

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting June 12, 2012**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk (6:33 p.m.), Spatz, and O'Connor

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, 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 Mike Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:32 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:07 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

PUBLIC HEARING

Therese O'Neill came to the table to introduce the changes made to the current budget. She shared the process and steps taken to legally make the changes. She explained that the primary reason for amending the budget was because the revenues increased by over 2.1 million dollars. Additionally, she reported that if the receipts continue to come in as anticipated, the Education Fund will be under spent by about \$600,000 and the O & M Fund by about \$300,000.

The floor was opened for public comment, no one chose to speak and the public hearing was closed.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL REPORTS

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Lisa Schwartz, Pam Weise and Martha Elbers came to the table. They reported that 350 middle school students and 400 fourth and fifth graders participate in choral groups within the district. Additionally, general music programs reach every Oak Park student. They reported that brain research indicates that making music uses more parts

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT (Continued)

of the brain then most other activities and that children with a musical background perform better in memory tests. A video was shared and the music department staff members in the audience were introduced.

## FAST FORWARD UPDATE

Duane Meighan and Harla Hutchinson came to the table. They shared an extensive data review and plan for the district wide implementation of Fast ForWord.

Meighan reported that six schools implemented Fast ForWord this past spring. A variety of different implementations were used, including some during the day, some after school, and some targeted pull-outs.

Hutchinson shared data from Progress Tracker and My SciLEARN. Data indicated that the programs were implemented well. The Reading Progress Indicator (RPI) demonstrated that the average gain of seven months was achieved after completing one program. Almost 20 percent of the participants gained more than a year and a half. Proficiency movement indicated that all areas, struggling, emerging, proficient and advanced demonstrated gains. 76 percent of the students made some sort of gain.

In the future, they will look at the students who did not make gains. MAP scores will also be studied to see if gains can be identified.

Meighan reported that the district will be implementing a universal model in the fall, and a phase in plan was identified. The universal model was chosen because it was noted that this intervention will help all students. The principals and teachers felt that it would also make scheduling easier if all students participate in the program. It was noted that offering the products to all students, will help many before they begin to struggle.

Meighan shared interest in an at-home component for all schools. The data accumulated at home would be added to the school data, making it necessary to train parents to ensure fidelity.

Dr. Roberts reported that the curriculum systems audit will identify which interventions are working and being used with fidelity. Additionally, he reported that Fast ForWord will be used as an intervention prior to testing children for special education.

Board comments and questions included support for the universal implementation plan and the fact that Fast ForWord also helps the higher achievers. Interest was expressed in feedback on strategies to deal with parent, student and teacher frustrations. Support was expressed for the timing of the Fast ForWord implementation and the hiring of the new Data Coaches. Details were requested regarding the special education numbers listed on page 17 of the report, noting that they appear to be low. Interest was expressed in hearing about the procedure for parents who choose to opt out of the program. Interest was expressed in hearing about how the district plans to deal with the stigma of

FAST FORWARD UPDATE (Continued)

children being pulled out to participate. Interest was expressed in comparing the Fast ForWord data to MAP data.

Dr. Roberts noted that the Fast ForWord data should help to identify student’s needs.

He requested that the Board send him any additional questions. The Board expressed interest in receiving another update in December or January.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

**2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of May 22, 2012**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the May 22, 2012 meeting with revisions. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Felton, Sacks, 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.

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.2.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

The new Data Coaches and several other new staff members were introduced.

**2.4.1 Appointment of District Treasurer**

Sacks moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, appoint Therese M. O’Neill as its District Treasurer for the period of time July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 per the recommendation of the superintendent of Schools dated May 22, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**2.4.2 Approval of Custodial Supply Bid**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, award its 2012-13 custodial supplies contract, in the total amount of \$96,180 to the following companies, as delineated in the memorandum to the superintendent dated May 22, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**2.4.3 Approval of IMRF Resolution**

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the formal attached Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) resolution specific to compensation paid under Internal Revenue Code Section 125 Plan as IMRF earnings as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated May 22, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**2.4.4 Approval of the 2011-12 Amended Budget**

Felton moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, adopt its amended 2011-12 budget (in the Illinois state format) in the total amount of \$81,101,489 as delineated in the memorandum to the Superintendent dated June 12, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

O'Neill was commended for her presentation and explanation of the changes.

**2.4.5 Approval of CLAIM Resolutions**

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the three resolutions presented by the Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention, and Monitoring to be submitted to the Illinois Association of School Boards. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

Gates reported that the resolutions will be mailed immediately in an effort to meet the deadline.

#### **2.4.6 Approval of Revised Board Calendar**

O'Connor moved, seconded by Sacks 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.

It was noted that the calendar was modified to change the October 3, 2012 meeting date to September 27, 2012.

Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

#### **2.4.7 Proclamation for Trish Carlson**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the following proclamation in recognition of Trish Carlson. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

Carlson expressed her gratitude to the Board and the district. Dr. Roberts shared that she is the finest HR director he has worked with and her efforts are appreciated.

### **TOPIC REPORTS**

TOPIC REPORTS

#### **IRVING SCHOOLYARD UPDATE**

Dr. Roberts reported that the district has been working with the Irving Schoolyard Committee for several years and until our last meeting thought the two entities were in sync with each other. He reported that communication with the Park District was initiated and is moving forward. He updated the Board on the timeline of events, noting that a safety concern was expressed during the Board meeting on May 22. A meeting between the Irving Schoolyard committee and administration took place on May 25. During that meeting, the district's financial support for the project was identified as \$500,000. A meeting with the Parks Department was planned and has occurred. Altmanu will meet with the committee to ensure that the plans are in sync, and grants will be considered. On June 6, O'Neill and Dr. Roberts met with two committee members who discussed safety issues. Mike Padavic and the school nurses will analyze the data and consistency in reporting. They will look at the best way to review data to support best practices. Dr. Roberts reminded the Board that the district has made a commitment regarding safety, and will take another look at supervision strategies given the new data. Padavic will share the results of the playground injury data once it is compiled. Although interest was expressed by the Parks representatives, a commitment to the project has not been expressed.

#### IRVING SCHOOLYARD UPDATE (Continued)

Member Sacks was impressed with the efforts of the Irving Schoolyard committee, and reported that their final report for the year was extensive. Member Traczyk suggested that the Board consider supporting this initiative financially with \$500,000 and the cost of the rubberized surface.

#### 2012-13 CLIC RENEWAL (PROPERTY & LIABILITY INSURANCE)

O'Neill reported that the renewal of CLIC is an annual contract that requires Board approval. She shared that everyone is experiencing a seven percent increase, and the district's expense will increase from \$267,000 to \$298,000.

#### RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PREVAILING WAGE RATES

Marinier reported that the approval of the Prevailing Wage Rates is an annual action that the Board needs to approve. This action will return to the Board for approval on June 26, 2012.

#### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM UPDATE

This topic was tabled until June 26, 2012.

#### LIGHTING BOARD BID

O'Neill reported that the lighting boards in both middle schools need to be replaced. She shared that the \$23,361.94 bid came in approximately \$7,000 below the anticipated cost. This item will return to the Board for approval on June 26, 2012.

#### TRANSFER RESOLUTIONS

O'Neill will bring forward the necessary transfers at the next meeting for approval. Vice President Spatz clarified that Working Cash can now be transferred directly to Capital Projects.

#### IGOV

This topic was tabled until June 26, 2012.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that the teacher summit is scheduled for August 6-8. 24 District 97 teachers will participate, along with 12 teachers from District 90. Teachers will receive training in leadership skills, common core, and team work. He reported that the plan is to have post summit requirements in an effort to keep the momentum going.

Additionally, participants will receive two U97 credits and an Apple iPad with the Summit data installed.

Dr. Roberts discussed the importance of the teacher support for the IB program and the need for the program to be viewed and acted on as a long term goal. He reported that a grant request was sent to the Community Foundation. If the grant is approved, plans will move forward for staff training during the summer.

Dr. Roberts expressed his confidence in the newly hired staff.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** (Continued)

Dr. Robert, O'Neill and Padavic had a good meeting with the Hephzibah leadership. He reported on a lack of clarity in the agreements between the two organizations and recommended rewriting them.

Administration is looking at next year's budget and trying to gage expenses and identify areas needing financial investment. He recommended investments in programs that work, not just the traditional options. He reported that the curriculum/systems audit will supply data, identifying which programs are highly/less successful and give the district the opportunity for change. Contracts will need to be reviewed and other key large areas considered for long term sustainability. He reported that grade level centers might need to be considered in the future.

The new middle schools assistant principals will be brought forward for approval during the next meeting. Lindsay Pietrzak will be appointed to Brooks and Faith Cole will be appointed to Julian. The new middle school principals, Mike Michowski and Todd Fitzgerald were part of the interview process. Five candidates were interviewed; of those, two others were extremely qualified.

The Gifted and Talented (GTD) staff will participate in cluster approach training during the summer with a plan to implement this approach in the fall. International Baccalaureate (IB) training will also be considered for the GTD staff.

Dr. Roberts will need to complete 60 hours of required principal and teacher evaluation training during the summer. Besides the training, he will also need to work closely with Jасulca to convert the policies and procedures to PRESS.

## **BOARD CONCERNS**

BOARD CONCERNS

Lisa Schwartz was acknowledged for her efforts toward IB funding.

Jасulca, and Members Gates and Sacks were acknowledged for their efforts toward a successful Day in Our Village.

The district was acknowledged for improvement toward a more productive end of the year, noting fewer movies and field trips were scheduled during the last two weeks of school.

It was noted that the state is looking at a 10 percent cut in school funding.

The Board president was encouraged to reach out to Tom Kanwischer, the new OPTA president.

Members Gates and Spatz attended the IASB Governing Board meeting where the topic was how to deal with renegade board members. It was noted that this is not an issue with this Board.

**BOARD CONCERNS** (Continued)

The Day in Our Village was successful. All Board members participated. It was reported that about 600 people passed by the booth. Holmes, Hatch and Longfellow were the top three schools to register at the booth. The Board will determine what they can volunteer to do at the schools to reward their attendance. It was suggested that Holmes be considered to host a Board meeting next year as part of their reward.

Due to the FAC workload, including an ADA audit, the needs of the administration building, playgrounds and 10-year capital plan review, the Board agreed to increase the membership of FAC to seven members.

It was reported that state funding is less behind than anticipated. Although the district has received more than anticipated at this time, the state problems are not gone. It was suggested that FORC look at the district’s fund balance targets. O’Neill will respond if necessary.

The Board will be receiving the notes from the May meeting with the Collaborations. They were asked to review the notes and send comments to President Barber before his meeting with the Collaboration next week. Barber reported that District 200 and the Village board felt that they needed more communication in order for their boards to be engaged. It was reported that the high school board was having difficulty supporting the initiative because it only affected one of their communities. Interest was expressed in knowing what it would cost to expand the program into River Forest. A formal proposal will be made to District 90.

It was reported that there are no active plans to cancel graduation ceremonies, despite the rumors that are circulating.

A date has not been identified for the group signing of the Youth Interventionist Intergovernmental agreement.

**BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**BOARD RESPONSE  
TO PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Traczyk, moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:43 p.m. Roll call vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:42 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

**OPEN SESSION**

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

Attachments:

Music video

Fast ForWord PowerPoint