

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
May 3, 2011**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 7:31 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, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carollina Song, Oak Park resident and PTO Council president, expressed her thanks to the Board. She acknowledged Bob Spatz for his wisdom and knowledge, thanked everyone for the support on the referendum, acknowledged the shared sacrifice by staff and commended Dr. Roberts and his vision. Song shared that the passing of the referendum came at a difficult time. She is looking forward to the mark of the new board and expressed her enthusiasm regarding the future vision in technology and the Gifted/Talented program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jassen Strokosch, Oak Park resident, expressed thanks to the Board for their work, and acknowledged the countless hours that the Board members dedicate to the district. He thanked members Harton and Clouser for their dedication and Sacks and O'Connor for stepping up and running for the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Certification of Official Results of April 5, 2011 School Board Election

Gates moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education, District 97, certify the official results of the April 5, 2011 school board election as reported by the Cook County Clerk's office, naming Peter Traczyk, Bob Spatz, Denise Sacks and James O'Connor as elected to four-year terms as members of the Board of Education of School District 97. Roll call vote.

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

2.1.2 Certification of Election to Make Limiting Rate Increase Effective for Prior (2010) Levy Year

Reddy moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the attached certification of election to make the limiting rate increase effective for the prior (2010) levy year. Roll call vote.

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

2.5.3 Proclamation of Newly Elected Board Members

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the proclamation noting that Peter Traczyk, Bob Spatz, Denise Sacks and James O'Connor have been duly elected members to the District 97 Board of Education. Roll call vote.

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

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

President Traczyk invited Sacks and O'Connor to the table. Sacks, O'Connor, Traczyk and Spatz repeated the oath of office for a four-year term.

SWEARING IN OF
NEW BOARD
MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT OF OLD BOARD

Traczyk thanked Clouser and Harton for their time on the board, recognizing Harton for serving two terms. He invited them to continue their support of the district in other ways.

ADJOURNMENT OF
OLD BOARD

ROLL CALL OF NEWLY SEATED BOARD

Present: Barber, Reddy, Spatz, Sacks, O'Connor, Gates and Traczyk
Absent: None

ROLL CALL

ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Election of Temporary President and Secretary

Reddy moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, nominate Peter Traczyk as temporary President and Sheryl Marinier as temporary Secretary during the reorganization of officers. Roll call vote.

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

4.2 Election of Board President

Traczyk moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, nominate Peter Barber as President. Roll call vote.

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

Election of Board Vice President

Barber moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, nominate Bob Spatz as Vice President. Roll call vote.

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

Election of Board Secretary

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, nominate Sheryl Marinier as Secretary. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

President Barber thanked all as did Spatz and Marinier.

5.1 Adoption of Resolutions on Outgoing Board Members

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the resolutions read in recognition of outgoing Board members, Michelle Harton and Rance Clouser. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

TOPIC REPORTS

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CURRICULUM ADOPTION

Lisa Schwartz and two world language teachers introduced the Board to the recommended world language program, Bien Dit! (French) and Realidades (Spanish). They reported that they were impressed with the technology components, the organization of materials and the cultural connections that the two programs offered. They explained that the content of the old textbooks is very outdated and the books are falling apart. They recommended the adoption of level 1 and 2 for French and level 1 for Spanish. A cost of \$61,950 has been negotiated for an eight-year license that includes Ebooks. The purchase would include class sets of books, and Etext for student's use at home. Teacher editions and supplemental materials would be included at no cost to the district. Schwartz recommended using a \$12,000 balance in this year's budget and allocate the remainder out of the 2011/12 budget. The Board was assured that there will be adequate numbers of teachers for general and special education to support this program. Dr. Roberts shared that this program will compliment his vision for the foreign language program. Additionally, it was reported that this program will be rigorous enough for the students who already have a background with a foreign language.

The team reported that the three districts, D200, D90 and D97 held an inservice last January. The goal is to create a completely linear curriculum. Each school district is using different tools to accomplish the same goal. They reported that students are entering the program at different levels. Some students are tested to determine their level of knowledge and some students receive additional support as needed. Quite often students have the ability to comprehend the language, but struggle with writing skills.

A Board member recommended that the complete order be placed now, allowing the business office to separate the expenses between budgets as needed.

Dr. Roberts reported that Dawn Deaton will return on May 24 to update the Board on the revised FLES plan.

DISCUSSION ON COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

President Barber thanked everyone for their input. It was noted that a development work team of Spatz and Gates was added for the Legislative Advisory Committee. The Collaborative Communication Committee started out as a Board committee, however, discussion approximately three months ago led to changing it to an administrative assignment. There was discussion about changing the assignment of the policy committee, but in the end, the Board decided to keep it as a Board committee.

It was agreed that all Board committees will have a formal charge drafted in the near future.

Member Spatz added clarity to the Ed-Red assignments, by explaining that he is on the executive board, which is different than the representatives. Spatz continued by reporting that he is also on the West Cook division of the IASB executive board. Spatz is currently on the task group for the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care and Education, but will be stepping down next year.

DISCUSSION ON BOARD RETREAT

President Barber reported that the retreat, which will be partially open to the public, will be held on May 31 from 7-10 p.m. Jeff Cohn from IASB will be the facilitator. Board member effectiveness and the Board's priorities will be the focus of this meeting. He asked members to share ideas that they think need to be discussed. He used buckets as the visual to identify priorities. He asked them to start thinking about three areas 1) clean-up areas, identified as carryovers from the old Board or things that still need to be resolved, like the LAC. 2) Operational, identified as things that need to be done on a regular basis to run the district. 3) Visions, questioning what do we see as our vision? Where does that go? Dr. Roberts was asked to bring back his vision that he shared with the Board a few months ago.

DISCUSSION ON BOARD CALENDAR DATES

Marinier introduced the proposed calendar. President Barber asked the Board to typically keep Tuesday evenings opened. A request was made to change the November 22 meeting date to November 29.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that COG met this morning and President Barber was in attendance. Drug awareness, the tutoring program at Holmes and the Face It programs were discussed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

The principals were given a presentation on building brain mass. After the presentation, every principal expressed interest in initiating the program. Duane Meighan is researching the initiation of this program into the district. He will finalize a proposal in the next week or so.

BOARD CONCERNS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was reported that the math night at Irving was terrific. Approximately 23-25 teachers volunteered their time, as well as parents/guardians.

BOARD CONCERNS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board secretary was asked to notify the Board chairs about the new Board committee assignments.

Senate bill #1744 is working its way to approval. This bill may eliminate days less than five hours long. The legislative session may be done by May 31 with everything set by that time.

During the Ed-Red executive committee meeting this morning, it was rumored that the state may prorate the unpaid bills to the schools.

Policy number 2260 will be brought back to the Board for approval at the next meeting with a one word change.

BOARD CONCERNS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – (Continued)

The new Board member training is scheduled for May 11. Other Board members are welcome to attend.

Board members were reminded to send questions they might have on materials in the Board packets to Dr. Roberts. He will forward the requests to the appropriate team member for response.

It was reported that a discussion on the School Resource Officers (SRO) will take place during the next Board meeting.

Items discussed at the COG meeting included plans for a Library Palooza, noting that Oak Park is the first public library with a mobile unit. The Park District is looking at options regarding the Ridgeland Commons. The Village SEIU union agreed to a two-year wage freeze. Caution was shared regarding legislative redistricting. House representative numbers are being questioned, considering more representatives.

Discussion during the Ed-Red meeting this week included property tax legislation.

Member Gates requested Board member response to the documents he sent out earlier in the week.

The Education Foundation extended appreciation for the district’s financial support this year, reporting that it was a record breaking fundraiser year.

A meeting of the newly elected officials was held. All are eager to publicly interact with each other. Future discussions could include shared maintenance staff, etc.

The Board and audience were reminded that they are invited to participate in the Fun Run, followed by the Ethnic Festival on Saturday during the day and the WIZ at Brooks in the evening.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

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TO PUBLIC
COMMENT**

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:05 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Gates, Spatz, Barber, Reddy, Sacks and O’Connor
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 9:51 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary