

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting December 3, 2013**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Gates, Sacks, Felton, O'Connor, and Traczyk (6:36 p.m.)  
Absent: Brisben  
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**

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ayes: Sacks, O'Connor, Felton, Gates, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Absent: Traczyk (6:36 p.m.), Brisben  
Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

O'Connor moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:59 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

OPEN SESSION

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rick Boultinghouse, an Oak Park resident, asked if the district is currently diverting funds from maintenance on the administration building. He noted that when District 97 was working with the Park District and the village in the past to initiate a build at the Village Hall location, a comment was made to this affect. He expressed concern that some of the repairs, such as roofing, may be covered under warranties. Additionally, he asked if the district could publish results of other efforts to resource other buildings on Madison Street.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**TOPIC DISCUSSIONS**

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR SUMMER 2014**

Therese O'Neill came to the table. Dr. Roberts noted that there are no major capital improvements above and beyond what has been identified to the Board already. Therefore, he recommended moving forward with the four ADA compliance items identified in the STR report.

TOPIC DISCUSSIONS

He reminded the Board that the district has been thinking about air conditioning and ADA and in the near future will need to think about over crowding in the classrooms. O'Neill and Lane have reviewed the capital expenditures and based on the existing data, Dr. Roberts could make an argument that any or all of these topics are a priority. Additionally, the administration building is another priority as in its condition; it deters operation necessary to support families and staff. It is the command center of the district and will eventually impair its operation. He believes that the Board has been clear about taking care of the administrative building needs in a cost neutral framework.

Dr. Roberts expressed concern that some people feel that the air conditioning and ADA modifications are a priority and should be completed immediately, and some do not. He acknowledged that a successful plan must be based on contribution not blame.

The Board was reminded that the air conditioning options have been narrowed down to options 6 and 7. Dr. Roberts and O'Neill met with STR to determine next steps in regards to space needs. He reported that Holmes School is running out of space for the special needs population. He shared that Whittier School will be closed during the summer for furniture replacement, and suggested finding a way financially to put the elevator in at Whittier during that time frame. Additionally, Whittier would need the toilet facilities changed. O'Neill reported that the Whittier improvements would cost approximately \$1,200,000 and noted that this work could be completed before the fall semester begins, making Whittier totally accessible.

Regarding temperature control, Dr. Roberts recommended that the district choose the option that gives the district the best opportunities. He expressed concern over the noise level, questioning which option gives better air distribution. Concern was expressed over how to financially support the needed upgrades. He suggested a phase in process that would start with the 60 third floor classrooms at a cost of about \$60,000 per room.

O'Neill noted that included in STR's air conditioning report and assessment, that DDC (direct digital controls) could be installed as portions of buildings (floors, classrooms, etc.) were addressed. This installation would achieve balanced heating and cooling controls for even temperature distribution and potential annual savings of approximately \$20,000 in heating costs.

O'Neill noted that a previously developed 10-Year Capital Plan (prepared by the District's previous architectural firm - DLA Architects) included some minimal installation of DDC (direct digital controls), minor accessibility work, and the upgrades to the Administration Building. However, STR prepared more comprehensive assessments for districtwide air conditioning and accessibility with accessibility recommendations borne from the District Accessibility Report previously presented to the Board.

Board interest included:

- Handicap parking spaces
- If all third floors are equal
- If this is a multi-year plan or if each floor would be a separate plan
- In seeing the second floor numbers
- Identifying a pool of money and explaining why one pool cannot be used to fund another
- The possibility of outside revenue if the schools are air conditioned
- In lieu of air conditioning, a policy or administrative guideline was suggested to address extreme heat days

Board comments included:

- The east side of the third floors may be in more need than the west side of the buildings
- Concern was expressed about financing the project, noting that this project would use up all the DSEB money
- Concern was expressed about the message the district is sending to the community
- Concern was expressed regarding the fact that these items have not been entered into the Cap-Ex model
- Concern was expressed about problems that may be uncovered as the installation process unfolds

The Board agreed to not make a decision on all accessibility issues until all options have been processed through the Cap-Ex scoring process. O’Neill was asked to look into the possibility of grant support. Regarding the air conditioning / temperature control issues, the Board expressed concern about the cost of the project, even if it is performed in phases, noting that the passage of one or possibly two referendums would be needed to fund the project. The Calendar committee was asked to take extreme heat days into consideration when preparing future school calendars.

**DISCUSSION OF INPUT NEEDED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING PLANNING AND JOINT TIF**

President Spatz shared two drafts of the agenda for the December 14, 2013 meeting for review and modifications were made. The desired outcome for this meeting was also discussed.

It was suggested that the other taxing bodies be informed that this meeting will occur and what options will be considered prior to the meeting.

President Spatz will meet with the Village board president prior to the meeting, informing him of the questions that the district will be seeking answers to.

Concern was expressed that 101 Madison Street has not been available for viewing.

**BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Roberts and President Spatz will respond to the public comment.

BOARD RESPONSE  
TO PUBLIC  
COMMENT

**PREVIEW AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The draft agenda for the Board meeting on December 17, 2013 was reviewed and revised.

PREVIEW AGENDA  
FOR FUTURE  
MEETING

Dr. Roberts reported that he received a request from the Brook principal seeking permission to hold the sixth grade orientation event on April 8, 2014, which will conflict with a prescheduled Board meeting. All agreed that it would be acceptable for these meetings to be held at the same time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, 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.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

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

**OPEN SESSION**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 9:17 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 9:17 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

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Board President

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Board Secretary