

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
March 22, 2011**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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, Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, Curriculum Coordinator Lisa Schwartz, Principals John Hodge, Tom Sindelar, Angela Dolezal and Suzie Hackmiller, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

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

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

SPECIAL REPORTS

SPECIAL REPORTS

STUDENT PERFORMANCE - ACADEMIC

Curriculum Coordinator Lisa Schwartz introduced the presentation by explaining that its purpose was to introduce the Board to the tools used by the principals and teachers to track each student's growth and for planning teaching strategies focused on the individual student's needs.

Kevin Anderson, Tom Sindelar, John Hodge, Angela Dolezal and Suzie Hackmiller also participated in the presentation, sharing information on DIBELS, MAP, RIT scores, grade grouping, WIKIs and data walls. The team expressed the importance of tracking students' growth and explained that tests such as DIBELS only take a few minutes per student and supply the staff with a wealth of knowledge. It was reported that principals meet regularly with the staff and use this data to create individualized lesson plans.

The importance of communicating this data with parents/guardians was discussed. Schwartz mentioned that she did presentations about the MAP data at several recent PTO meetings. It was

reported that this data will also be shared during parent teacher conferences. It was suggested that mini videos explaining DIBELS/MAP scores be posted on the district Web site. The report was followed by a discussion with Board members making comments and asking questions. Questions around how math can be used along with language arts in testing for the early grades were asked. Also, given that students have different gateways to their learning, it was asked whether math concepts and other gateways are being considered in developing early learning experiences for students. In addition, a Board member questioned if all the schools are raising the academic achievement bar and interest was expressed in understanding the district's expectations regarding academic achievement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shawna-Seaton-George, Oak Park resident, spoke in support of foreign language instruction. She asked the Board to consider partial immersion programs throughout the district.

Alyssa Kelly, Oak Park resident, requested that the Board formally investigate the 504 process. She explained that she experienced road blocks and bullying from the district when requesting support for her son.

ACTION ITEMS

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2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of March 1, 2011

Harton moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the special March 1, 2011 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2011

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the March 8, 2011 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.2.1 Consent Agenda

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

2.2.2 Notice of Non-Renewal for Educational Support Personnel (RIF)

Reddy moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve and adopt resolution "A" authorizing notice of termination of employment at the end of the school year and non-renewal of employment in the 2011-2012 school year to the educational support employees listed in the Board packet. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.2.3 Resolution for Honorable Reassignment/Reduction in Pay

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the resolution for honorable reassignment/reduction in pay. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.1 Approval of Policy

Member Clouser reported that, during the past few days, the Board of Education and the superintendent have received feedback from community members regarding the proposed revisions to the district's school and classroom visits policy. On behalf of the policy committee, Clouser requested the Board's permission to postpone the adoption of the policy until the Board meeting on April 12, 2011. The additional time would give the committee the opportunity to review the feedback and determine if additional changes need to be made to ensure that the district develops an effective policy that:

- Provides people with appropriate access to the school buildings
- Protects the safety of students and staff
- Avoids disruption to instructional time and the educational process
- Enables the district to maintain a strong relationship with parents/guardians

This item was tabled until the April 12, 2011 Board meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that he met with a group of community representatives regarding the Head Start program. He explained that the program may need to relocate; therefore, he will continue to work with the village, CEDA and the early childhood program to help Head Start find a new location.

Dr. Roberts shared that this evening's presentation on the use of data is an indication that the staff and administrators are working hard to differentiate.

A substance abuse forum was held last night. Dr. Roberts was impressed with the caring and dedicated volunteers working in this area. He will bring back more information on the FACE-IT program.

The Discipline Review committee has almost completed its review of the district's discipline procedures. Procedures are being updated with advice from counsel. Some of the changes may have policy implications and will be shared with the policy committee.

Dr. Roberts expressed the need for the district to consider an International Baccalaureate program. He shared that the program is consistent with the District 97 philosophy and pushes for enrichment for all. He added that the program is successful in schools around the world, and can impact the district and the community. With the Board's permission, Dr. Roberts would like to propose a field trip to Shaker Heights, Ohio on April 25, 2011 to view the program. Village officials, Board members, Superintendent Steve Isoye of District 200, and some District 97 administration would visit the k-12 school system to get a first hand view of the program in action.

BOARD
CONCERNS

BOARD CONCERNS

Interest in knowing more about the International Baccalaureate program was expressed. Dr. Roberts was asked to let the Board know where it can find additional information about the program. Additionally, concern was expressed regarding the cost of the field trip. It was suggested that the usual sensitivity regarding costs be considered.

Concern was expressed regarding how instructional time is used during the last week of school. To support this concern, it was reported that the middle schools will be holding career days during the last week of school. All schools within the district were encouraged to consider engaging students in this way. Dr. Roberts spoke to all administrators regarding the need for instruction through the end of the school year.

Excitement was expressed regarding the time dedicated to the discussion of student performance this evening and the progress being made in this area.

A policy committee member explained that the committee schedules a first reading of a policy two weeks prior to its approval so that feedback from the administration and community can be received and considered.

Appreciation was expressed from the family of Kathy Wiedow for everyone's thoughts and prayers following her passing.

It was suggested that the district be clear when dealing with drug and alcohol peer pressure.

Member Gates expressed concern that now is not the time to create the ombudsman position. He would be happy to revisit the idea at a later time.

The art department staff was acknowledged for the wonderful art show.

Member Gates will be attending the ED-RED meeting on pension reform. This meeting will be held on Friday, March 25, 2011.

Members Spatz and Reddy will be attending the Data First Workshop hosted by the Illinois Association of School Boards on Saturday, March 26, 2011. Board candidates O'Connor and Sacks will also be in attendance.

Member Spatz attended an ED-RED presentation on school consolidation. He explained that there may be a 12-18 month study that will explore the potential benefits of consolidation. He explained that a bill may be passed that would encourage districts to consider consolidation, but would not make consolidation mandatory.

A referendum forum will be held at Lincoln School tomorrow evening and at Holmes School on Thursday. Both forums will begin at 7 p.m.

Early voting is available through March 31, 2011. A grace period is also available with the election to be held on April 5, 2011.

Member Spatz will not be in attendance during the April 12, 2011 Board meeting.

The annual Staszak dinner to support the Oak Park Education Foundation will be held on April 30, 2011. Tickets are available.

Member Harton expressed appreciation to President Traczyk and PTO Council President Carollina Song for the fine job they are doing at leading the forums.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

President Traczyk will discuss Ms. Kelly's concerns with her personally.

BOARD RESPONSE
TO PUBLIC
COMMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:29 p.m. Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:16 p.m. Roll call vote.

OPEN SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary