

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
January 25, 2011**

This meeting was held in the Beye School auditorium located at 230 N. Cuyler.

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barber, Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton, Spatz and Traczyk
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Human Resources Director Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Kevin Anderson, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic (7:15 p.m.), Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, Principals Vicki Sharts and Tom Sindelar, Data Analyst Harla Hutchinson and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

SPECIAL REPORTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Harton moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:33 p.m.
Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Clouser, Reddy, Barber, Spatz, Harton, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:58 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Spatz, Harton, Clouser, Barber, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

President Traczyk invited Sue Tresselt, president of the OPTA, to the table. Ms. Tresselt read a statement on behalf of the Oak Park Teacher's Association announcing that the members of the association voted to accept a pay freeze for the 2011-2012 school year. Tresselt reported that 439 members participated in the process, with 72 percent voting to accept the pay freeze and 28 percent voting in opposition. Tresselt announced that this decision will save the district more than \$1 million. Dr. Roberts expressed appreciation on behalf of the district, sharing that the decision made by the OPTA highlights their dedication to the children of Oak Park.

SPECIAL REPORTS

BRAVO PRESENTATION

The BRAVO students presented a 15 minute program of Beauty and the Beast that won first place at the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta, Georgia.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE REPORT

Kevin Anderson, Vicki Sharts, Tom Sindelar and Harla Hutchinson presented the middle school discipline report. The team reported that since the beginning of the school year only five percent of the middle school children have been involved in disciplinary action. They recognized PBIS and the video cameras as two of the possible reasons for the decline. The numbers were broken down to indicate that 33 African American students, five white students and three other ethnicity students were disciplined for fighting; six African American students, four white students and two students from other ethnic backgrounds were disciplined for bullying; and nine African American students, five white students and one student from another ethnic background were disciplined for disrespectful behavior.

The data indicated that 80 percent of the students who were disciplined last year have not caused problems this year. The data also indicated that the majority of the children needing discipline were students who were in the district last year.

The need for a policy on cyberbullying was discussed. It was suggested that the principals and the assistant principals share their expertise on this matter with the policy committee.

For the next report, Board members expressed interest in;

- Seeing the data identified by grade level and gender
- Seeing if the referrals have increased/decreased
- Hearing about the environment in the hallways
- Knowing if there will be a question in a survey for parents to consider a dress code
- Seeing data on teacher feedback
- Knowing if there is a paradigm shift in out-of-school suspensions
- Hearing about student feedback regarding discipline
- Seeing data on the lower end offences
- See the impact on discipline after the first, second and third offence
- Hearing about some of the interventions currently in use
- Identifying the underlying causes
- Can we consider a teacher mentoring program for these students

Additionally, it was suggested that the team report percentages when the end changes. When reporting years it might be helpful to report the absolute and percentage as the absolute, which make it easier to make comparisons.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3.1.1 Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2011

Clouser moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the January 11, 2011 meeting with revisions. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Clouser, Barber, Reddy, Harton, Spatz, Gates, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented in the Board packet. Roll call vote.

- 2.2.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports
- 2.3.1 Personnel Action as presented

Ayes: Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton, Spatz, Barber, and Traczyk
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Motion passed.

2.3.2 Budget Authority Resolution

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, authorize the Superintendent’s of Schools to commence preparation of the 2011-12 fiscal year budget. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Reddy, Clouser, Harton, Spatz, Gates, and Traczyk
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Motion passed.

3.3.2 Approval of Superintendent’s Goals

Gates moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Superintendent’s goals as outlined at the January 11, 2011 Board meeting for the 2010-2011 school year. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Clouser, Reddy, Harton, Spatz, Barber, and Traczyk
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Motion passed.

TOPIC REVIEW

2011/2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Trish Carlson reported that the revised calendar draft reflects the changes requested by the Board. The district will hold two institute days in August and will celebrate Veterans Day on the actual holiday. The original draft recommended closing schools on election day; that option has been removed from this draft. This calendar will return to the Board for approval during the February 8 meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that he met with the Pioneering for Healthy Living grant committee. The group is attempting to take advantage of a YMCA grant that will focus on child obesity. Dr. Roberts reported that statistics show that 63 percent of adults and 40 percent of children are considered overweight. The group will be meeting in Washington DC on February 22 and 23.

Dr. Roberts met with the OPTA and TA leadership and reported that they are functioning in a positive way. He also met with Dr. Fagan and attended an evaluation training at the North Cook County Office of Education.

Last Friday, Dr. Roberts visited Shaker Heights, Ohio and observed their International Baccalaureate program. He was very pleased with what he saw and will provide the Board with a report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

Dr. Roberts met with John Williams and Bert Patania from the Oak Park Township Youth Center regarding the Face-It program. Williams and Patania will present the Board with information about this program during the February 8 meeting.

Dr. Roberts suggested that the Board consider holding a special meeting on March 1. He explained that holding the approval of the capital project bids until the March 8 meeting would limit the time available for special projects. The Board agreed to meet on March 1 at 7:30 p.m.

BOARD CONCERNS

The superintendent's evaluation process was discussed.- It was suggested that his contract may require a review at this time. It was suggested that a discussion in the near future might be useful as well as input from Board members who will be leaving the Board in April. Vice President Barber and member Clouser will have the evaluation forms ready for approval at the February 8 meeting.

The Board was reminded that ED-RED will be hosting their legislative dinner on January 31, 2011 and reservations can be accepted through 2 p.m. tomorrow. Members Spatz and Gates expressed interest in attending.

The Board members were asked if they might have interest in submitting a presenter's application for the joint conference. Member Spatz volunteered to complete the documents in conjunction with the Early Childhood Collaboration before the February 18 deadline. The Board accepted his offer.

It was reported that both middle school boys' basketball teams won recently. An invitation to attend the Vex Robotics competition on February 5 was extended to the Board.

It was agreed that the working cash bond policy/procedures recently drafted by the policy committee will no longer be necessary since the Board agreed to pursue a limiting rate referendum and not a working cash bond referendum.

It was suggested that some of the dashboard policies be raised with FORC.

It was suggested that a letter of thanks be extended to the OPTA for their acceptance of a pay freeze for 2011-2012 school year.

The need to discuss the ombudsman position and LAC was shared. President Traczyk asked the board secretary to add these items to the March 1 agenda for discussion.

It was reported that Chris Jasculca is in the process of soliciting feedback on the referendum FAQ sheet and will disseminate the data as soon as the process has been completed.

A brief discussion took place regarding sharing data with board candidates as well as introducing them to cabinet member.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary