

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
June 14, 2011**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Present: Barber, Sacks, O'Connor, Reddy, Gates, Spatz and Traczyk (6:35 p.m.)
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Human Resources Director Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kevin Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic (9:07 p.m.), Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reddy moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:31 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:06 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

SPECIAL REPORTS

SPECIAL REPORTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD ACHIEVEMENT TASK FORCE UPDATE

Duane Meighan came to the table with members of the task force. The primary focus of the task force is to examine the program holistically and to make recommended changes to enhance the learning experiences of the district's kindergarten students. The team, which is comprised of administrators, teachers, and key stakeholders, was developed to examine differentiated learning activities and methods for assessing and monitoring student progress and communication with parents regarding student progress. Based on the information collected through research, inquiry and study of the program, the task force will determine the procedures and processes for incoming kindergartners, as well as how to effectively support kindergarten transition to first grade. Two sub-committees have been developed - one to examine research based kindergarten readiness tests and a committee to examine and develop a brochure that highlights curriculum expectations for the district's kindergarten students.

The Kindergarten Readiness Test (KRT) was recommended as a good tool to use when assessing the children. This data will be helpful on many levels, including ensuring that every child is ready for kindergarten and helping principals create balanced classrooms. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-SE), which focuses on the social and emotional behavior levels of children, will also be used.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ACHIEVEMENT TASK FORCE UPDATE - (Continued)

Next steps include providing the community with information about the screenings; naming the process "Oak Park Sneak Peak;" determining the timing of assessments, logistics of scheduling children, organization of the screening system; and identifying who will administer and score the assessments, and who will collect, report and store data. Training will be addressed.

Assessments will be held in early August.

The Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) will be supported by the Sneak Peak process. A sample brochure was shared, and will be used as a tool for the parents to track the progress of their child throughout the year. Members of the committee shared that the use of KIDS puts the district in a good position to become a leader in the state.

Board questions and suggestions included a concern regarding the handling of data for the older pre-k students. Interest was expressed in knowing if KIDS will feature the same assessments; and in knowing what will happen if a student is not school ready and if the district will take advantage of the Parks k-2 testing. A backup plan was suggested for late starting children. Concern was expressed regarding interventions, suggesting that the plans be detailed. It was suggested that many of the at-risk children will not be available during the day for assessment, and the parents of the more prepared students may attempt to acquire the prime slots, noting it is critical that the district accommodate the struggling child. The team was asked to keep in mind all minorities during assessments. Saturday screenings were suggested.

PLANITGREEN PRESENTATION

Gary Cuneen introduced the comprehensive sustainability plan for Oak Park and River Forest. He reported that priorities and goals for the committee were identified by distribution of a community survey, forums and community meetings. After the plan was created, it was vetted through many committees and forums. Cuneen reported that the goals are community aggregate goals and the idea behind them is to give the community a sense of where it stands. The plan is at a stage where it is seeking endorsement. Additionally, grant funding could become available for community partners through the plan. It was noted that the green initiative has been an ongoing issue with FAC and that it will report on the electrical and gas savings in the future.

Board questions and concerns included interest in community input regarding the green initiative. Bike to school, walk to school programs, community gardens, and composting were suggested ways that the school district could support this initiative. Concern was expressed that some of the goals are very prescriptive.

The Board agreed to support the program and will officially endorse it during the June 28 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2011

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the May 10, 2011 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes of May 24, 2011

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the May 24, 2011 meeting as presented. Roll call vote.

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

Consent Agenda

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

2.2.2 Approval of Administrator Benefits

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the administrator benefits as presented. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.1 Appointment of School Treasurer

Traczyk moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, appoint Therese M. O'Neill as its School Treasurer for the period of time July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 per the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools dated June 14, 2011. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.2 Resolution to Adopt Prevailing Wage Rates

Reddy moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Prevailing Wage Rate for the 2011-12 school year as per the attached delineated rates. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.3 Approval of Medical, Dental and Life Insurance Rates

Sacks moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the recommendation of the District 97 Insurance Committee, supported by the district's insurance consultant, The Bjork Group, to increase the medical rates for the 2011-12 school year by 6 percent and the dental and life insurance by 3 percent. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.4 Uphold Suspension of Students 20110614 and 20110615

Reddy moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, uphold the suspension of students 20110614 and 20110615. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

TOPIC REPORTS

TOPIC REPORTS

ANNUAL END OF THE YEAR TRANSFER OF INTEREST REPORT

O'Neill explained that typically three resolutions are presented at this time. Annually, at the end of the year, the district transfers interest to the appropriate funds. It was reported that the future interest rates should increase.

MULCH BID

O'Neill explained that the district seeks mulch bids on an annual basis. O'Neill reported that three mulch bids were received and McGinty will be offered the contract. This item will return to the Board for approval during the next meeting. Interest was expressed in knowing how many cubic yards of mulch were purchased.

PRESENTATION OF CLIC INSURANCE RENEWAL

O'Neill reported that the property and liability insurance decreased in every category, with an anticipated savings of \$17,000. She shared that the cooperative has been in service for 29 years and the district has been members for 20 years. This item will return to the Board for approval on June 28.

IDEA GRANT

O'Neill reported that Mike Padavic indicated that this was informational for the Board and that the grant is comparable to last year. She shared that Dr. Roberts suggested a blanket list of grants for approval in the future.

POLICY REVIEW

Jasulca came to the table to introduce the draft of the discipline policy. He reported that the original 10 policies were reviewed along with the guidelines. The policies were combined and rewritten, ensuring that the district is providing a safe environment for the students. Michelle Todd from Hodges, Loizzi can be available to attend on June 28 meeting if necessary and is available to answer questions prior to that time.

Board questions and concerns included a suggestion to consider a procedure for integrating a student back into class after a suspension. Dr. Roberts reported that the discipline committee meets tomorrow and can make this an item of discussion.

POLICY REVIEW – (Continued)

Jasculca reported that an anti-bullying policy will be created as a separate policy. The policy committee hopes to have a draft of that policy ready for the June 28 meeting.

Discussion took place regarding cyberbullying and when the school can take action on such behavior. Concern was expressed regarding the parent advisory committee and the extended roll the policy defines for it. Legal counsel will be sought for clarity on this issue. Concern was expressed to ensure that this policy would allow the district to pilot Face-It. The Board was reminded that parent committees make recommendations, they do not dictate guidelines. This report will come back for a second first reading on June 28.

FAST FORWARD UPDATED

This item will be covered in the superintendent's report.

SRO/CROSSING GUARDS

Dr. Roberts reported that the district has been asked to pay for the crossing guards again next year. The village is requesting one additional supervisor with a CPI increase for all employees. Dr. Roberts believes that this service is more of a public safety service than an educational service, but understands that the village is experiencing difficult times financially as well. He wrote to Tom Barwin regarding the SROs and stated that the district does not have an agreement to support the SROs and therefore will not pay for that service. Discussion took place regarding the support of the crossing guards with the understanding that the village coordinate the service and the district only support the program financially. Dr. Roberts reported that the district has a good working relationship with the village and will try to initiate a combined services committee during the next year.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING

Board members were asked to reserve July 12 and 13 for a presentation from the Pioneering Healthy Communities initiative. Jan Pate will be contacted and details will be shared when available.

FACE-IT DISCUSSION

Jasculca came to the table. Dr. Roberts reported that the Board previously expressed interest in revisiting this topic. He spoke to the Township representative for Face-It and to the district's legal counsel. He reported that since parents are required to be involved in the program, they would be required to sign a release form that would allow the village and schools to share data. An intergovernmental agreement could also be an option. The program and state law need to be reviewed to determine if the program could be initiated in the same format as the program currently running in Florida. The program has begun piloting through the River Forest Community Center. D200 has also begun a partnership with this program.

Board questions and concerns included interest in knowing if Florida has something written in their school board policy. After a brief conversation, it was suggested that the program be mentioned within the district procedures and advertised elsewhere. It was suggested that the procedure would need to be clear as to what happens if the program is not completed. Concern was expressed for the child who might benefit from the program and does not have parental support. Interest was expressed in knowing the number of the high school children who participated in the program this year. The Board would appreciate an outline on how this will be implemented and how it will be reported to the Board. A second release form was suggested for the sharing of data when a parent initiates the process and signs the student up for the program.

Dr. Roberts requested Board approval to move forward with this pilot with a report next year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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REPORT

Dr. Roberts met with Dawn Deaton and Laura Tarrill to discuss World Language. He explained that the district needs a new, effective and sustainable model that values instruction at the early grades and challenges the status quo. Dr. Roberts proposed a program that will consider the role of common standards, build understanding of effective foreign language teaching, communicate expectations to students, staff and parents, look at technological aides and clearly identify the measures of success that the district can rely on to determine if it is on the right track. Deaton will present a plan at the next meeting that will be a starting point for the future. In January, 2012, a plan will be submitted to the Board for the 2012-13 school year.

A problem in the server room on Monday morning caused the system to be offline for a period of time. The problem has been corrected and everything is working fine.

Extensive training took place on June 13 in preparation for the Fast ForWord pilot. Some additional training will need to take place. Students in grades one through seven have been identified for participation. Statistical data will be compiled and shared with the Board in September or October. If the program proves to be successful, Dr. Roberts would like the program initiated in the second trimester. The \$6,000 training costs are being covered by special education funds.

Reorganization of administrative positions have been reviewed. The curriculum coordinators positions have been defined. Assistant principals at Julian and Brooks will be redefined with two of the positions having special tasks that include monitoring small groups of students in need. Dave Dotson is excited to get started in this position. Dr. Sharts has begun the interview process for the Julian position.

Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) met this week. They discussed roof warranties and the conditions at Julian and Brooks entrances. Dr. Roberts will be meeting with the architects tomorrow to consider options and will report to the Board during the June 28 meeting.

BOARD CONCERNS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD CONCERNS
ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Barber asked the Board members that, in the future, when submitting questions regarding board packet materials to send them to Dr. Roberts; he will, in turn, forward the questions to the appropriate staff member who will answer them at the Board table during the next public meeting. Additionally, he asked the Board to submit their interests for future discussion items directly to him via e-mail.

Member Reddy attended a forum on diversity and housing. She will forward the presentation to the Board members and suggested that the Board consider a discussion on this topic in the future.

Members O'Connor and Sacks attended the Data First Workshop this week and found it very helpful. O'Connor suggested that the Board consider inviting the ISBE to present the program to the district's administrative team, and offered to find public funding to support the training. The Board expressed interest in this suggestion and suggested that the district invite Districts 200 and 90 to participate as well. Additionally, O'Connor read some of the FORC recommendations to the Board and encouraged the district to consider their ideas.

It was suggested that when the district interview for World Language staff, they consider teachers who speak more than one language. Interest was expressed in knowing what the community's priorities would be regarding the value of a world language program.

It was reported that the Julian PTO is interested in addressing the landscaping concerns at the middle school. Dr. Sharts has detailed designs and it was reported that the school community expressed interest in being involved in this process.

The Early Childhood Collaboration Task Force will be meeting this week.

BOARD CONCERNS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Concern was expressed that the administration building needs to be renovated or the office relocated.

Senate Bill 7 was signed on Monday. It was suggested that the Board hear a report on the bill before the end of the summer to determine how it will impact Oak Park. It was suggested that this topic wait until the district receives an update from legal counsel.

It was suggested that the communications committee discuss the idea of videotaping Board meetings.

Concern was expressed that the district be cautious not to end up with heterogeneous classrooms due to foreign language assignments.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 10:50 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session at 11:29 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. at the district office located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois at 7 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary