

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting December 11, 2012**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

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, Assistant Superintendent of HR and General Counsel Joanne Schochat, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:17 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:00 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:06 p.m. with all Board members in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING – TRUTH-IN TAXATION ON ANNUAL LEVY

PUBLIC HEARING
– TRUTH-IN
TAXATION ON
ANNUAL LEVY

O'Neill reported that a legal notice was posted for the public hearing and reminded the Board of the four steps that were taken to approve the annual levy. She noted that the public hearing was not a requirement, but rather a step that the Board chose to complete to encourage transparency. The Board packets included the documents that will be submitted to Cook County after the levy is approved.

The public was invited to comment on the adoption of the levy. No one in the audience expressed interest in speaking at this time.

2.2.3 Resolution providing for the issue of General Obligation Limited School Bonds, Series 2012, for Working Cash Fund Purposes.

RESOLUTION
PROVIDING FOR
THE ISSUE OF
GENERAL
OBLIGATION
LIMITED SCHOOL
BONDS

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the resolution of intention to avail of the provisions of Article 20 of the School Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and to issue \$3.7M Working Cash Fund Bonds of School District Number 97, Cook County, Illinois and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law.

Liz Hennessy from William Blair and Therese O'Neill came to the table. Hennessy reported that the bond market is very strong with a 47 year low in interest rates, and shared documentation on the recent bond sales in neighboring districts.

Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

SPECIAL REPORTS

SPECIAL
REPORTS

KIDS PILOT UPDATE

Felicia Starks Turner, Regina MacAskill and Meg Ross came to the table. Starks Turner reported that in March, 2010, the state superintendent convened a feasibility committee to explore options for a statewide kindergarten readiness assessment. In 2011-12, the committee researched options and chose the Desired Results Developmental Profile – School Readiness Instrument as a starting point. The 2012-13 school year has 56 districts (5,000 students) statewide participating in a pilot program, including District 97.

Future plans anticipate 10,000 students participating in the program next year and 30,000 in 2014-15, with full implementation statewide during the 2015-16 school year.

The goal of the KIDS assessment program is to promote success of every child, guide professional development, support alignment of early childhood and elementary school systems, document the important role of early childhood programs and enable the State to respond to identified needs.

The assessment program is not a test, but an individual, observational formative assessment based on development research and theory. Evidence is collected three times each year allowing and information to be provided to better address student needs over time. The process will cover five domains with 30 measures.

The domains were identified as; English language development (only if another language is identified), self and social development, self regulation, language and literacy development, and mathematical development. The State recommends three pieces of information on each, totaling 90 pieces of evidence every trimester. For English Language development, teachers need to identify if the student is discovering, exploring, developing, building and integrating. For all other domains, teachers will identify if the students are exploring, developing, building, integrating or applying their skills in each area.

The expectations for assessment administration includes, teachers rating all kindergarten students on all measures three times a year. Assistants, volunteers, and specialists can provide evidence but classroom teachers will make the final rating decisions. Mastery of skills must be exhibited through confident and performance over time in a variety of settings, and assessments will be completed at specific points throughout the year.

The purpose of the assessment is to provide valid and reliable data for measuring student development and progress. It integrates information from other required assessments, and informs instruction using a strengths-based approach; building from what children know and can do.

Meetings were held in September and October focusing on understanding expectations and process, and part of the November institute day was devoted to KIDS. Additionally, ISBE provided iPads to the districts for use by the teachers trained in the program. Starks Turner and MacAskill are acting as coaches for the program, a two-day training

KIDS PILOT UPDATE (Continued)

will be offered for participating teachers and a KIDS Website is available for ongoing support. There is no expectation by the State in regards to the number of teachers trained; however, the District's goal is to have the staff accustomed to using the tools and to be ready when the program is implemented in 2016.

Starks Turner reported that the goal is to train the additional teachers as soon as classes become available. Once the State is ready, a parent piece will be added to the Website that will help keep parents informed about the program. The challenges are not a matter of fitting the program into the curriculum, but how to complete the observational assessments while still teaching.

Ross reported that about eight years ago, the State required districts to add students to the state data system. She noted that the Student Information System (SIS) is growing and becoming a very useful tool. This year, teachers and their credentials will be added to the SIS database. In the future, students will be assigned to teachers with credentials that will be most complimentary to the students' learning experience.

Dr. Roberts noted that the amount of work the teachers are giving to this project is more than anticipated. He shared that because this is a pilot program, the teachers are actually developing the tools, etc. needed for the program to be successful. MacAskill shared that it is a different way of organizing the teachers' time, but there is excitement and the time to share is wonderful. She noted that the program is aligned with the common core.

Board comments included interest in knowing if the district is seeking information from the parents. A form was suggested to gather parent feedback. Interest was expressed in receiving feedback at the end of the training. The Board was informed that Teaching Strategies Gold, a tool used by PKP and early childhood special education was recently introduced with iPad apps.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Julie Mullen came to the table. She shared the history of the technology plan since 2009. She noted that the plan has moved from individual technology labs where children had access once a week, to technology used in all aspects of learning.

She noted that the long term technology goals include increased teacher and student access to mobile devices; reaching a one-to-one ratio of devices to students by 2015, an LCD projector in every classroom by 2013, to fully integrate technology into instruction, and achieve 99 percent uptime.

She noted an increase of three times the number of devices since 2009, with a current focus on mobile devices. She also reported that iPads are being piloted as document cameras and interactive whiteboards.

Mullen noted that the technology equipment survey was distributed to teachers. Teachers indicated that they need more access to technology for themselves and for students, and need more training in the use of equipment they already have. Teachers indicated that they would like to have technology that is more engaging and interactive.

Moving forward, the technology team will focus on better wireless coverage in classrooms and common areas to meet the higher usage requirements move from "coverage" model to a "density" model by adding 100+ wireless access points and Power-Over-Ethernet switches, as needed. Additionally, the need for more bandwidth has been identified, along with additional routers.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE (Continued)

The technology team is currently collaborating with other school districts, participating in research, webcasts and podcasts, as well as working with vendors and exchanging ideas with teachers and parents. A district technology expo is under consideration as a possible fundraiser for the PTOs.

Mullen reported that the newly formed Technology Advisory Committee is comprised of key district employees and citizens who have an interest and expertise in technology. The purpose of the committee is to review the technology plan and help guide the district’s long-term vision for technology.

Board comments included interest in the district considering blended learning and the “teach to One” method. A tour of the Chicago Public Schools was suggested. Interest was expressed in the fact that District 97 is collaborating with District 90 and 200 regarding technology and knowing if the River Forest schools are moving toward a paperless classroom. It was suggested that if the district moves forward with the one-to-one or bring your own devices (BYOD) concepts, it should make sure that the policies regarding the devices are very clear. Concern was expressed about the amount of labor it might take to support a mixture of devices. Interest was expressed in considering a future textbook replacement with an electronic version. Student fees were suggested as a way to bring in additional technology revenue. It was suggested that since the cost of equipment is dropping, perhaps the district could consider increasing the costs associated with professional development. The Education Foundation was recommended for guidance in seeking out sponsors for the technology expo.

Dr. Roberts shared that he sees the advisory committee as an ongoing plan. He reported that Mullen has already identified some needs to run past the committee. Mullen noted that the current laptop lease will end in August; therefore, upgrades will need to be made in June.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

4.1.2 Approval of Minutes of November 27, 2012

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the November 27, 2012 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.2.1 Approval of Bill List

Traczyk moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the Bill List as presented. Roll call vote.

The \$18,000 expense for sick leave penalties was questioned. O’Neill explained that the district is required to pay penalties to TRS when teacher retire and have unused accumulated sick leave.

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

2.2.2 Adoption of Property Tax Levy

Traczyk moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the attached resolutions providing for adoption of the 2012 levy. Roll call vote.

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

2.3.1 Approval of School Improvement Plan

O’Connor moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the School Improvement Plans to be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education by December 14, 2012.

Starks Turner reminded the Board that although these plans are currently up to date, they will continue to change as the schools move through the improvement process. She noted that the other eight schools will submit their plans for approval in January, 2013. It was noted that the plans can be made public once the State makes that determination. The Board expressed interest in receiving updates. Roll call vote.

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

TOPIC REPORTS

TOPIC REPORTS

JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITY

President Barber noted that when the Park District decided not to pursue the joint facility behind the Village Hall, the Village reported that they were almost done preparing the financial report. Barber reported that he is not sure what is delaying this report, but he will contact the interim Village Manager to determine its status.

COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD FOLLOW UP

President Barber led a discussion noting that the Village increased the support for early childhood and approved a resolution supporting the Collaboration for Early Childhood that calls for an intergovernmental agreement supporting early childhood programs and cognitive development.

It was noted that a proportionate share will need to be considered that identifies the district’s share. It was also noted that early childhood is under no one jurisdiction; therefore, it becomes the responsibility of all.

It was suggested that the Collaboration for Early Childhood be invited to the first meeting in January to share details. It was noted that the expectation is that District 200 will also address this issue in early 2013. It was suggested that all involved raise awareness and get other governing bodies to support this initiative. It was noted that the Early Childhood Collaboration is also reaching out to the community of River Forest.

It was reported that the Collaboration has always received donations from foundations, and that with this type of initiative, other foundations may see Oak Park as an opportunity to leverage money and show proof of concept, allowing the Collaboration to flourish and share the concept with others. It was shared that the Collaboration was always intended to be a public/private partnership.

It was noted that much of the Collaborations strategic plan was funded by District 200 and the Village, and prepared by Theresa Howley who is currently heading up the Governor’s Office for Early Childhood Development.

BOARD GOALS TIMELINE

All Administrators Complete Qualified Evaluation Training

Dr. Roberts reported that all administrators have completed the teacher evaluation training, with one intentional exception. He shared that some of them will need additional training to evaluate the administrators below them.

Dr. Roberts noted that he feels a bit guarded about the process. He expressed that the district will be in a better position to evaluate the process later in the school year. He noted that all administrators are adjusting their schedules to make evaluations a top priority. Although principals are responsible for evaluations, the district could consider training others to assist in the process.

1.4 - Professional development – Dr. Roberts reported that he has been working with Lisa Schwartz and Felicia Starks Turner to establish professional development goals for this year. They include common core, IB, diversity, data analysis, technology use, response to intervention and program training. He noted that the U97 classes are raising the bar, and that the district wants all teachers in the middle schools to be trained in IB. Additionally, Dr. Roberts shared an article on Educational Leadership and a chart on the Common Core training status for this year.

Dr. Roberts will report back in February with conclusion of this goal in April.

1.6 - Multiple Compensation Strategies Comparison Report – Member Traczyk reported that the OPTA will begin meetings about compensation strategies in January, 2013, with a report to the Board in late March or early April.

2.1 - Four to Six Public Reports on Areas of Community Interest - Timeline of Reports

Member Felton reminded the Board that they had identified three topics as community interest topics; teacher retention/ evaluation/ feedback, Common Core, and Closing the Achievement Gap. She noted that pension reform was suggested as an additional meeting topic.

A discussion took place on Common Core. It was suggested that a public meeting should include examples on how the district addressed Common Core in the past and how it will be addressed in the future. It was suggested that this topic not be bundled with IB and should be held in one of the middle schools.

It was noted that the topics on evaluation and growth models could impact the budget. It was suggested that the Board host an evening event with author Sandra Alberti, Director of Partnership Initiatives and Professional Development for Student Achievement Partners. It was noted that Common Core may be the easiest event to plan and that it might be better to wait on the teacher evaluation event until after staff completes the process. It was suggested that the discussions on teacher evaluation, retention and teacher feedback and on Common Core be held outside of regular Board meetings and that the discussion on Closing the Achievement Gap be held during a Board meeting in May or June. Interest was expressed in a discussion on growth during the next meeting.

It was suggested that administration consider the three topics and report back in January with a timeline.

3.3 Adopt a Plan for the District's Madison Street Properties – This discussion took place during the Joint facilities discussion.

BENEFITS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Joanne Schochat came to the table. She reported that a committee meeting was held where a discussion took place on the 33 percent increase incurred by the employees this year. Additionally, discussion included ways to not increase the rates substantially in the future. A wellness program, promoting good health and prescription copayments were discussed/considered. The committee is reviewing when the plan design was created. The Bjork Company encouraged the district to promote the HSA option.

Four additional meetings will be held before the end of the school year. An RFP will be prepared to see what the market can offer. It was noted that this broker has been with the district for 33 years, with renewal due in the spring.

DONATION – JULIAN

Member Gates donated several books to the Julian Library. This item will return to the Board on January 8, 2013 for approval.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts thanked Lisa Schwartz for preparing the professional development charts that were presented to the Board this evening.

Dr. Roberts and member O'Connor will be discussing what can be done to increase the quality of evaluations and how to gradually implement the student growth piece. He noted that all four domains need to be considered during evaluations and more observations and discussions need to take place.

The Combine Charities Campaign ended recently.

Jamee Cichosz is coordinating gift giving for the homeless families in the district. District office employees have been given the opportunity to purchase necessities (hats, coats, boots, etc.) for these children.

O'Neill has been looking at the cost of a security system similar to the one used at the high school. Visitors would be asked to swipe their driver's license when entering the schools. Currently, all organizations are doing background checks on volunteers prior to their participation in school activities. This system would perform the background checks automatically. A report will be shared with the Board in the near future.

The Calendar committee needs to meet in early January. It was noted that Trish Carlson interacted with District 200 in the past to coordinate the two calendars.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board discussed the possibility of publishing an end of the year letter to the community. They expressed more interest in posting the letter in the FYI and asked Chris Jасulca to investigate the opportunity.

Member Felton attended the PTO Council holiday gathering which was held last night and was well attended.

Member Felton attended a cyber safety event at Julian. The speaker for the evening was a social worker from the Attorney General's office. Felton commended the administration for organizing this event, and noted that some of the information shared would be available on the Attorney General's Web site and on another Web site that will be conveyed to the middle school principals.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

The Accessibility Committee held its first meeting. The need for this administrative committee was identified during a Facility Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee. The committee decided to meet in the school buildings where they can view the needs first hand. They will hold their second meeting at Beye School.

The final Irving playground meeting was held last night. The meeting was well attended.

The Facilities Advisory committee (FAC) met last Tuesday. They are researching air conditioning options, and reviewing preliminary bid specifications.

The Finance Oversight and Review committee (FORC) will meet tomorrow evening. A new chairperson will be elected at that time. Preliminary thoughts on comparison districts from a finance view point will be considered, and the latest PMA assumptions and charts will be reviewed and presented to the Board in January.

The Heckman presentation is available online through the Collaboration for Early Childhood Web site at www.collab4kids.org.

It was suggested that the Collaboration, District 200, the Village and District 97 consider submitting a joint proposal on community funding for early childhood to the Triple I and/or the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for next year's conferences.

The hard copy of a PowerPoint from the December 7, 2012 ED-RED meeting was shared. President Barber will direct the Board if he wants individual members to complete the ED-RED survey.

IGOV asked members Traczyk and Gates to get a handle on past and present examples of intergovernmental cooperation. They are considering drafting a document to be approved by all the governing boards on the topic of intergovernmental cooperation for the community to see how much has been going on over time.

It was reported that IGOV is entitled to one full double-sided page in the FYI for \$700.

Regarding student achieve growth and proficiency, there will be a performance level adjustment that will be released on October 31, 2013. The next one will be at the 50 percentile not the 80 percentile as before. The 60 to 65 percentile is the college ready identifier. Member O'Connor's suggested that the district determine how to report on this data.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD
RESPONSE TO
PUBLIC
COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary