Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)) Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

**OPEN SESSION**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:10 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was reconvened at 7:13 p.m. with all Board members in attendance.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

**SUMMER SCHOOL PREPARATION REPORT**

Harla Hutchinson and Faith Cole came to the table. They reported that the Math Enrichment program was extended this year to include classes for current fifth grade students. The recommendation is to continue offering math classes for current sixth and seventh graders that will include additional support and preparation for moving to another level of math. This program will run from June 3, 2013 through June 28, 2013 at Brooks Middle School at a cost of \$150 per student. Scholarships are available for this program. The Music Camp is a large group ensemble focus (band, orchestra, jazz band and chorus) for students currently in fourth through eighth grades. This program will be held at Beye Elementary School from August 5, 2013 through August 16, 2013 at a cost of \$75 per session. Scholarships are also available for this program. The Prep for Success program will target students who are struggling academically and provide them with support prior to the next school year. It will run from July 15, 2013 through August 16, 2013 at Longfellow and Julian and will be offered at no cost to students.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Hutchinson reported that several criteria were examined in developing a list of students who are candidates for Prep for Success.

## SUMMER SCHOOL PREPARATION REPORT (Continued)

330 students currently meet the criteria with the majority of the students in first and second grade.

In an effort to communicate with parents early, initial lists were shared with teachers so they could communicate with parents during conferences held in January. Parents were informed based on preliminary indications and told that final notifications would be sent after the second trimester grades are reported in March.

Dr. Roberts noted that the PTO Council recommended giving consideration to the barriers that might limit kids from getting into this program and transportation needs were also suggested for consideration.

Board comments included noting that math grades dictate science placement in the high school. Interest was expressed in knowing how many students would qualify for the program if the district included the lower 20 percent of the students and what the cost of the additional students would be. Interest was expressed in knowing how many students are invited to participate and how many actually attend. It was noted that parents who had students in the program last year spoke highly of it.

It was suggested that as the Board thinks about goals and priorities for next year, it keep in mind that this program is running on a flat budget and not on the number of students participating. Additionally, administration was encouraged to analyze the math scores and come up with a plan to address the concern.

Additional Board comments included interest in knowing why the district only offers two academic subjects during the summer. Integrated units were suggested for consideration. Interest was expressed in seeing data from other districts and noting how it compares to that of District 97. It was suggested that perhaps District 97 data is typical.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

Barbara Metric, an Oak Park resident, spoke as a representative of the Irving Schoolyard Project. She thanked Dr. Roberts and the Board for their support and reported that the committee recommends alternate two for the new schoolyard. She shared a document that demonstrated that the committee has raised 10 percent of the cost of the alternate two plan.

Sinead Aylward, an Oak Park resident, spoke about the Student Disciple Report. She questioned why the district is not capturing more subgroups, especially those with disabilities. She shared that she personally knows of two children suspended last year for behaviors that are reflected under their IEPs. She asked that the data be tracked and added to the next report. She noted that signage on the buildings still uses the outdated word “handicapped”, and asked that updated signage be considered. She thanked the Board for their support of the Irving Schoolyard Project.

### **TOPIC REPORT**

TOPIC REPORTS

#### **Playground Plan**

Members of the Alamanu team came to the table. Dr. Roberts reported that bids were received and reviewed by the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC). It was noted that the bids for Hatch, Mann and Whittier Schools came in close to the original estimates, while the Irving bid came in slightly below. It was noted that the U10 turf field would cost \$440,000 and the relocation of the parking lot would be an additional cost.

Altamanu reported that consideration was also given to the Whittier School pre-kindergarten playground. Dr. Roberts recommended that Therese O’Neill communicate with each of the PTOs to ensure that all stakeholders are on the same page.

### **Playground Plan** (Continued)

Altamanu recommended that the Hatch sidewalk replacement not be included in the plans. It was noted that the entire walkway on the East and South ends of the playground are an issue, and recommended discussing the need with the Village. Additionally, a water source at Whittier was discussed.

Dr. Roberts recommended alternate two for the Irving schoolyard, noting that the line of sight is better; there are softer surfaces and the field ends farther away from the building. He will work with the Park District to identify additional funding. It was noted that the difference between the base bid and alternate two bid is mostly the cost of moving the parking lot, and the playground is a little larger.

Board comments included interest in seeing the difference in square footage between the play areas in alternate one and alternate two. It was recommended that the district consider rental possibilities for the Irving turf field. Interest was expressed in knowing what was budgeted for the playgrounds and how the district is doing with meeting the allocated budget. It was noted that the FAC committee gave consideration to permit needs and the Village has reviewed the alternate two plans and has made no comments.

### **SPECIAL REPORT**

SPECIAL REPORT

#### **STUDENT BEHAVIOR REPORT**

Felicia Starks Turner, Mike Michowski, Todd Fitzgerald, Faith Cole and Lindsay Pietrzak came to the table. Starks Turner shared that this report will focus on the middle schools. This is the second year of using the Incident Management feature of PowerSchool to compile the data and prepare this report. She noted that only 5 percent ( 87 out of 1,826) of the middle school student population has encountered the discipline system at this time.

The team reported that there has been a steady decline in behavior incidents in the last four years. Starks Turner attributed the Brooks Middle School Saturday School program as one reason why the numbers might be decreasing. She noted that bullying and harassment has dropped significantly, however, theft and forgery (plagiarism) are up slightly. The importance of working with the students who do not get in trouble and focusing on the positive was noted.

Cole reported that the two schools are working in collaboration this year, with focus on empowering the by-stander. The philosophy and goal is to have a proactive, systemic design model in place that focuses on a variety of intervention strategies that encourage good decision making on a regular basis. PBIS, extending the middle schools bullying awareness approach (presenters, workshops, and parent forms), communication/relationship building, assistant principals embedded within each grade level and the Saturday School pilot are examples of interventions being utilized at the middle schools.

Pietrzak shared Pink Shirt Day, an effort to support anti-bullying and the by-stander initiative. The Brooks students are reading the book “Egghead” that focuses on peer pressure and empowerment. Staff is initiating as many interventions as possible, and creating a culture and a climate that supports being respectful of others. Speakers were brought in to speak on internet safety. An evening presentation was held in an effort to provide information to the parents. Administration is also working on building the relationship with the Oak Park Township. It was noted that a representative from the Township is in the schools one day a week.

Pietrzak shared that the Saturday School program is two-fold. Some students show up just for help and others as a consequence. Nine or 10 students showed up for the first Saturday and they used the day to their benefit.

## **STUDENT BEHAVIOR REPORT (Continued)**

Dr. Roberts reported that the district goal is to be transparent in its reporting and consistent in its efforts. The district has two new middle school teams working to bringing the two schools together. Fitzgerald reported that the assistant principals were placed in grade levels after much considering was given to their strengths. They are asking students to reflect and help the punitive connotations become an opportunity. Mentoring opportunities were discussed, noting that in addition to the school staff, the Township also supplies mentors to the students.

Board comments included noting that historically, the assistant principals were considered the “hearts”, because they were the connection with the students. Interest was expressed in understanding how students get recommended for Saturday School. Interest was expressed in separating the categories of forgery and theft in future reports and looking at data related to students who participate in BRAVO and CAST. Interest was also expressed in knowing how parents are involved when students receive repeat disciplinary actions.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

#### **2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2013**

Barber moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the amended minutes from the February 12, 2013. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

#### **2.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda**

President Barber read the items on the consent agenda. Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda. Roll call vote.

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.2.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

#### **2.3.2 Notice to Remedy**

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Notice to Remedy for Avivah Buie. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

#### **2.4.1 Approval of Capital Improvement Bid**

Sacks moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, award a contract to Monaco Mechanical, Inc., in the amount of \$534,000, for mechanical upgrades at Holmes and Irving Schools and award a contract to Bill’s Painting Co., Inc., in the amount of \$197,800 for masonry/tuck-pointing work at Hatch, Irving and Longfellow Schools as outlined in the memorandum to the Board dated February 12, 2013. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

## 2.4.2 Approval of Technology Purchases

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the technology purchase as outlined in the report to the Board on February 12, 2013. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

TOPIC REPORTS

### TOPIC REPORTS

#### ECRA GROUP DISCUSSION

The ECRA proposal was introduced to the Board. It was noted that this proposal is for ECRA to analyze the data accumulated by the Data Coaches and produce detailed reports. Discussion took place regarding the length of the proposed contract (four years). It was noted that the contract length could be modified, but minimizing the length may limit the results.

The Board was reminded that the state will not have a growth model in place in the near future and utilizing the ECRA Group would be a useful tool. It was noted that ECRA expressed interest in the fact that District 97 is participating in the KIDS pilot and is interested in studying that data. Additionally, ECRA would like the ability to retain District 97 reports for future reference.

Board comments included interest in a report that would help with the goal setting for next year. An initial report from ECRA was requested in May, 2013. It was noted that the district expects to be committed to this kind of data analysis for a long period of time.

Dr. Roberts, Peter Traczyk and Vice President Spatz will meet with John Gatta from ECRA again and report back to the Board on March 19, 2013, with the vote for approval anticipated on April 9, 2013. It was noted that if the contract stays in the scope of the current agreement, the Board could approve the contract on March 19, 2013.

#### LANDSCAPING BID

The McAdams contract was presented and will be approved at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### BOARD GOALS TIMELINE

##### *(1.3) Public Report of Priorities for Recruitment*

Joanne Schochat prepared a memo on recruitment priorities and it will be sent to the Board tomorrow.

*(3.1) The completion of the next four school playgrounds on time and on budget.* This item was covered under Topic Report 3.1.2 Playground Plan.

*(3.2) The Official adoption of a 10-year capital improvement plan (Discuss AC Options)* This item was tabled until the next Board meeting.

#### POLICY UPDATE

Chris Jасulca came to the table. Policy sections 5-8 were reviewed and changes were considered. Interest was expressed in a separate policy that addresses tobacco use in district buildings.

Jасulca will talk to Therese O'Neill about an updated copy of policy number 6100.

##### *Review and Updating of Timeline*

The Measures of Success Timelines was reviewed and modified.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No report was given at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

**BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A handout on group work and identifying the needs of introverts was distributed. The importance of time for students to work independently was shared.

A New York Times article was shared on the topic of data.

The Irving Fun Fair and Silent Auction was last Saturday. The Irving teachers and staff's efforts in making this event successful was acknowledged.

The number of students and staff at each school who completed the 5Essential survey was requested for the next meeting. The parent data rate was also requested. It was suggested that with this information, the district may consider eliminating other surveys.

The Accessibility Committee went on a field trip to tour a Chicago school that successfully met its accessibility needs.

The League of Women Voters event last Friday was successful.

The Collaboration for Early Childhood's 10<sup>th</sup> annual Symposium was held last weekend, and attended by approximately 330 participants. The feedback received after the event was positive. Vice President Spatz was recognized for his efforts to support the event.

The District 200 Board will be meeting this coming Thursday and will vote on whether to financially support the Collaboration's long term efforts.

The Council of Governments will be meeting next Tuesday.

The Board was invited to participate in the Day In Our Village event scheduled for Sunday, June 2, 2013. Member Gates will lead the efforts with assistance from members Felton and Traczyk.

An update on the bargaining unit efforts was requested.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

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Board President

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Board Secretary