

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting June 26, 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 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, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:02 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Libbey Paul, an Oak Park parent and PTO Council co-president, encouraged the Board to focus on a partnership with parents. She reported that two successful forums were run last year, parents were included in the interview process for administrators, and several parents were invited to tour the Shaker Heights IB program. She encouraged the Board's endorsement and collaborative spirit.

ACTION ITEMS

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2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of June 12, 2012

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the June 12, 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 Spatz, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda including the additional bill list presented at the table.

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.2.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

O'Neill reported that a small end of the year payout needed to be included to close out the fiscal year. This bill list needs to be approved along with the data in the board packet. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

New hires were introduced to the Board.

2.2.2 Approval of Administrative Salaries

Traczyk moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the 2012-2013 administrative salaries as presented. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

It was noted that Dr. Roberts' increase is not included in this action.

2.2.3 Approval of Administrative Support Staff Salaries

Sacks moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the 2012-2013 administrative support salaries as presented. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.3.2 Approval of 2012-13 CLIC Renewal (Property & Liability Insurance)

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, renew its membership with Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) for its property and liability insurances for the 2012-13 school year in the total amount of \$298,476 as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated June 12, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.3.3 Approval of End of Year Transfer Resolutions

Felton moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the four formal attached end-of-year transfer resolutions as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated June 26, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

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

2.3.4 Approval Resolution to Adopt Prevailing Wage Rates

Spatz moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Prevailing Wage Rates for the 2012-13 school year as per the attached delineated rates. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.1 Approval of Lighting Board Bid

Traczyk moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, award the lighting board bid for Brooks and Julian Middle Schools to Design Lab of Chicago in the total amount of \$23,361.94 as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated June 12, 2012. Roll call vote.

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

O’Neill reported that the work will be done after the summer programs, but before the opening of school in the fall.

TOPIC REPORTS

TOPIC
REPORTS

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM UPDATE

Lisa Schwartz came to the table. She presented an update on the International Baccalaureate (IB) program that will be implemented at the district’s two middle schools starting in the fall. Schwartz reported that the IB program would enrich the approach to learning using a global perspective, interdisciplinary and project-based learning, and an emphasis on 21st Century skills.

She noted that the IB program does not replace the current curriculum; rather it enhances it, fostering creativity for both students and teachers.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM UPDATE (Continued)

It was noted that the IB program will impact all students and provide a focal point for teacher training that is linked to social-emotional learning, higher expectations and academic success. The program supports 21st Century skills and positive behavior. It emphasizes community service, hands-on projects, and inquiry-based learning. It will help District 97 remain a school district of distinction.

Dr. Roberts shared that the expectations of an IB school are set higher. This program systematizes the framework, and lessens the distance between the master teachers and those aspiring to be master teachers. He noted that the implementation of the IB program does not raise any contractual concerns.

Information about the trip to Shaker Heights, to learn more about the IB program was shared, along with feedback from the participants.

It was noted that teacher buy-in must be viewed and acted upon as a long-term goal. Dr. Roberts shared that training will be budgeted under professional development. He stressed the importance of implementing the program according to IB guidelines and not trying to create the program ourselves.

Timeline –

2012-13 - request for candidacy

2013-14 – candidate phase/request for authorization

2014-15 – candidate phase / verification

2015-16 – fully authorized IB status

There was a discussion about the costs associated with the implementation. Schwartz noted that professional development is the most expensive piece. The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation is scheduled to award the district a grant totaling \$40,000 per year for three years later this summer that will help fund the implementation of the program. The district's financial obligation was also identified. Schwartz explained that training would be implemented in phases with some teachers participating in initial training during the first year. Training during the second year would involve advanced training for the first year participants and initial training for new ones. This process would continue until all middle school staff members are trained. This should be accomplished by the 2015-16 school year.

Schwartz explained that a training plan is being shared. Consideration will be given to summer and weekend trainings in an effort to cut down the expenses and the need for substitutes in classrooms. Dr. Roberts suggested finding a few “special” subs to be used at the middle schools as needed.

Dr. Roberts shared that the high school is discussing what they will need to do after District 97 implements this program. He identified the need to see minority students in higher level classes and girls in math and science.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM UPDATE (Continued)

President Barber acknowledged those in attendance who visited Shaker Heights. The Community Foundation and Sophia Lloyd were also acknowledged for their support and generosity.

Board comments and concerns included noting that rigor requires a buy-in from everyone. A focus on community awareness was recommended. Interest was expressed in knowing how administration plans to implement professional development and if the costs identified for training are accurate. A more structured collaboration and common assessments between the schools were suggested. A review of the highest level IB programs in the country was suggested, and looking for a clear perspective of costs. It was suggested that this could be a 10-year commitment. Concern was expressed about the need to make IB the priority and to stop doing some of the things that are being done in order to give IB the attention it will require.

It was noted that the IB program implementation is not a large investment, rather a fundamental shift in how the district invests in professional development. The district is not changing direction with this recommendation as the first four goals identified in the strategic plan are met by implementing it.

Dr. Roberts concluded this discussion by sharing that this is an opportunity for the teachers to get the fun back into the classroom. He requested an endorsement by the Board to move forward with the plan as presented. He would like the Board to consider a reporting timeline and begin ongoing communication regarding questions they have, and what they are hearing in the community. He reported that a communication plan will be drafted.

IGOV UPDATE

Member Gates explained that IGOV is a group of 13 community leaders who meet bi-monthly and make recommendations to the governing boards. They are looking for ways to maximize the stewardship of the tax dollars. The group's vision is:

“Oak Park will be recognized for intergovernmental partnerships and fiscal responsibility that enhance the quality of life, educational opportunities, health, and green initiatives for a diverse citizenry.”

He reported that there is a lot of desire for the groups to work together, looking for ways to save tax dollars. It was noted that IGOV functions as an advisory board and does not have decision making authority.

EVALUATION OF BOARD GOALS

This discussion was tabled.

HAZARDOUS CROSSINGS

O'Neill explained that Board approval of the Hazardous Crossing List is required annually.

Due to the district's Wellness Policy and changes in state law, it was recommended that the Hazardous Crossing List be reviewed in the next few years. The district was encouraged to share information with parents on safe ways to travel to school. It was noted that the bus contract will be in its third year and it is anticipated that Lakeview will request a two-year extension.

DONATION – WHITTIER PTO

It was noted that the Whittier PTO donated \$10,000 to the school to be used to purchase technology items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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REPORT

Dr. Roberts recently attended MSAN. He found the meeting invigorating, and heard from other school districts that are now considering an IB program for their districts. He recommended that the district look for ways to support the students who are not reading at grade level by third grade, and consider placing the best reading teachers in the first grade classrooms. Duane Meighan and Jonathan Ellwanger were also in attendance at the MSAN meetings.

BOARD CONCERNS

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D97 has been selected to be a KIDS pilot district. Meighan will report on the KIDS initiative in July or August. It was noted that CLAIM pursued this initiative by contacting senators for support. It was suggested that CLAIM be formally acknowledged for their efforts. It was reported that only 20 districts in the state were chosen to participate in KIDS.

It was recommended that the Board set goals for next year and review goal four in the near future.

The Board was reminded that they need to revise the FAC charter for seven members.

Member Spatz attended the kickoff meeting for the Unified Early Childhood Data System for Illinois, which is part of the Illinois Early Learning Council for Data Research and Evaluation Committee. The committee hired a consultant to help design the unified system to tie into the ISBE longitudinal data system.

It was reported that the Cook County Board discussed redistricting and determined that Oak Park will not be changed. It was noted that the Board sent a letter to the state regarding this concern.

BOARD CONCERNS (Continued)

The Board was reminded that the IB program is not a magic bullet and many of the current interventions will need to continue. Dr. Roberts acknowledged the concern and explained that IB would be introduced and evolve slowly from the teacher's perspective. A formal endorsement of the IB program was recommended.

It was reported that the state has been awarded \$22 million for the Race to the Top initiative. The state will be spending some of the money on a climate survey.

Member Gates requested that administration assist Rupa Datta from the CLAIM committee, who is working on the data sharing needs between the high school and District 97. Gates asked that the administration assist her in identifying what data is currently shared, what needs to be shared and identify a goal. Additionally, Datta will need to know what materials are not being shared due to perceived legal barriers. Dr. Roberts reported that the district has been directed by legal to follow the law that requires parents to be notified prior to data being shared. Discussion took place on the law and what might need to be changed. Dr. Roberts will meet with Datta to address her questions.

Interest was expressed in seeing MAP data presented during a future Board meeting.

A status check on the Danielson process was suggested. Interest was expressed in knowing what the budget needs will be to facilitate the evaluation process, how the process will be implemented, and what needs to be done staffing wise to get evaluators in the classroom. Dr. Roberts requested that the Board wait to receive this data until after he completes the training process. Ten minutes of homework for each year of the child's age was recommended daily.

It was noted that the Wall Street Journal printed an article on education yesterday. Copies will be shared with members of the Board.

Members were reminded to support the summer theatre programs. A special musical review was prepared for and presented to Dr. Sharts by the CAST camp on Parent Day.

Member Spatz will touch base with ED-RED regarding a recent article that implies that school districts are sitting on large amounts of money.

President Barber, member Traczyk and Therese O'Neill met with members of the Collaboration for Early Childhood and the Village to consider the possibility of providing services to River Forest. It was determined that some services are already being provided to that community as many of the River Forest children attend Oak Park Day Care facilities. Discussion will take place on ways to better address this need. A kickoff was suggested in the fall. O'Neill and Jasculca will work with the group on implementation, preparation and communication. The group is scheduled to meet again in July.

BOARD CONCERNS (Continued)

Dr. Roberts and Mike Padavic will be meeting with a group of parents this week regarding the WEST40 initiative for positive parenting. The names of the 10 parents who participated in the first phase will be shared with the Board. It was noted that the Illinois Associate of School Boards initially started this training for special education parents.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

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TO PUBLIC
COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:44 p.m. Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ayes: Traczyk, Gates, Felton, Sacks, 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 10:32 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary