

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting October 8, 2013**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL

Absent: None

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, Director of HR Steve Cummins and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

O'Connor moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:33 p.m. to discuss (Pending Litigation, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Purchase or Lease of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)). Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:56 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

SPECIAL REPORTS

SPECIAL
REPORTS

PREP FOR SUCCESS REPORT

Lisa Schwartz, Faith Cole and Kari Smith came to the table. They reported on the summer programs; Prep for Success, Extended School Year (ESY), Music Camp and Middle School Math Enrichment.

Cole noted that Prep for Success, which was launched in 2012, ran just prior to the beginning of the school year. The program followed the early start model with a focus on reteaching and preteaching and on the consistent entry criteria. The program accepted children who fell at the 20 percentile or lower in math and reading. The curriculum was designed to focus on reading and math instruction using common core materials, teacher designed curriculum, and technology integration. Additionally, the program focus was placed on project based learning.

The early childhood students were selected by reviewing the KRT (31 students were recommended for the program), they worked on getting ready for school, how to read a book properly and reading readiness. Teachers were required to fill out a brief survey on each student to ensure that the students truly needed the program.

The demographics of the program were shared. It was noted that the majority of the participants were African American.

PREP FOR SUCCESS REPORT (Continued)

Schwartz shared the fall assessments data on the children who attended Prep for Success. The MAP scores indicated growth over the students who were invited but did not attend the program.

The teams recommendations for future programs included supplying teachers with IEPs in advance for special education students. The team will review the summer school program model to explore options that may better accommodate families, set clear guidelines for teacher and principal's recommendations and enforce deadline for adding program participants.

The Extended School Year (ESY) program is kindergarten through seventh grade and had 146 students. Music Camp had 103 students, which increased from 43 over last year. The Math Enrichment Program was offered for middle school math students. 105 students participated in this program. An Introduction to Middle School Math was offered this year for incoming sixth graders. This class was not intended to assist children in moving up a course, but to help them acclimate to the middle school environment and keep their skills sharp. 105 students took Math Enrichment. A large majority of the students, who took this class successfully advanced a level.

Board comments included a recommendation to survey the parents of the students who chose not to allow their children to attend. It was suggested that scores be shared with parents and the program offered as an option to help students become college ready. Interest was expressed in knowing what works for other school districts to cut down on summer loss. It was suggested that the Library might be able to assist in the program, and that the summer loss data be shared in the materials sent to the parents next year. It was also suggested that the word "invitation" is not strong enough when encouraging children to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Rick Boltinghouse, an Oak Park resident, expressed interest in knowing if the facility study and capital improvement plan are available for public viewing. He expressed interest in knowing how those plans are being incorporated into the new 10-year capital expenditure plan. He asked if a prior district driven capital improvement plan exists, and if so, is it available for viewing and how will it be incorporated into the new plan. He noted that at the last FAC meeting, the capital improvements for the summer of 2014 still needed to be identified. He noted that it appears to him that the district has a lot of work and does not have the time to plan for summer 2014.

Sharon Patchak-Layman, an Oak Park resident and former District 97 Board member, reported on the history of the Madison TIF. She shared that the agreement called for two actions, yearly disbursements and the proportionate distribution at the end of the TIF. She reported that a lease back agreement was accepted that used funds that would have gone to other taxing bodies to help the school district. Patchak-Layman noted that beginning in 2013, 100 percent of the dollars will be proportionately distributed to the taxing bodies. She was surprised that the District 97 Board and the Village have signed an agreement to not disburse the funds until District 97 determines how they want their money. She reviewed the original documents and read a part of it that states that changes cannot be made until all boards approve and sign them. She questioned when District 97 approved upholding distributions from the Madison TIF and until there is an amendment she believes that the money needs to be distributed. She noted that the taxing bodies are expecting this money and are waiting for the money to be released. She asked that the Board reconsider and release the dollars and encouraged them to let the taxing bodies know the money will be coming on November 15, 2013.

ACTION ITEMS**2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the September 24, 2013 meeting**

Traczyk moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the September 24, 2013 meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes from the September 28, 2013 meeting

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the September 28, 2013 special meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, 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

2.2.3 Resolution to Appoint Legal Counsel in connection with Tax Rate Objections

2.2.4 Approval of School Recognition Applications

Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.2.5 Superintendent Evaluation Document

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Superintendent Evaluation Document with the understanding that there is a data component piece that will be added separately. Roll call vote.

It was noted that this document replaces a previous document.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.3.1 Acceptance of the FY13 Audit

Felton moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the Fiscal Year 2013 audit as prepared by its auditing firm, McGladrey, LLP and forward to ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) by its identified due date of October 15, 2013. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

BOARD COMMITTEE/WORK GROUP REPORTS

POLICY REVIEW UPDATE

Chris Jасulca came to the table. He reported that several policy changes were required by PRESS. (Policies 2105, 2120 and 7240).

He reported that the OPTA asked that policy 4362.01 - Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members be reinstated. This policy would need to be sent to PRESS for a new number.

The Policy work team looked at the potential impact on polices by the 1:1 initiative. They determined that the language does not need to be revised. They reviewed policies from other districts that have a 1:1 initiative. Almost all of them use PRESS and are very similar or identical to the District 97 policies. They also identified a template that will cover all the needs.

Board comments included interest in the language “pay the district” in reference to the 1:1 initiative. It was suggested that the 1:1 initiative procedures will need to be very thorough. Dr. Roberts noted that the start of the 1:1 initiative was delayed in order to get stronger procedures in place. He will have a timeline by the end of the week.

Jасulca reported that the state requirement for an anti-bullying policy has been met as the Board approve the policy on March 19, 2013 and the document was sent to the state fulfilling the requirement.

A few minutes during the November 5, 2013 meeting was requested to report on the four protocol documents.

FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)

It was reported that the FAC committee held an extra meeting to meet with STR and report on the two projects they are currently working on, capacity and the administration building. They will have an analysis prepared by the end of October. A cost estimate will be included in the analysis.

The committee also discussed the air conditioning study and will share proposal information with the Board on October 22, 2013. At that time, they will provide estimates on quantities, cost, etc. It was noted that their study will not be completed by then, so this update will not include their recommendation.

It was reported that the 10-year estimate numbers from DLA were also reviewed by STR.

It was noted that the committee has not been asked to consider the expense around accessibility. A discussion took place about accessibility needs.

Board comments included concern that the district may miss the bid season for summer projects.

It was decided that members Brisben and Sacks will meet with Therese O’Neill and STR about Cap-ex and consider accessibility. They will ask STR if the Board can receive a report by December.

FINANCE OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (FORC)

It was noted that the committee will present their annual report to the Board on October 22, 2013.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (CLAIM)

It was reported that the committee is working on the IASB presentation for November. The need for take-aways (a template for other district to use when creating a legislative committee) is also being considered. Dr. Roberts was asked to check his files and send anything relating to the creation of the CLAIM committee to Greg Smith and Vice President Gates. It was noted that Member Felton will replace President Spatz at the presentation.

The legislative forum is scheduled for tomorrow evening at 7:30 p.m. at Julian Middle School. All legislators will be there to answer questions.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION UPDATE

It was noted that the principals are still setting their goals and ECRA data will be used to ensure the evaluation document covers everything. A timeline has been submitted for the evaluation process with a goal of completion by March, 2014. During the month of April, 2014 the process of debugging will take place to make improvements for next year.

Vice President Gates, member O'Connor and Dr. Roberts will meet to ensure that everyone is on the same page and review the principals' evaluation process for the last three years.

The survey regarding bonus language was reviewed and discussed. High school and college readiness were also discussed.

Dr. Roberts noted that the real focus should be what we are doing to get the kids ready at different benchmarks.

MADISON STREET PROPERTIES UPDATE

It was reported that a meeting is scheduled with the Village on Friday to discuss this issue.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN UPDATE

A meeting will be scheduled with STR. The first meeting in November was suggested as a date for a preliminary report from the new architects. Member Brisben suggested that the capital expenditure plan could be completed and ready for approval by the November 19, 2013 or December 17, 2013 meeting.

BOARD WEB UPDATE

Jasculca requested bios from the Board members.

AD HOC BENCHMARK COMMITTEE UPDATE

President Spatz reported that he has selected five members for the committee but has not formally invited them to participate yet. He will report their names in the near future. Member O'Connor and President Spatz will represent the Board on this committee.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that he is happy that the Board members were pleased with the Harvard information. He noted that part of that presentation dealt with high expectation teaching. He noted that this does not take much time, but can make a positive impact on the students. He reported that 25 faculty members will become trainers to bring these simple items to the staff. They would love for Board members to sit in on the first session. If approved, Dr. Roberts will send out an invitation.

Dr. Roberts reported that he was one of 70 superintendents invited to a blended learning, technology, and early childhood program. The group was made up of superintendents from 30 states and they worked on ways that they can help teachers to not feel overwhelmed. Additionally, he noted that Ed Council is working with administration to deal with the realities

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

of teaching in 2013. He shared a handout from this event.

Dr. Roberts reported that the technology initiative has been delayed. He will have an updated timeline to share by the end of the week. He explained that the technology team is in flux and some of the changes may impact the 1:1 initiative.

He noted changes that all educators are facing and reported that he will be meeting with staff at the schools over the next few months. He reminded the Board that the district has three union contracts currently in flux. He reported that during the last Education Council meeting, some concern was expressed about the comfort level with all the changes. He is working with the teachers, administrators and office staff to make things better. He noted that the focus will be on the role that each one plays to make this an outstanding school district.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD CONCERNS /
ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Spatz asked for a default for each of the committees to be added into the board packet. This would be used to identify each topic, especially when nothing specific has been listed.

It was reported that the October 2, 2013 executive summary was sent to the Board.

The Elected Official's BBQ was held last week.

A list of the PTO meetings dates for the year was shared. All were encouraged to attend as many as they are able.

It was suggested that the Prep for Success data be placed into a press release. The success of the program was noted. Interest was expressed in seeing the scores broke down by race, sex, etc.

It was suggested that if the district is grouping students heterogeneously, attention should be paid to matching the lowest performing students with the highest performing teachers. Dr. Roberts expressed interest in the district working toward all teachers being high performing. He suggested that the best teachers need to be assigned to the primary grades so the children get a great start to their education.

It was suggested that all schools should hold only one picture day yearly. This suggestion will be shared with the PTO Council.

Interest was expressed in the new Ad Hoc Dashboard Committee.

The 5essentials survey was completed by sixth, seventh and eighth graders, teachers and parents. It was noted that ISBE decided to release some of the data. It was suggested that the creator of the survey be invited to present to the Board and explain what it is and why it is useful. Dr. Roberts noted that the state admits that the data is flawed; however, they are still releasing part of the data. A message will be going home to parents regarding this report. It was recommended that the Ad Hoc Dashboard Committee review this data prior to placing this item on a Board agenda.

It was reported that the Collaboration for Early Childhood held its first governing board meeting last week. Member Felton was elected the secretary and Peter Barber was elected the chairperson. The minutes from that meeting were sent to the Board members. It was reported that the Village will record the minutes in the future. The next meeting will be held on November 20, 2013. President Spatz noted that he will not be able to attend this meeting.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

President Spatz noted that the Collaboration will be nominated for the NSBA Award Program this year.

President Spatz reported that last Monday night, the Illinois Association of School Boards, West Cook, awarded District 97 with a plaque for their efforts during the 2012-2013 school year. Pins were awarded to the Board members and Dr. Roberts. Member Brisben earned a Leadership pin and Member Felton earned a level 1 and level 2 pin.

President Spatz attended a workshop conducted by the University of Michigan about “Math Beyond Counting Parts”. He will share the PowerPoint from the workshop.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

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Member Sacks and Therese O’Neill will respond to Mr. Boltinghouse’s comments.

Dr. Roberts and President Spatz will respond to the comments of Ms. Patchak-Layman. It was noted that the Council of Governments reviewed the letter regarding the TIF as well as this Board. All the other Boards were well aware of the decisions being made regarding the Madison TIF.

Member Brisben expressed appreciation to those who showed an interest in the capital plan. It was noted that the DLA reports will be included in the public report. It was noted that STR will need to review the reports and determine what is still important.

PREVIEW AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 22, 2013 MEETING

PREVIEW AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETING

The draft agenda for the October 22, 2013 meeting was reviewed and revised.

BOARD TIMELINE

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The Board timeline was reviewed and revised.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

O’Connor moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 8:58 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:08 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary