

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Special Meeting July 16, 2013**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Felton, Sacks (6:39), Spatz, O'Connor and Brisben
Absent: Gates, Traczyk
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, and acting Board Secretary Tulicia Edwards

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Brisben moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:35 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.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:04 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement.

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

SPECIAL REPORTS

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Julie Mullen and Lisa Schwartz came to the table. Dr. Roberts led the discussion by reviewing the five-year technology plan. He questioned how the district might leverage technology to enhance student learning.

SPECIAL
REPORTS

Lisa Schwartz reported that the presentation could be found on the iPad minis that were delivered to the Board members prior to the meeting. She shared that the presentation was intended to introduce the Board to iLearn 97, the initiative that will bring 1:1 technology to the students. The focus of iLearn 97 is to use technology to support and leverage learning. The goal of this plan is not only to change how the district delivers instruction in the classroom, but to also create equal opportunities for all students. It was noted that iLearn 97 will continue the direction set by the district's five-year technology plan and seeks to create a more active, student-centered learning environment through the introduction of 1:1 student devices.

It was reported that research suggests that the effective use of technology in education can have many positive results. It was noted that many options were considered, laptops, smaller devices like Chromebooks, and tablets, including the iPad. Each were tested, considering their advantages and disadvantages and other local districts who have implemented 1:1 initiatives were interviewed. It was noted that the iPad mini was chosen over the full sized iPad for several reasons, including that the iPad mini is easier to transport and textbooks are currently designed to be used on them.

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (Continued)

The recommendation to purchase the iPad minis is a result of this extensive investigation.

It was noted that iLearn 97 will support all aspects of teaching and learning. It will support Common Core state standards by allowing students to explore a topic to a level of deep understanding; encourage students to interact with text; enable teachers to be able to share context and resources, and share learning with a wider audience. The iLearn 97 initiative will also support the next generation science standards by focusing on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in everyday life. The iLearn 97 will use technology to make complex concepts approachable, encourage innovation, engage students and will support the International Baccalaureate (middle school) program.

Schwartz noted that iLearn 97 will transform the learning experience so that students are producers of knowledge instead of being mainly consumers of knowledge. With iPads available at all times, students will have more access to content, knowledge and teachers. It was noted that 21st century learning requires not only the development of subject knowledge and understanding, but also the acquisition of skills that will allow students to think critically, demonstrate creativity, collaborate and communicate effectively. Through iLearn 97 the district will be providing the tools and resources to support the needs of the 21st century learner.

The team recommended a three phase roll-out of the plan, beginning with school-day one to one, where all students in grades three through five will be issued an iPad mini for use throughout the school day. The iPad minis will be secured and charged in Learning Lab carts overnight and data and technology coaches will provide teachers with classroom-embedded professional development on iPad minis tied to the Common Core. This phase will begin slowly with an initial purchase of 720 iPad minis for the fifth graders. It was noted that the iPad minis would stay with the children as they move from grade to grade.

Phase two will transition to 24/7 access, allowing students to take the iPad minis home on weekends and for special projects. Parents will be provided with resources and invited to attend workshops.

Phase three, anytime/anywhere learning will allow students to “graduate” to 24/7 access.

The team shared their plan for professional development and evaluation of the initiative. It was noted that the project would be funded with a combination of referendum vision funds and annual technology budget funds. It was reported that the iPad minis to have a life span of three to five years, repurposing them after three years for different functionality.

Board comments and questions included the need for discussion on when the district plans on completing the 1:1 technology plan, noting that it was part of the referendum agenda. Concern was expressed regarding the implementation of the plan. Assurance that the staff will be willing to change the curriculum was requested. Interest was expressed in knowing what the goal would be as to how much teaching time would be used on the devices. Concern was expressed with when to move forward with 1:1 implementation opposed to if the district should implement the plan at all. It was suggested that the team make sure that this is the correct device the district should purchase for the students. The slow roll-out was complimented. It was suggested that the team receive feedback regarding the devices after two months and not purchase more devices until the feedback has been received. It was suggested that the team roll-out the plan with great consideration. Interest was expressed in knowing if other areas were considered instead of spending significant dollars on technology, such as; an additional day of school, adding additional

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (Continued)

teachers and/or administrators, noting that the administration office is thinly staffed, or buying books for the students to take home and read. Concern was expressed with the expense when there is no significant guarantee of usage. Interest was expressed in the project, noting that it would assist the students tremendously in their common core curriculum.

President Spatz reminded the Board of the options and suggested that the Board wait until the August 20, 2013 meeting to vote on this initiative, allowing them more time for discussion. He suggested that it might be necessary to wait until the next school year to make a decision.

It was agreed that this topic needs additional discussion. The board secretary was asked to schedule a special meeting for this purpose. August 6, 2013 was recommended.

Julie Mullen will share the policies from the other districts prior to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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None

ACTION ITEMS

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Approval of Consent Agenda

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

2.2.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.3.1 Personnel Action

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

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk, and Gates

Motion passed.

2.1.2 2013-14 Total Compensation for Dr. Roberts

O’Connor moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the 2013-2014 Superintendent compensation package as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk, and Gates

Motion passed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD
COMMITTEE
REPORTS

FACILITIES UPDATE (FAC)

President Spatz and Dr. Roberts will be meeting with the village management on Friday to discuss the structure of the new administration building.

FINANCIAL UPDATE (FORC)

A special committee meeting will be held to view a presentation on a program that will allow the district to view data quickly.

C.L.A.I.M.

The School Board President of Downers Grove will be presenting to the C.L.A.I.M. committee.

SUPERINTENDENT’S EVALUATION

It was reported that Dr. Roberts and President Spatz signed the Superintendent’s Evaluation today during exec session. It was noted that the Board prefers to modify the existing evaluation form instead of creating a new process.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that he is monitoring the evaluation process.

Irving PTO earned an Outstanding Job Award from the National PTO Association for the completion of the schoolyard project. They will be featured in the September issue of PTO Today.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

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President Spatz requested that questions regarding the 1:1 initiative be sent to him via email prior to the August 6, 2013 meeting.

Member O’Connor will send an example of the new state report cards and the additional data that has been added to Dr. Roberts.

It was noted that the state law does not allow Board members to call into meetings when on vacation. Board members may only call in to Board meetings if they are away on business.

All were reminded of the special Board meeting on August 6, 2013 at 7 p.m.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

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None

PREVIEW AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 20, 2013 MEETING

PREVIEW AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The draft agenda for the August 20, 2013 meetings was shared.

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary