

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting - February 14, 2012**

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

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Human Resources Trish Carlson, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jасulca, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:30 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Gates 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.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL  
REPORTS

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE – DISCIPLINE REPORT**

Felicia Starks Turner, Principals Tom Sindelar and Dr. Vicki Sharts reported on the discipline at the middle schools. This year, each middle school assigned an assistant principal for sixth grade and part of seventh grade, and another one assigned for the other half of the seventh grade and eighth grade. The third assistant principal at each school focuses on afterschool programs, data collection and extra activities. These individuals also assist under-achieving students, and perform outreach to families.

It was reported that only five percent of the entire middle school student population has received a suspension this year. The number of incidents has dropped since last year. The number of in-school suspensions has increased and out-of-school suspensions has decreased. The number of African American students involved in suspensions has decreased; however, the number of white/Asian students has increased. Fighting and aggression were identified as the most common occurrences.

## STUDENT PERFORMANCE – DISCIPLINE REPORT (Continued)

In-school and out-of-school suspension data was reported by type of incident, ethnicity, gender and school. Data about how students with incidents last year are behaving this year was shared.

Sindelar reported that exposure to making good decisions occurs throughout the day. Anti-bullying education, including cyber-bullying and safety, is ongoing. Safety cameras are on their second year of use, and communication/relationship building between the adults and students is a continual focus. Additionally, the schools focus on the District 97 respect code, professional development and dialogue. Training and workshops are encouraged. There is also a great deal of focus on communication and building partnerships with parents, as well as, strengthening administrative teams and teaching teams that support the children.

The determination of consequences was discussed. Coaching the students and parents was reported as part of the process to support good behavior. It was reported that behavior plans are put in place when necessary.

On going challenges were identified as competitive environments, dress/appearance, and attacks on dignity.

Starks Turner explained that she researched a benchmark comparison of other districts student behavior and where District 97 stands in relationship to them; however, she explained that discipline is subjective and the data would be difficult to disseminate. She reported that if a comparison was done, she believed District 97 would be on the low end of the ratings.

In response to a question about how PBIS is shared at Julian, Sharts reported that the school goals are set around PBIS, and the all school reading of the book, “The Man Who Love Clowns” is another example.

Board comments and suggestions included a request that future reports reflect that data was researched, but not available and explain why the data is not available. It was noted that the data indicates that the incidents are aligned between the two schools and that it shows that major incidents have been reduced. Interest was expressed in reporting on IEPs separately and collapsing the historic data into categories that align with the new ones. Interest was expressed in knowing if the district is over identifying African American males in this area. Adding information from the school climate survey was also suggested. Additionally, the use of a well-established nationally used survey was suggested. The need for additional security cameras was discussed.

Interest in receiving first person feedback from staff on their opinion on discipline was expressed, as well as identifying areas of student discipline that has improved in the eyes of the staff. A child/student, home/school code of conduct was recommended.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE – DISCIPLINE REPORT (Continued)

Questions included:

How is behavior in the locker rooms and hallways?

How is the staff addressing bullying?

How do we know the reduction in numbers is not a deduction in punishment?

How do we know the reduction is real?

How can we work together as a community?

Did the report reflect if a camera played a role in any incidents?

PUBLIC COMMENT

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carollina Song, Oak Park resident, urged the Board to apply for the food waiver for as long as possible. She noted that CAST and BRAVO rely on the waiver for fundraising, as food sales are the largest, single fundraisers for these programs. Additionally, she noted that the lunchtime options for the students makes it easier for the parents. She reminded the Board that the middle school PTOs have fewer parent volunteers than the elementary schools, minimizing the options for fundraisers. She noted that the PTOs purchase education items for the school with some of the funds raised from these events.

ACTION ITEMS

**ACTION ITEMS**

**2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2012 Special**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the January 21, 2012 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**2.1.2 Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2012**

Felton moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the January 24, 2012 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**2.1.3 Approval the Review/Release of Closed Meeting Minutes**

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

<u>Keep Confidential</u>	<u>Keep Confidential</u>	<u>Keep Confidential</u>
January 18, 2011	May 3, 2011	October 18, 2011
January 25, 2011	May 10, 2011	October 21, 2011
February 8, 2011	May 24, 2011	October 25, 2011
March 8, 2011	June 14, 2011	November 29, 2011
April 12, 2011	July 13, 2011	December 11, 2011
April 26, 2011	August 23, 2011	

The minutes from March 22, 2011, May 31, 2011 and June 28, 2011 were approved for release. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, Gates, 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 Spatz, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda. Roll call vote.

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.2.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

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

### **2.3.2 Approval of Budget Authority Resolution**

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to commence preparation of the 2012-13 fiscal year budget. Roll call vote.

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

### **2.4.1 Adoption of the 2012-2013 District Calendar**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the school calendar for the 2012-2013 school year. Roll call vote.

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

### **2.4.2 Adoption of Policies**

Felton moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the following policies: Policy 1644 – Cellular Telephone Usage, Policy 6144 – Investments, and Policy 9160 – Public Attendance at School Events. Roll call vote.

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

### 2.4.3 Approval of Landscape Architects

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, authorize the employment of Altamanu, Inc. as the district's landscape architect for work to be completed over the next three-year window of time per the proposal dated January 27, 2012.

Therese O'Neill clarified that Lincoln is the school that will not be included in the bid, not Mann as previously stated. The metropolitan water district permit is the only permit that will need to be required. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

### 2.4.4 Field Trip Approval - Irving

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve an out of state field trip request for the fifth graders at Irving Elementary School. Details on the trips were asked for in the future. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

## TOPIC REPORTS

TOPIC REPORTS

### EVALUATION OF BOARD GOALS

#### Goal 1 – Data Usage

It was reported that the Board participated in two data workshops. The Board acknowledged that there is still a gap in their expectations with the data available. Discussion took place about a data committee. It was determined that the expectation of this committee will be to supply guidance. Members O'Connor and Traczyk offered to sit on that committee.

#### Goal 2 – Communications

Traczyk noted that the Web site, and promises made/promises kept are wonderful. The need to express the specifics that they are requesting was discussed. Members Gates and Sacks shared a PowerPoint suggesting that the Board interact more with community members in an effort to make the Board more visible within the community. Suggestions included:

- Hold more Board meetings in the schools
- Annual Board sponsored "School Volunteer Recognition Day"
- "A Day in our Village"
  - A Board dunk tank with proceeds to Collaboration for Early Childhood

## EVALUATION OF BOARD GOALS (Continued)

- School competition: “Awards” to schools that have most students and parents sign up at Board table, offering Board time and talents to the school as an award.
  
- Annual “State of the District” forum at one of the schools
- Monthly informal meet and greet table at Farmer’s Market
- Annual Board developed service project
- Multiple listening tours
- School carnivals: Board members attend and participate as workers at these events
- Informal meet and greet tables at schools on teacher conference days
- Scheduled attendance at school plays, athletic events, VEX robotics, etc.

### **Print Presence**

Monthly report from the Board in the paper. In lieu of the former, the Board could investigate participation in the Oak Park information mailer

### **School PTOs**

Develop a biennial rotation that would bring each Board member into a meeting of each school PTO. The role of the Board member at these meetings would be to listen and learn about the unique features of each of the district’s schools.

The board reviewed the suggestions and made the following comments:

Interest was expressed by a majority of the Board members in pursuing the following:

- Day in the Village participation in some way. No decision was made on the dunk tank.
- Board meetings at schools was discussed. In lieu of this suggestion, a Web-cam for meetings was suggested. A staff person would be needed to do this. An audio podcast was also suggested.
- School volunteer recognition
- State of the District
- Multiple listening tours. A list of upcoming events for the Board to be invited to was requested.
- The Board noted that they often attend school events such as plays, athletic events, etc., but quite often go unnoticed. Announcing their attendance during the event, or name tags were suggested as a way to make their presence known. The Board secretary was asked to look into nametags for the Board members.
- Board presence at PTO meetings. The Board secretary will compile a list of future PTO meetings and schedule attendance by Board members.

## EVALUATION OF BOARD GOALS (Continued)

The majority of the Board did not show interest in the following suggestions:

- Farmer's Market
- Service projects
- Meet and greet tables at school conference days. It was noted that scheduling could be a problem. Additionally, the Board would not want to divert from the main reason of the meetings.

A monthly report from the Board received a mixed response. It was noted that print is not the choice of the parents. It was suggested that this item be share with IGOV when they meet on February 25. It was suggested that districts 90, 97 and 200 distribute a report together. A link on the Web site or Facebook was suggested.

It was reported that the Finance Oversight and Review Committee (FORC) is working on preparing financial indicators and might have them ready by the end of the summer.

### Goal 3 - Facilities

President Barber shared that this goal is off to a good start. The Board has identified a partner in the Park District and the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) has met with them.

### Goal 4 – Compensation and Performance

Member Traczyk was asked to head up this area. The Board was reminded that FORC needs to have an understanding on how to model different options.

## SUMMER 2012 CAPITAL PROJECTS BIDS

O'Neill reported that the secure entrances at Mann and Whittier and the air conditioning for the Whittier auditorium are scheduled to be addressed during the summer of 2012. She explained that the Whittier auditorium will be used as the cooling area for the students when the weather is extremely hot. She reported that the complete five-year capital plan will be presented in the future. This item will return to the Board for approval during the next meeting.

## ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN INVESTMENT POOL (IMET) RESOLUTION

O'Neill reminded the Board that FORC recommended that the district seek the highest interest rates possible. With that in mind, O'Neill explained that IMET will be able to offer a 25 percent interest rate. She reminded the Board that they adopted the policy this evening that identifies IMET as a potential investor. Additionally, she reported that if the Board chooses to participate with IMET, PMA will be able to identify the funds as they move. It was noted that the increase in investment income would be about \$20,000. A resolution will be brought to the Board for adoption during the next meeting that recognizes IMET as a potential investor.

## FOOD WAIVER DISCUSSION

President Barber reported that the Wellness Council and the PTO Council are in support of the extension of the food waiver. Dr. Roberts explained that he originally suggested a three-year waiver, but hearing the feedback that the district has been receiving regarding the waiver and the fundraisers meeting the nutrition requirements, he has no objection with requesting a five-year waiver. He recommended that the district pay close attention to the food fundraisers, ensuring their compliance with the wellness policy. Additionally, Dr. Roberts made it clear that the district will limit the food fundraisers to the existing programs at the middle schools and that no new food fundraisers would be allowed at any of the district schools.

O'Neill explained the process for the waiver approval, which includes advanced written notice to the bargaining units and state representatives. She suggested that a public hearing be scheduled for April 10, 2012, and the waiver be submitted to the Department of Nutrition before June 30, 2012.

Dr. Roberts reported that he will review the policy and waiver to determine if a statement from the Board that limits the waiver to the middle schools would be necessary.

The Board was ensured that all the food served during these events meets the State standards, and that all guidelines are met.

Board comments and concerns included a concern regarding equity.

## FIELD TRIP APPROVAL – MANN

Dr. Roberts reported that several fourth and fifth grade Mann students will be participating in the State competition for Odyssey of the Mind in Belleville, Illinois. Odyssey of the Mind is a team, creative, problem-solving club that promotes communication, innovative thinking, and skill building. Transportation will be the responsibility of each parent, who will stay and chaperone his or her own child. The students will travel on March 30, 2012 and return home on March 31, 2012. This request will return to the Board for approval on February 28, 2012.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that the summer school plan is for an early start prep for success, and possibly providing prep for success counseling. Duane Meighan will prepare a proposal to be presented to the Board during the next meeting. Dr. Roberts shared that unless the district chooses to charge for summer school, the district is limited to what it can offer.

A summer teacher leader program is in the planning with District 90. The program, which might be held at a local college campus, would provide teachers with additional learning experiences on common core. Both superintendents would be part of the leadership for this program.



### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

Charlotte Danielson spoke at the recent ED-RED dinner. She talked about improving competency with the evaluation process and holding teachers to a standard. When that is accomplished, Danielson explained, then staff can focus on student learning.

Dr. Roberts met with Sharon Patchak-Laymen about the mosaic project and children's garden at Longfellow. She was questioning how the projects might be put to use. Patchak-Laymen has requested that the Longfellow PTO make a determination as to what they would like to do with these projects.

Dr. Roberts reported that the district has received 47 applicants for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. He noted that some of the applicants have superintendent experience and that some are very promising. He shared that 74 applications have been received for the Julian principal position. He reported that the district is preparing, based on research, a definition of a preferred future for the middle school. He recently met with parents Carollina Song, Libbey Paul, and Alex Mikesell seeking their opinions. He shared that their opinions were in sync with his thinking.

Dr. Roberts reported that the Race to the Top grant supports common core, data to support classroom instruction, and the achievement gap, all efforts that mirror the district's. He suggested that the Board discuss/determine if they should recommend this opportunity to the OPTA. He noted that if the district participates in this program from the beginning, it helps shape the program as it evolves. He noted that he was unable to determine if the OPTA would be in support of the program or not. Member Sacks reported that she participated in the ISBE webinar and that the program is an opportunity for the district to take a leadership role and pilot some of the things that the district knows it will have to do early and with no stakes. She shared that it is an opportunity to get some financial support to implement programs that will need to be implemented eventually. It was noted that if the district chooses to participate, a letter of interest would need to be sent by February 29, 2012. Once the letter has been received by the state, they would tell the district approximately how much money it could expect to receive. The district could choose to pull out at that time. Additional discussion took place, noting that even if the district does not participate in Race to the Top, it would be able to continue working on PERA. The Board instructed Dr. Roberts to discuss this possibility with the bargaining units.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOARD CONCERNS

The Vex Robotics team won the regional competition and will now advance to nationals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/  
BOARD CONCERNS

A request to pursue Webcasts/Podcasts was made. It was noted that the cost could be considerable.

It was suggested that the district consider creating something with or for parents on social media issues, suggesting that it could help with the behavior issues in the classrooms. It was suggested that the PTOs could be asked to take this on.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOARD CONCERNS (Continued)

Appreciation was expressed on the receipt of the curriculum audit. Interest was expressed in receiving additional information on what is happening at the school/student level. Dr. Roberts will report to the Board when the data has been finalized and decisions have been made.

Illinois will be turning in a SCAA waiver with one change. The “meets” bar will likely go up quite a bit. This will formally be announced by ISBE. It was suggested that the district consider how to message this to the parents.

It was noted that districts will begin to bear the cost of pensions.

The Early Childhood Collaboration is scheduled to report to the Board next month. Interest was expressed in assessing the pre-kindergarten students early enough to offer summer school. Space concerns were expressed should the district include preschoolers in the summer school programs.

The next special education report should include the numbers by staffing and ratio.

It was noted that the Illinois Performance Nationally and the pension reform handouts were distributed.

The C.L.A.I.M committee would like to know when the Board would like an initial report and an annual report. Additionally, the committee is considering working on pension and state paying their share.

Member Gates participated in a local antique road show and shared some of his experiences.

The Board agreed to hold a special meeting on March 8 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., inviting Ed DeYoung to speak on the use of data.

Interest was expressed in hearing about how the middle school science curriculum was implemented and how it was received.

Member Felton attended the Mann technology forum last week. She recommended that the district consider a similar event.

The Board was reminded that the IMP.A.C.T. forum on drugs and alcohol will be held tomorrow night at Brooks Middle School.

The District 200 Board meeting next Thursday will include a discussion about raising parents expectations for college/career readiness.

The ED-RED dinner was well attended. Danielson cautioned against having low rigor and low stakes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOARD CONCERNS (Continued)**

The ISBE West Cook Spring Dinner is on April 30. Ralph Martire, executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, will be the guest speaker.

The Wild About Wellness Early Childhood Symposium will be held at Julian on February 25. Last year’s event was attended by approximately 400 guests.

**BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

BOARD RESPONSE  
TO PUBLIC  
COMMENT

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 10:17 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session at 11:34 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 11:34 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m. in the administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

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Board President

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Board Secretary