

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting – May 8, 2012**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk (6:03 p.m.), Spatz, and O'Connor

Absent: None

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:01 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Sacks, Felton, 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 7:06 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

SPECIAL REPORTS

SPECIAL REPORTS

President Barber led the Board in recognizing Tuesday, May 8, 2012 as National Teacher Appreciation Day.

FUN RUN

John Gann reported that this will be the twentieth Fun Run for the district. He recognized four students as the winners of the poster contest. The Board was invited to participate in the Fun Run on May 12 at 8 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sinead Aylward, an Oak Park mother with a child transitioning into kindergarten in the fall, addressed the Board. She explained that her child is nonverbal, and encouraged open relationships between the district and the parents. She recommended cameras in classrooms where non verbal students are assigned, suggesting that it would protect students and teachers. She also suggested that the district not cluster special education classrooms. Aylward asked that everyone show these children respect, see the children as individuals, and be cautious to not discuss inappropriate topics in front of them. She

PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)

suggested that students and teachers not be kept together for more than three years and switch up teachers and teacher aides. She encouraged the Board to research verbal abuse.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2012

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the April 17, 2012 special meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of April 24, 2012

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the April 24, 2012 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of May 1, 2012

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the May 1, 2012 special meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

President Barber read the items on the consent agenda. Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, 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, Sacks, Spatz, Felton, Gates, O'Connor, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.2.2 Appointment of Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and General Counsel

Felton moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the hiring of one Data and Technology Administrator for the district, and one Data and Technology Coach for each school. Roll call vote.

Traczyk reported that this position is different than the current one. He is thrilled to have someone who will be able to perform the tasks needed for Human Resources and General Counsel.

Dr. Roberts reported that Schochat is an experienced lawyer and special education teacher. He was intrigued with the legal component and the way she approaches the human resources position as a whole. He reported that the district found someone who will lead in her own way and has the unanimous support of the administration. Schochat shared that she is very excited to be part of the Oak Park family.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.2.4 Appointment of Brooks Middle School Principal

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the appointment of Michael Michowski as the Brooks Middle School Principal, effective July 1, 2012 at a salary of \$120,000. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

President Barber shared that the Board is enthusiastic about Michowski joining the team. Teachers and parents in attendance who participated in the interview process were acknowledged. Dr. Roberts shared the interview process and shared that both Michowski and Fitzgerald are good listeners and great leaders.

Michowski shared his enthusiasm for being a part of the Oak Park team and complimented the interview team for their representation of Oak Park.

2.2.3 Appointment of Julian Middle School Principal

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the appointment of Todd Fitzgerald as the Julian Middle School Principal, effective July 1, 2012 at a salary of \$120,000. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

President Barber reported that Fitzgerald was not able to attend the meeting this evening due to obligations at his current school.

Dr. Roberts shared that Fitzgerald works collaboratively, and has six years in his present middle school principalship. Fitzgerald is also working on his doctorate.

2.4.1 Acceptance of Classroom Furniture Bid

Sacks moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, award a contract for new classroom furniture at Beye Elementary School to Lowery McDonnell in the total bid amount of \$223,075.85 as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated April 24, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.2 Acceptance of Sidewalk Tractor Bid

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, award a three-year lease-to-purchase contract to Standard Equipment for a sidewalk tractor in the annual amount of \$39,193.40 as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated April 24, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.3 Approval of Food Service Contract

O'Connor moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, extend, for the 2012-13 school year, the Intergovernmental Agreement between Oak Park River Forest School District 200 and District 97 for the provision of freshly prepared meals as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated April 24, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.4 Approval of Medical, Dental, and Life Insurance Rates

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve Medical, Dental, and Life Insurance Rates as defined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated April 24, 2012. Roll call vote.

It was reported that the district and insurance team did a great job at trying to control this; unfortunately, there will be a large increase which is out of the district's control.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.5 Acceptance of Donation of Books to all School Libraries

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of two books to each of the 10 District 97 libraries by Judy Chrisman. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.6 Acceptance of Donation of Office Supplies to Whittier School

Felton moved, seconded by Gates that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of miscellaneous office supplies to Whittier School from Mr. Mark Wallace. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.7 Approval of Board Calendar for 2012-13

Barber moved, seconded by Gates that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the following meeting dates for regular meetings of the Board. These meetings are scheduled to usually take place at the Administration Building on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., unless posted otherwise. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.8 Approval of Donation to Support the Odyssey of the Mind Competition

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk that the Board of Education, District 97, approve a donation of \$500 to support the Odyssey of the Mind Competition scheduled in Ames, Iowa on May 24-26, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.9 Approval of Out of State Field Trip Request – Julian to Indiana Dunes

O'Connor moved, seconded by Sacks that the Board of Education, District 97, approve an out of state field trip to the Indiana Dunes State Park on May 24, 2012 for 80 Julian Middle School Math and Science students. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

TOPIC REPORTS

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

TOPIC REPORTS

O'Neill explained the bid process, noting that due to an error on the part of one of the vendors, one bid came in extremely low. After consulting with legal, the district decided to reopen this bidding process. The process was reopened with a due date of May 14. She asked the Board to consider this evening's update as their review and approve the asbestos abatement bid on May 22, allowing the work to begin in early June.

President Barber acknowledged that the Board will consider the motion on May 22.

10-YEAR LIFE SAFETY SURVEY

O'Neill explained that Brooks and Julian were opened in 2002. According to law, a 10-year life safety survey must be completed. This item will return to the Board for approval on May 22. Discussion took place regarding this topic. It was noted that the buildings are relatively new and should require only minor updates.

AMENDED 2011-12 BUDGET

O'Neill reported that she was contacted by ISBE and instructed to amend the 2011-12 budget. This is partially due to the fact that all district employees accepted a pay freeze in 2011, and the district covered the six percent insurance increase. O'Neill will bring forward the amended budget transfers for review.

Discussion took place regarding the non designated Medicaid funds and the 2009 TIF monies. O'Neill reported that additional revenues still need to be added. A public hearing will be scheduled for June 12 with approval of the amended budget during the same meeting.

STAFFING REPORT

Carlson reported on the staffing needs for the 2012-13 school year. She reported that the changes are minimal. It was noted that the staff has only increased by two percent in recent years.

Dr. Roberts explained that all of the administrators have completed training with DATA First and will require support to implement data analysis in their schools. Having someone in the buildings to help them with the data is critical. Therefore, the staffing report for the 2012-13 school year includes the addition of seven data coaches. Three

STAFFING REPORT (Continued)

current OPTA members will be assigned to this area, to total ten data coaches, one for each school.

Interest was expressed in seeing class size numbers for electives and job descriptions on the Web site for the new data coach positions. Interest was expressed in knowing how the district is doing with creating a diverse staff.

This report will return to the Board for approval on May 22.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST – JULIAN, ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Julian is one of the three teams going to Ames, Iowa to compete in the Odyssey of the Mind competition in late May. This item will return to the Board for approval on May 22.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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REPORT

Dr. Roberts thanked the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation for funding the recent trip to look at a kindergarten-12 IB system in Ohio. 25 people participated, including five Board members, parents, teachers, and PTO leaders. They examined the program to see if this is a program suitable for our district. They noted that diversity and excellence was the passion in Ohio.

Dr. Roberts requested feedback from the team. He will collate the responses and schedule a time to debrief. He shared that Sophia Lloyd from the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation found the program to be worthwhile. Additionally, he has spoken to the high school about the opportunity. Lisa Schwartz and Sheryl Marinier were acknowledged for their efforts in organizing the trip.

The Fast Forward pilots are looking good. During a June meeting, administration will come forward with their recommendation for district-wide implementation.

Dr. Roberts participated in a good Early Childhood Data Committee meeting.

All policies will be converted to PRESS in the near future. The administrative guidelines will be converted over the summer.

BOARD CONCERNS

BOARD CONCERNS

President Barber shared a request from the Township office to renew the Youth Interventionist Intergovernmental Agreement by the end of May. The Township would like to hold a group signing of the agreement on June 1. Barber noted that the new agreement identifies modest increases. This document will be brought back to the Board for approval on May 22.

BOARD CONCERNS (Continued)

Interest was expressed in knowing how many children the program is servicing, and if the figures identified are for each interventionist or the entire program. Interest was expressed in hearing about the success of the program and how success is being measured. It was suggested that the Township be invited to briefly update the Board on the Face-It program.

It was recommended that the district begin the data analysis process in July after the new tech staff is in place, with a goal of completing an initial look at MAP, ISAT and Explore data by August. This will give the schools the data they need to kick start the new school year. Dr. Roberts asked the Board to help shape the dashboard that will be used to identify the baseline. The Board was cautioned to be careful with the use of the term "college and career ready". Interest was expressed in seeing targets and understanding how the data will be backed down. An outside consultant was recommended to assist the new data staff.

Dr. Roberts cautioned to not write off the late bloomers, noting that the district needs to be careful of what is measured, how it is measured and how it is reported.

The last PTO Council meeting expressed a need to identify parents who are interested in being more engages. A Parenting 101 program will be offered.

The IASB Spring Dinner meeting was well attended. The state is pleading for resolutions. CLAIM will be bringing forward two resolutions for Board approval on June 12.

The Day in Our Village plans were shared. The taxing bodies may consider a dunk tank for next year's event.

Numerous comments were made regarding the IB trip. Board members who attended, noted that the trip was worth their time and worth considering for District 97. It was noted that by spending so much time with the teacher representatives during the IB trip, the parents on the trip got a wonderful insight into the district's teaching staff. It was noted that the expectation of the program should be to engage all children. Interest was expressed in how the program could get a great teacher collaboration time, consistency, academic expectations and rigor. Lisa Schwartz and Sheryl Marinier were acknowledged for their planning efforts.

It was reported that Sophia Lloyd from the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation would like to speak to the Board during the May 22 meeting regarding what the foundation does and to reiterate the organizations interest in supporting the IB program.

ED-RED met on May 7. They launched a new part of their Web site that promotes districts working with legislative efforts.

BOARD CONCERNS (Continued)

Lynn Allen and her team were acknowledged for the success of the Ethnic Festival.

The Board was reminded that the May 22 meeting will be held at Julian Middle School.

It was reported that the Food Service waiver requested by the district was approved by the state.

President Barber and member Traczyk will attend a meeting with the Early Childhood Collaboration, District 200 and the Village on May 15, to discuss ways that the organizations can work collaboratively. The Board was encouraged to send questions/comments to Barber or Traczyk prior to the meeting. It was reported that the conversation from this meeting will be shared with all participating boards. Barber and Traczyk will share an update on May 22.

The Board was reminded that the superintendent’s end of the year evaluation is scheduled for June.

President Barber asked member O’Connor to investigate models and tools for consideration for use during future superintendent evaluations.

Julian Middle School is being considered for a Blue Ribbon PE award.

The Tax Payers United lawsuit was dismissed again.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

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TO PUBLIC
COMMENT**

In response to the public comment, President Barber requested that Ms. Aylward’s concerns be addressed during the Special Education report scheduled for August 21.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:03 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 9:39 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m. at Julian Middle School located at 416 Ridgeland Ave.

Board President

Board Secretary