

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
January 18, 2011**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Present: Barber, Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton (6:42 p.m.), Spatz and Traczyk
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kevin
Anderson, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Communication
Coordinator Chris Jasculca, PMA representative Steve Miller, William Blair
representative Nora Joyce, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board move into executive session.
Roll call vote.

Aye: Gates, Clouser, Reddy, Spatz, Traczyk, and Barber
Nay: None
Absent: Harton

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board move into open session at 6:59 p.m.
Roll call vote.

Aye: Gates, Clouser, Reddy, Spatz, Traczyk, Barber, Harton
Nay: None
Absent: None

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise Sacks, Oak Park resident, asked the Board how the proposed cuts would be affected if the size of the referendum changes.

REFERENDUM
DISCUSSION

REFERENDUM DISCUSSION

Therese O'Neill and Steve Miller came to the table. Therese began by thanking Liz Hennessy and Nora Joyce of William Blair and Company, and Steve Miller of PMA for their assistance.

O'Neill shared a bond pricing comparison sheet along with several other sizing documents.

It was recommended that the Board move away from a working cash bond referendum and consider a limiting rate increase instead. After an in depth discussion, the Board agreed that the limiting rate increase referendum would better meet the current and projected needs of the district. The Board considered what the taxpayers will pay and what kind of schools the district would be able to offer the community. It was shared that traditionally Oak Park has offered a high-quality educational experience and the district wants to continue to offer the kind of educational experience that our community expects.

President Traczyk shared that in light of the state's income tax increase, it is prudent for the district to size the referendum as low as possible.

Dr. Roberts encouraged the Board to be flexible by compromising and working together. He suggested that cuts that do not affect the students in the classroom should still be considered, and reported that the district will continue to look at savings in other areas.

Dr. Roberts suggested that part of the message is not to pay more for the status quo, but to invest in technology and programs like foreign language and early childhood.

After discussion, Miller recommended the limiting rate option, suggesting that it would put the district in a better financial position in years to come. The Board was poled and the majority agreed to the limiting rate referendum.

Sizing was the next topic of discussion. The Board agreed to use a three digit rate on the ballot. O'Neill and the consultants were directed to double check the figures and come back with the proper wording for the referendum.

The Board took a break at 9:05 p.m., and returned to the table at 9:32 p.m.

The election packet prepared by Chapman and Cutler was presented identifying the limiting rate of 2.600 percent, increasing the limiting rate from \$41,049,718 to \$47,946,660.

ADOPTION OF WORDING FOR RESOLUTION

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board adopt the resolution to increase the limiting rate to 2.600 percent. Roll call vote.

Aye: Barber, Harton, Gates, Clouser, Reddy, Spatz, Traczyk,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

President Traczyk explained that the Board rescinded the original recommendation for a working cash bond resolution. The state's decision to pay the district what it is owed removed the risk to the school district. With the reduced risk, the Board saw the need to move from the working cash bond to a more viable alternative.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Beye Elementary School auditorium, located at 230 N. Cuyler.

Board President

Board Secretary