

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting - January 24, 2012**

Vice President Spatz called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barber (5:38 p.m.), Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk (5:34 p.m.), Spatz, and O'Connor

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Director of Human Resources Trish Carlson, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 5:33 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk, Barber

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:06 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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BRAVO THEATRE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE

BRAVO director Tina Reynolds introduced the students who participated in the 2012 Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta, Georgia. They performed samples of this year's winning program, "School House Rock, Jr." Several of the students spoke on behalf of the program, thanking the district, Board and Dr. Roberts for allowing them to participate.

SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT

Duane Meighan updated the Board on the 2011 summer school program. He reported that, of the seven programs offered during the summer of 2011, four were intervention programs and three were tuition-based. He provided information about each of the programs, including the successes and areas in need of improvement. Meighan noted that the Fast ForWord pilot was also part of the summer school program. He reported that a task force will be launched immediately to review the criteria/programs, and create a more rigorous and more focused curriculum.

Dr. Roberts noted the importance of the children's return on investment. He suggests that the district reinvent summer school by challenging the staff to rethink the programs. He suggested that we start with the end in mind and work backwards, determining ways to measure the program's success. Dr. Roberts suggested that the district consider hiring summer staff earlier, and consider ways to align the teachers with the students.

It was reported that the task force will be ready to update the Board in late February with the Board taking action in March. Dr. Roberts explained that just because a program is enrichment, it does not mean that it is not remedial. He suggested that the district consider looking at creative ways to teach the programs.

Board expressed interest in knowing:

- How the success of the new program will be measured
- Is there hard research that indicates that remedial summer school works?
- Who attended the 2011 summer school program?
- Who were the children with the biggest drop from spring to fall?

Board suggestions included:

- Teaming up with District 90
- Consider teaming up with other organization; such as the Oak Park Education Foundation or the library to promote attendance, or groups who could actually run the program
- Consider running extra programs during the school year to help the struggling students
- Consider a boot camp program run just before the beginning of the school year. It was noted that a boot camp type program was run in the early 2000s. The success of that program should be reviewed.

It was noted that the district budgeted only \$50,000 for the summer school program. The district was cautioned on the short amount of time available for creating a new program, and was encouraged to be open when expressing their needs to the Board.

WORLD LANGUAGE UPDATE

This item was tabled until February 28, 2012

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC
COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS

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2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2011 Special

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the December 13, 2012 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2011 Regular

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the December 13, 2011 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.1.3 Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2012

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the January 10, 2012 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.1.4 Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2012

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the January 12, 2012 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

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

3.2.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

3.3.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.1 Approval of Fast ForWord

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the purchase of the Fast ForWord Program from Scientific Learning for \$477,550 with an annual maintenance agreement of \$4,500 per school.

Dr. Roberts reinforced that he believes that Fast ForWord is a program that will bring a return on investment to the district and educational benefits to the students. The research and presentations demonstrate the promise of neuroscience that was not available until recently. He reminded the Board that the district spends that much money each year on remediation and noted that the district needs to do something that will help the children get out of remediation. He reported that the administration is

Approval of Fast ForWord (Continued)

anticipating very good results with the implementation of Fast ForWord. He shared that Fast ForWord is a tool that the district does not have in our teachers' hands at this time. He noted that the district does not have a cognitive program and that Fast ForWord is a program that will help not only the children in remediation, but the other children as well.

Dr. Roberts reported that the implementation plan will begin at Hatch and Mann during the day and the middle schools after school. There is one more school expressing interest in beginning in the near future. He reported that during this implementation, meetings will be held with OPTA to plan a district-wide implementation for the fall.

Board questions and comments included a comment that the district needs to take calculated risks, noting that this program is the most out of the box, exciting way to address the achievement gap. The Board was reminded that although this program holds a lot of promise, there are no guarantees. It may take 15 years for the district to possess the data to support the program fully. It was suggested that the Board needs to take chances without guarantees. It was noted that the OPTAs concern is that the days are already fragmented and implementing another intervention will only fragment them more. The focus on early intervention was suggested. It was noted that this program provides an opportunity for teachers to collect information that will help with team building and lesson planning. An audit of the other programs was requested. It was noted that the Board received some very powerful support from parents, as well as the support of the full administrative team.

One Board member expressed his concern. Although he appreciates a program that supports the lower achieving students, he noted that this program is not supported by a broader learning system for all subject areas. He recommended a curricular audit aligned with the common core before the district invests in another program. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: O'Connor

Motion passed.

2.4.2 Approval of Settlement Agreement

Traczyk moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the settlement agreement for Case Number 2011-M4-000850. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.3 Action on Student Discipline

Barber moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the following resolution.

Whereas, the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, Cook County, Illinois, did through the Board on January 24, 2012, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student No. 20120124, and,

Whereas, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that Student No. 20120124 has been found guilty of a violation of the rules and regulations of this School District, the Illinois School Code, and the Statutes of the State of Illinois;

Now, Therefore, it is hereby resolved that Student No. 20120124 is;

Expelled from attendance at Oak Park School District 97 effective January 25, 2012 and through January 24, 2014. The Superintendent may vacate the expulsion and consider reentry into the district on the first school day of the 2013-14 school year if the student shows significant improvement. The Student will not be allowed to attend or participate in any District 97 activities, including athletic events, social events, and those events related to end of year activities, and is prohibited from being present on school grounds during this same time period.

Now, Therefore, it is hereby further resolved that the Superintendent is to issue a written notice of the Board's decision to the guardian of Student No. 20120124. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

TOPIC REPORTS

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2012-2013 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Trish Carlson introduced the draft 2012-2013 district calendar that would begin the school year on August 22, 2012 and end the school year on May 30, 2013. She shared that concerns have been expressed about holding school on election days. Because there are typical holidays that fall on weekends in this calendar, the committee recommends declaring Election Day as a Board declared holiday. Carlson reported that the winter and spring breaks match those approved by the Oak Park River Forest High School.

The Board discussed the reasoning behind two half days for conferences, recognition of religious holidays and concerns regarding election days.

This item will return to the Board for approval on February 14, 2012.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Dr. Roberts reported that annually the Board officially gives Therese O'Neill authority to begin the budget process for the coming school year. It was reported that this is not a mandatory decision, but one that the Board chooses to make in order to be as transparent as possible. This action will return on February 14, 2012 for approval.

POLICIES – FIRST READING

Chris Jasculca came to the table and introduced three policies. Policies 1644, 6144, and 9160 were reviewed/discussed. Discussion took place regarding these policies, including possible revisions. These items will return to the Board for approval on February 14, 2012.

FACILITIES DISCUSSION (DISTRICT OFFICE/WAREHOUSE)

Vice President Spatz reported that the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) recently met with the Park District: about the possibility of sharing space. He reported that the Park District is currently focused on finding a replacement for Gary Balling, who is stepping down at the end of April. FAC is reviewing other ideas that might be feasible. Spatz suggested that the Board schedule time during the April meeting to hear another update on this topic.

Members Spatz and Sacks were not sure if a decision or direction will be given on this issue by the end of this school year. It was also noted that, to date, the Village has not supplied the district with an updated list of rental costs.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Dr. Roberts introduced a memo from Therese O'Neill. He explained that he and Therese met with the architects from Altamanu yesterday to discuss playground options at several schools. He reported that the firm went back, fine tuned their numbers and came back with a much tighter proposal. He believes that the job would be done with minimal interruptions to the school year. It was noted that references have been checked and several of them were members of the community who are well known by Therese O'Neill.

Vice President Spatz reported that five firms submitted applications. The applications were examined and the top two firms were interviewed. Altamanu was the recommendation of most of the FAC members.

It was reported that Altamanu has redesigned most of the parks in Oak Park and did an excellent job. It was also noted that the difficulty in the past was getting through the public input part of the process, but Altamanu treated the community members with honor and respect.

Board member interest was expressed in knowing:

- Where this firm fell regarding price and quality
- What the miscellaneous expenses are within the contract. Interest was also expressed in understanding why these items were excluded

FACILITIES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT (Continued)

- Understanding why permits were excluded and if they will be added at a later date
- Clarification on which schools would be included in each phase
- Clarification on plans for Irving, Mann and Lincoln

Dr. Roberts reported that there might be some ADA work needed at all of the schools. He reminded the Board that each school is unique and Altamanu will only be looking at the playground portion of the outside areas.

President Barber noted that there is a need to get some clarity but, with the information that was requested, the Board can vote on this topic at the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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REPORT**

Dr. Roberts reported that he requested feedback from the administration for the curriculum audit, with a focus on specific subject areas. This information should be provided to him in the next week or two.

Dr. Roberts received a note from the District 200 board president expressing her appreciation for District 97's work on the joint board meeting. She also thanked the faculty and staff who presented at the meeting.

Dr. Roberts expressed concern about the middle school PBIS program, noting that the district received feedback from parents who suggested that the program might need to be recharged. He reported that Felicia Starks Turner has prepared a survey to examine this concern.

Dr. Roberts reported that the April 27, 2012 Institute Day will be devoted to common core, noting that the district staff needs a wider view on what this means. Lisa Schwartz and Duane Meighan will work with him to put together an in-depth program.

Dr. Roberts reported that on Friday he received a notice that the Irving fifth grade will take their annual field trip to the Indiana Dunes February 8 through 10, 2012. The Board will need to approve this trip after the event, as the next meeting of the Board is not scheduled until February 14, 2012. Concern was expressed about the timeliness of this request.

Dr. Roberts reported that he met twice last week with the Julian staff about the schedule and strategies to fill the vacancy in the principal position at Julian that will be created by Dr. Sharts' retirement at the end of the school year. He suggested to them that their teams have a deep discussion and identify skill sets their new principal should possess.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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He asked them to send the recommendations by teams so he can ensure that he receives 100 percent feedback. He also met with the Julian PTO to hear their input. He reported that they supplied him with a database of comments. Dr. Roberts acknowledged Vicki Sharts for her long tenure in the position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOARD CONCERNS

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President Barber shared feedback from the IASB Data First workshop held last Saturday at Julian. Discussion took place regarding the workshop and the need for additional information. The Board indicated that they are ready for hands-on data.

To follow up the Data First workshop, it was recommended that the Board invite Ed DeYoung from U-96 to discuss benchmarks, suggesting that he could present for 45 minutes in an upcoming Board meeting. Member O'Connor was asked to communicate with Mr. DeYoung and try to schedule a special meeting with him. Tuesdays other than Board meeting nights, the first two Thursdays of the month and Saturdays were recommended. Member Spatz reported that a former Board member has expressed interest in attending future data workshops.

It was reported that the high school will be receiving the National Clearinghouse data. Interest was expressed in figuring out how to use that data for the District 97 students. It was reported that legal sent information out on FERPA. It was suggested that these items be made a priority. Although an administrative committee was suggested, Dr. Roberts recommended waiting until the Board hears from Mr. DeYoung.

Congratulations were extended to the Brooks Eighth Grade Boys Basketball Team for winning the West Suburban Eight Conference regular season championship and post-season tournament championship.

The Board was reminded that the Vex Robotics Competition is this Saturday, January 28 starting at 9 a.m. in the Percy Julian gymnasium. Everyone was encouraged to attend this jam-packed event, which features the high tech science skills of District 97 students.

Member Gates reported that the CLAIM committee members met at his home on December 19, 2011 and held their first formal meeting on January 19, 2012. Two administrative members will be assigned to this committee and should join the 14-member committee during their next meeting on February 16, 2012. The committee chairperson, Anne Desmond Warden, will be contacting Peter Barber to seek about 15 minutes on a future Board agenda. As far as the Board legislative agenda, CLAIM is targeting data sharing as its top priority.

Board members were reminded that the ED-RED dinner on February 6, 2012 will include a presentation by Charlotte Danielson. It was recommended that the Board consider inviting the OPTA leadership to this event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOARD CONCERNS (Continued)

The IASB West Cook Spring meeting will be held on Monday, April 30, 2012. Ralph Martire, executive director for the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and board member for District 90, will be the speaker for the evening.

It was reported that the annual Early Childhood Resource Directory was distributed. Additionally, the ninth annual Early Childhood Symposium will be held on February 25, 2012 at Julian. Last year’s attendance was approximately 400 attendees. The Board will be receiving a timeline and registration.

Vice President Spatz attended the Council of Governments (COG) meeting on January 3, 2012. Topics discussed included the TIF agreement and technology initiatives supported by the library. He believes District 97’s recommended changes to the Digital Inclusion charge were sent, and encouraged the Board to endorse the charge when it is returned.

It was reported that Governor Quinn approved the new report card today.

Member Felton attended an elected female officials gathering this week. The group, organized by Village Clerk Theresa Powell, plans to meet a couple times a year.

President Barber and member O’Connor will be meeting this Friday regarding the superintendent’s evaluation. A special meeting will be needed to discuss his evaluation. A Saturday was suggested.

Concern was expressed regarding the timeliness of the out of state field trip requests, noting that the procedure has not been implemented consistently. Dr. Roberts assured the Board that he will deal with those not in compliance.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m. in the administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary