

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting November 5, 2013**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Gates, Sacks, Felton, Traczyk (6:34 p.m.), and Brisben
Absent: O'Connor
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

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss (Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(14), Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Pending Litigation, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Felton, Gates, Traczyk (6:34 p.m.), Brisben, and Spatz
Nays: None
Absent: O'Connor
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:54 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND SALE

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND SALE

Therese O'Neill reminded the Board that this is the third step in approving the bond sale. She noted several years of the district under spending and reminded the Board that the funding is needed to complete special projects. The public was given an opportunity to speak and no one expressed interest in commenting.

SPECIAL REPORTS

SPECIAL REPORTS

CIVIC ACTION WEEKEND

Lisa Schwartz reported that students have been participating in the CivicAction Weekend program for several years. During the event, students learn leadership skills and volunteer for public service. 12 students, six from each middle school participated, visiting numerous organizations throughout the event.

Students Jonathan Banks, Sydney Donaldson, Zoharia Drizin, Funmi Adeyemi, Emma Wojack, Aidan Molina, Casey Hepburn, Parthenia Gharavi and Kealoha Ogunseitian shared their experiences with the Board. They described the event as life changing and eye opening. They appreciated the opportunity to meet people, both those in need and those who volunteer. The students expressed appreciation to the Board for giving them this opportunity.

CIVIC ACTION WEEKEND (Continued)

Dr. Roberts spoke in support of the program. He reminded everyone that none of us have to go it alone; we all rely on each other. He thanked the students for attending and for sharing their experience with the Board.

Assistant Principals Dave Benson and Michelle Reed were acknowledged for coordinating the event.

MADISON STREET TIF

Village Manager Cara Pavlicek came to the table. She reported that the Village is seeking the support and participation of the D97 Board of Education in a focused discussion over the next 75 days (to mid-January, 2014) regarding the feasibility of locating the D97 Administrative Services at 123 Madison Street (the Village Hall property).

She noted that it is proposed that this focused evaluation begin with a comprehensive, open, public discussion of both the Village Board and the D97 Board of Education in early December with a date to be determined. The public discussion will need to include at a minimum a review of:

- Community Impact to our residential neighbors near Village Hall
- Opportunity for service collaboration between the Village and D97
- D97 facility space needs
- Village facility space needs for the Police Department
- The Madison TIF

President Spatz reported that conversations including other taxing bodies will continue through January, 2014. It was noted that the Village's request includes deferring the surplus distribution payments that were scheduled for November 15, 2013 until after the end of the 75 day time period. The dates of December 7, 2013 or December 14, 2013 were suggested as possible dates for this meeting.

Board comments included appreciation for the timeframe, transparency and dialog. The Board was reminded of the importance of good information regarding the financial impact of the building decision and the need for a long-term solution. Concern was expressed that all board members of the other entities be informed of the agreement to defer the surplus payment. It was noted that one of the handouts that the Board received this evening is the cost analysis for repairing the current administration building. The consensus of the Board was to move forward.

PERSONNEL / STUDENT DATA REPORT

Steve Cummins came to the table. He reported on the current staffing levels for the district. He noted that 19.6 percent of the teaching staff is diverse, and noted a higher level of certified administrators. Cummins reported that in looking at all employee groups, over 30 percent of the staff is represented by minority groups.

Cummins shared a document that demonstrates the state trends. He noted that Illinois student minorities are at 46 percent and teachers are at 11 percent. He reported that Illinois ranks 48 out of 50 states regarding the diversity gap and noted that District 97 compares favorably to the state.

Cummins shared a study by the Education Research Council noting a shortage of minority teachers. He suggesting focusing the districts efforts on recruitment, but acknowledged the need to find more people to enter the profession.

He reported that the minority students enrollment is the highest that it has ever been.

PERSONNEL / STUDENT DATA REPORT (Continued)

Dr. Roberts noted that the district has worked hard and the statistics represent multi-year efforts. He reminded the Board that District 97 is a district that understands the value of diversity. He was very pleased with the data within this report. He noted that the real success in the Human Resources department is that the district has increased the percentage of minority staff while keeping the premise of always hiring the best candidate.

Board comments included appreciation for identifying the challenge of attracting minorities. The need for increased mentoring was also expressed. It was noted that although the staffing remained close to the same, the student population has increased about 20 percent over the last 10 years. Interest was expressed in seeing this year’s enrollment compared to the projections for this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Boultinghouse, an Oak Park resident, shared an email from the village regarding the Madison Street TIF. He expressed his concern over this evenings discussion about the administration building relocation, noting that it is disingenuous to announce a public meeting in December when during the October 22, 2013 Board meeting the architects reported that they will be sharing an analysis on the heating, ventilation and ADA needs, there was no mention of a building assessment at that meeting. He expressed interest in the Board publically sharing the building analysis. Boultinghouse asked if anyone has toured the other Madison Street property that is being considered as a possible site for the administrative offices. Additionally, he expressed interest in knowing if it is the Villages interest or the Districts interest to sell the current 970 Madison Street location to the Village. Boultinghouse also asked if the funding source identified suggests that building a new facility at this time would be a smart move? How does the desire to build behind Village Hall fit into the upcoming tenure CapEx plan that has not been released, studied, publically commented on, etc., and does the building behind Village Hall supersede other building options?

Amy Williams, an Oak Park resident who lives in the 600 block of South Lombard, noted that it was her neighborhood that started the “No District 97 Building Here” group. She shared that her community has a lack of trust in this process based on the pattern of communication relying more on semantics instead of facts. She noted four specific comments on the 123 Madison Street property in the Board minutes during the last three months. She expressed interest in knowing the plans, including financial, for building at the Village Hall location. She reported that the neighbors are 1,000 percent against this move. She described the street as a racetrack and expressed concern about adding traffic, congestion and parking. Williams noted that she has a thousand reasons why the district administration move to the Village Hall location is a bad idea. She expressed concern about the miscommunication and noted that she does not appreciate the deception.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the October 22, 2013 meeting

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the October 22, 2013 meeting.

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

2.1.2 Approval/Review/Release of Closed Meeting Minutes from January 2013 – June 30, 2013

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the release/keep confidential the executive session minutes for the following dates:

Keep Confidential Dates:

January 8, 2013	March 19, 2013	May 28, 2013
January 22, 2013	April 8, 2013	June 11, 2013
February 12, 2013	April 23, 2013	June 22, 2013
February 26, 2013	May 7, 2013	June 25, 2013

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

2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented to the Board. Item 2.2.3 was tabled until the next meeting.

2.2.1 Bill List

2.2.2 Personnel

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

2.3.1 Approval of Preliminary 2013 Property Tax Levy

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the estimated 2013 levy as presented at the October 22, 2013 meeting and as delineated on the attached Certificate of Levy.

President Spatz reported that a hearing and formal presentation will be held during the November 19, 2013 meeting.

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

2.3.2 Acceptance of Donation of \$220,000 from the Park District

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of \$220,000 from the Park District of Oak Park. This donation was part of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Park District and District 97 for the Irving School playground project.

Appreciation was extended to the Park District for their support, noting that the Irving Field was the only field that was useable after the current rains. It was noted that the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) purchased the soccer goals needed to complete the Irving Field project.

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

2.3.3 Acceptance of Donation of \$75 to the Holmes School Library

Felton moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of \$75 to the Holmes School Library from Kindergartener Carter Miller and the Parents of Children with Allergies support group. The donation will be used to purchase books and DVDs related to food allergies.

Ayes: Felton, Traczyk, Sacks, Gates, Spatz, and Brisben

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

BOARD COMMITTEE/WORK GROUP REPORTS

BOARD COMMITTEE
/ WORK GROUP
REPORTS

POLICY REVIEW UPDATE

The Board reviewed the revised Board protocols. Member Sacks noted that the team that is recommending the revisions is confident that the new documents are in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. It was agreed that the completed documents will be placed online in the Board section of the district Web site. The Board was asked to send all feedback on the documents to member Sacks. It was noted that the Web site workgroup will be meeting this week and will identify an appropriate place on the site for these documents.

This item will return to the Board in December for further discussion, with anticipated action in January, 2014.

FACILITIES UPDATE (FAC)

The FAC will be meeting next week to review reports from the architects. It was noted that the Board received two of the four reports this evening. The final reports will be posted on the Web site and a DVD will be created of the documents.

FINANCIAL UPDATE (FORC)

It was reported that FORC will be engaged to assist with the RFP for auditors in the spring. Interest was expressed in knowing if one of the FYI reports would be FORC oriented and have a few financial graphs. President Spatz asked member Traczyk to coordinate this effort.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (CLAIM)

Vice President Gates and member Felton provided an update on the "Share the Success Panels" presentation for the Illinois Association of School Boards during the state conference on Saturday, November 23 at 1:30 p.m. Special thanks were extended to the following individuals for their efforts on this project.

- Power Point
 - Greg Smith CLAIM chair and Wiley Samuels, CLAIM member and both Oak Park residents
- 10 Step Manual and Appendices
 - Anne Desmond Warren and Meredith Schacht, CLAIM members and Oak Park residents
 - Lou Anne Johannessen, CLAIM secretary and D97 administrative assistant
- Web page support
 - Stephanie Grammens
- PPT, Manual, and web support
 - Chris Jasculca

It was reported that Senator Harmon expressed interest in considering legislature that will allow data sharing between the elementary and high school districts. A joint committee between

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (CLAIM) (Continued)

CLAIM and the Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark committee to deal with data sharing was suggested.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN UPDATE

Member Brisben reported that Therese O'Neill and Norm Lane have been populating the Cap-Ex spreadsheet with real data. The Board will review the spreadsheet during the November 19, 2013 Board meeting where they will also be shown how to use the tool. Brisben noted that the goal will be to have the current STR data in the spreadsheet by that time.

AD HOC DASHBOARD/BENCHMARK COMMITTEE UPDATE

It was reported that members of the Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark committee held their first meeting last week. Concern was expressed by two of the committee members that the timeline for the committee may be too ambitious. It was suggested by the committee members that October, 2014 may be a more realistic date.

It was reported that the new state report card is out and the district and other entities need to be sure to not send contradictory information out to the community.

It was noted that this committee will be meeting monthly, with the next meeting scheduled for November 13, 2013.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEMBER TERMS

It was reported that members of the FAC, FORC and CLAIM committees can remain on the committees for eight years. It was noted that one FORC member is needed. One member of CLAIM was not listed on the supplied list and in order to rotate the terms of the Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark committee members, it will be necessary to identify two that are willing to serve only a one-year term.

PARK DISTRICT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT UPDATE

Member Traczyk reported that a series of meetings were held, the wording of the document has been cleaned up, and a draft agreement was sent out to the Board members for consideration last week.

Member Traczyk noted that the wording for the field maintenance was not included as this document needs approval by both boards by the end of December, 2013. A brief discussion took place regarding field care and it was agreed that this need will be identified in a separate document.

Traczyk reported that the agreement has no major changes, although effort was given to ensure that the processes identified in the document will withstand the test of time.

A discussion took place about bumping the Park District with short notice as they lose money when that occurs. It was reported that during the COG meeting this morning, Jan Arnold indicated that the Park District is beginning a new 10-year capital plan during 2014, and the Lincoln and Mann fields will be included in that plan.

President Spatz reported that the next step is for Board members to send comments to member Traczyk and to send the document to legal for review. The revised draft will be reviewed on November 19, 2013 with anticipated action on December 19, 2013.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that Steve Cummins is preparing the RFP for the insurance brokers.

Dr. Roberts has been visiting the schools and meeting with the teachers about common core. He noted that this is the most difficult time the educational profession has seen in decades. He reported that the demands on faculty far exceed what was expected when he was a new teacher. He noted that the magic of common core is helping children create, communicate and live in a global world that we live in. He reported that the reaction of staff has been very positive.

The pre-calendar committee met, and are hopeful that they will be able to work with District 200 and 90 when preparing the calendar.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD CONCERNS /
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Brisben shared notes from the recent ED-RED meeting.

Vice President Gates shared information about the November 13, 2013 Teacher Retirement System workshop at Shamburg High School. He noted that he will not be able to attend this event and wanted to make sure other Board members were aware of the opportunity.

Vice President Gates shared community member appreciation for the beautiful field at Irving School.

It was reported that because the district has a safe soccer field at Irving School, the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) launched a VIP program for handicap children in Oak Park.

Concern was expressed about advertising a public meeting as a meeting to discuss plans to build a facility behind the Village Hall, as the Board's concern is to determine what to do with this building considering the needed repairs and to do that in a way that we are good community partners. The hope is that the joint meeting will allow all to consider facts, viable options and funding.

Member Felton shared the Boards concern about additional picture days with the PTO Council. She reported that only two of the schools are holding two picture days a year and the second day is used as a fund raiser that nets about \$2,000. She also asked the council to consider bike racks and will report their finding after the November council meeting. She reported that the council expressed interest in public forums again this year. Although Dr. Roberts noted that the forums held last year were well attended, concern was expressed about the upcoming negotiations and the time they will take. The idea of reaching out via the Internet was suggested.

Members Felton and Brisben attended the Collaboration for Early Childhood (ECC) meeting. It was reported that the collaboration has retained Parenthesis Family Services to provide parenting support services. Parenthesis and the Collaboration are recruiting staff to lead and implement this program. It was reported that the collaboration is considering a fundraiser and their data committee should have an update at their next meeting.

It was reported that Hephzibah met with two Board members and administrators recently. The program served about 400 children by offering after school programs and about 200 children are on their waiting list. Concern was expressed about availability within the schools to support this need. It was noted that Longfellow Center also hosts a Hephzibah program. President Spatz and member Felton will meet again regarding the needs of this program.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

RESPONSE TO
PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Roberts and President Spatz will respond to the public comments by the end of the week.

PREVIEW AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 19, 2013 MEETING

The draft agenda for the November 19, 2013 meeting was reviewed and revised.

PREVIEW AGENDA
FOR FUTURE
MEETING

BOARD TIMELINE

The Board timeline was reviewed and revised.

BOARD TIMELINE

SUPERINTENDENT’S EVALUATION

This item was tabled until the December meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S
EVALUATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)) Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:30 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

OPEN SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary