

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
June 28, 2011**

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

Present: Barber, Sacks, Gates, Spatz, O'Connor and Traczyk
Absent: Reddy
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, Director of Policy, Planning and Communication Chris Jасulca, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:04 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

SPECIAL REPORTS

SPECIAL REPORTS

IRVING SCHOOLYARD UPDATE

After sharing renditions of the Irving schoolyard plans that were drawn to scale with actual products identified, Jassen Strokosch reported that the architect is working on identifying the financial needs so that fundraising can commence. Strokosch reported that the next steps are to present the plan to as many organizations as possible in an effort to secure funds. In September, the committee will present a community presentation and focus on fundraising.

Strokosch reported that the budget identified for the three phase projects is relatively accurate. Strokosch explained that water retention will be discussed with a civil engineer and the final recommendation will be included in the construction drawings.

Board questions and concerns included a suggestion to consider what the financial split would be between the district, village and fundraising. Matching opportunities were also suggested. Strokosch suggested that a significant amount will be raised from outside entities.

Dr. Roberts noted that nothing is accomplished without big dreams. The design fits very well with the healthy community vision. He recommended contacting Jan Pate at the YMCA and asking for her support in seeking grants.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LANDSCAPING

Dr. Roberts met with representatives from the middle school PTOs last week. He reported that the Julian PTO has been working on a plan for the exterior of the school. He discussed the needs with the architect and shared the results of that meeting with the Board. Permeable pavers were recommended as a temporary solution for the muddy areas. Low curbing with mulch and greenery were also discussed. The district is looking for something at a relatively low cost, making the area more presentable. Dr. Roberts reported that something needs to be done at both middle schools in preparation for the opening of school in the fall. He recommended that the project be completed with a change order. This would give the PTOs a year to consider additional options. O'Neill reported that it could be funded through DSEB or the current Operations and Maintenance budget. She explained that the law allows the district to issue a change order within a capital project. The O & M account has the funds available to do the work.

Board questions and comments included a concern regarding areas for students at Brooks to stand. Although a concern was shared regarding moving too far away from the original plan, Dr. Roberts explained that the original design caused concern regarding traffic control and would need to be reviewed.

Dr. Roberts reported that this project will be planned as a maintenance issue and move forward, taking into consideration that the plan is temporary and will not infringe on the future plans. The Board will see this on the bill list during the July 26 meeting.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET REPORT

PRELIMINARY
BUDGET REPORT

O'Neill reported that the unaudited figures indicate that the 2010-11 budget was under spent by three percent; totaling \$2 million. She reported that this is the third year in a row that the budget has been under spent. She shared that the budget was not inflated, and commended the district staff for their conservative spending.

Dr. Roberts shared that as the district continues to cut spending, it will become more difficult. He reported that the dollars from the referendum will be earmarked for instruction. Member Spatz reported that the revenue side will be \$1 million or more below what is anticipated.

Board comments included a request to see the cost analysis for keeping all students in Oak Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of May 31, 2011

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the March 31, 2011 meeting with revisions. Roll call vote.

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

2.1.2 Consent Agenda

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as revised at the table. Roll call vote.

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

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

New staff members were introduced.

2.4.1 Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Interest

Traczyk moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the formal attached resolution authorizing the transfer of interest income from the Operations and Maintenance, Debt Service and Working Cash Funds, in the approximate amount of \$40,389.37 to its Education Fund per the attached memorandum dated June 14, 2011. Roll call vote.

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

SWEARING IN OF
NEW BOARD
MEMBERS

2.4.2 Approval of Mulch Bid

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, award a contract to McGinty Brothers in the amount of \$11,000 for district-wide mulch work, per the attached memorandum dated June 14, 2011. Roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT OF
OLD BOARD

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

ROLL CALL

2.4.3 Approval of CLIC Insurance Renewals

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve its 2011-12 renewal with the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) at a premium of \$256,487 per the memorandum dated June 14, 2011. Roll call vote.

ACTION ITEMS

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

2.4.4 Adoption of Policy

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the new student discipline policy. Roll call vote.

Jasculca and Michelle Todd came to the table. Jasculca explained that the policy adheres to the laws covered within the 10 prior discipline policies.

Dr. Roberts reported that the district received a memo today from a parent who defined the policy as negative. He reported that the district will continue to support the good behavior of the students, but needs a policy that defines how to handle discipline issues. Dr. Roberts was commended for identifying that there were problems with the past discipline policy and moved quickly to correct them.

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

2.4.5 Support of the PlanItGreen Sustainability Plan for Oak Park & River Forest

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the formal attached resolution supporting the PlanItGreen Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.6 Acceptance of the IDEA Grant

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the submission of the application for the following Grants for 2011- 2012 school year by District 97 as an independent special education administrative entity: IDEA Part B Flow-Through - \$1,297,562.00 and IDEA Preschool Flow-Through - \$50,587.00. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.7 Approval of Continued Support of the Early Childhood Collaboration

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, renew its two-year commitment with the Early Childhood Collaboration to provide \$35,000 per annum for coordination of outreach, recruitment, program development and assessment efforts for all programs, offering publicly funded preschool in Oak Park, and \$15,000 in general operating support. Roll call vote.

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

TOPIC REPORTS**POLICY REVIEW**

Jasculca and attorney Michelle Todd returned to the table to introduce the first reading of the policy for aggressive behavior, bullying and harassment. Jasculca reported that several questions had been listed and answered in the cover memo for this first reading within the board packet. Todd explained that when the conduct of students off campus carries over into the school day and creates or threatens to create a substantial disruption to the school environment, the district has the authority to impose discipline. If there is not a significant impact on the school, administration can get involved by communicating with parents, referring the student to counseling or contacting the police. Todd explained that complaints must be taken very seriously and must be investigated. The district will run an inservice for the Education Council prior to the school beginning to explain this. Dr. Roberts will send a communication to all district parents at the start of the school year to help them understand where and how the district can impose discipline. This policy will return to the Board for approval on July 26.

FLES PLAN

Dawn Deaton came to the table. Dr. Roberts explained that the current curriculum does not support the way the district wants to teach children a foreign language. After vetting plans through a consultant, it was determined that the district is not where it would need to be to successfully introduce an additional foreign language. Dr. Roberts recommended that the district change the time students are exposed to a foreign language to four times a week for 20 minutes each (total 80 minutes) per week. The teachers will ensure that the time spent is quality time and will integrate curriculum with deeper language. This would require two additional FTE staff members. The next steps include conducting and writing a comprehensive review and assessment of the three current in-curricular language programs, revising all foreign language curricula, aligning the program to learning standards, exploring new models and resources in foreign language acquisition to enhance student achievement and write a comprehensive plan for expanding the current foreign language study options for all students in the district. Phase one would address the kindergarten through second graders and phase two would require the team returning to the district with a plan to improve the kindergarten through eighth grade program.

Board comments and concerns included a suggestion to consider hiring new staff who can speak multiple foreign languages. It was suggested that community input be sought when an additional language is considered. Interest was expressed in hearing the plan for assessments and the cost that would be associated with them. The team was commended for their use of outside expertise. This topic will return to the Board in January for review.

SELF INSURANCE RENEWAL

Carlson reported that the workman's compensation bill will be lowered for the coming year. She complimented staff for being cautious and limiting injuries. This will return for action at the next meeting.

RETREAT FOLLOW UP

President Barber referred to the May 31 Board minutes that listed the Board priorities for the future. Clean up items included CLAIM/LAC, Face-It, SRO/Crossing Guards, Strategic Plan and Facility Planning. Operational priorities included analysis of compensation models, a decision making dashboard, communication with the community, referendum and beyond, and shared services with I-Gov. The vision of the Board was identified as early childhood, outdoor learning environments, data driven decisions, monitoring, innovation and keeping the Oak Park children in our community (therapeutic day school, alternative school). Dr. Roberts reported that he spoke to Dr. Isoye from District 200 regarding shared services.

RETREAT FOLLOW UP – (Continued)

Board comments and suggestions included a suggestion to highlight some of the items of focus, and report to the taxing bodies. A Web site location dedicated to referendum data was suggested, as well as a section dedicated to achievement. Caution was expressed when considering digital Board meetings. It was suggested that a list of current and potentially shared services be created. It was suggested that the facilities issue be addressed as a priority. It was suggested that the Board consider which items will increase student achievement the most.

A task force was suggested to review compensation models. A timeline was suggested for this topic. President Barber will work with Jasulca and Dr. Roberts on a plan for communications.

A discussion on facilities took place. The Board was in agreement that this item must be a priority. It was suggested that Jamil Bou Saab attend the next Board meeting.

The Board agreed to focus on two goal, communication and facilities, with a discussion on compensation in the fall.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Dr. Roberts presented an update on the strategic plan, recommending that the district tweak the plan for the coming year by adding a vision and identifying areas of focus. He recommended that the Board/district streamline the plan, making it more understandable. He recommended that the district look at the vision, areas of emphasis and goals that the administration can supply. He hopes that every staff member will ask themselves how their actions are in line with the strategic plan. Dr. Roberts suggested that the emphasis be limited to a few areas. He encouraged the district to consider what needs to be done to ensure that the district has a great teacher in front of every student. Dr. Roberts ask the Board to share their comments and suggestions, noting that he would like to act on this in the near future.

The process behind the original strategic plan was explained and discussion took place. Board comments and suggestions included that administrators and teachers meet to identify goals, suggesting that the key is to overlap them.

LAC DISCUSSION

This item was tabled until July 26.

COMMITTEE CHARGES

This item was tabled until July 26.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The demographics study projects an increase of 500 students in the next five years. Growth will be highest at the middle school level and kindergarten. Whittier may drop enrollment and Irving and Holmes will show the most growth. The consultant reported that the buildings are old, but in very good shape. He also reported that the staff members know the buildings and that Oak Park is a wonderful multicultural mix.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Dr. Roberts attended the MSAN meeting on Sunday and Monday. He will order a copy of a technology book "Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology" for the administrators and Board members.

BOARD CONCERNS

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Members Sacks and O'Connor attended a three-day ISBE training.

Member Barber attended a one-day session for new board presidents, and will attend the upcoming COG meeting.

A special meeting of the Board will be held at the district office on July 13. It will include a presentation on the Pioneering Healthy Communities Committee.

The Data-First training was discussed. It was suggested that the Board consider holding this training in the fall as several administrators would not be able to attend until then.

BOARD RESPONSE
TO PUBLIC
COMMENT

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 10:39 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, Spatz, Gates, Barber, and O'Connor
Nays: None
Absent: Reddy
Also present: Dr. Roberts

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:52 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. at the district office located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary