

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting - July 26, 2011**

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Barber, Gates, Sacks, Reddy, Spatz, and O'Connor

Absent: Traczyk

Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Human Resources Director Trish Carlson, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk

Also present: Dr. Roberts, Therese O'Neill, Trish Carlson and Sheryl Marinier

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Reddy moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk

Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was moved forward on the agenda to allow for the introduction of new staff prior to the special reports.

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, 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: Gates, Spatz, Sacks, O'Connor, Reddy, and Barber

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk

Motion passed.

New hires were introduced to the Board.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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DEMOGRAPHICS AND FACILITY USE STUDY

Facilities Advisory Committee Chairman Jamil Bau Saab and Steve Larson from Ehler & Associates were invited to the table. Larson reported that the enrollment study indicates that the district's enrollment is estimated to increase by approximately 500 students in the next five years. The reasons for the increase included a constant positive cohort enrollment, the all-day kindergarten program, the economy and the success of the referendum.

Larson reported that all of the school buildings are in good condition and are of adequate size for the current enrollment. Dr. Roberts reported that he was surprised at the potential growth and suggested that the district start thinking about future plans to accommodate the additional students. Larson recommends reviewing the data annually to assure its accuracy, reminding the Board that the Capacity to Enrollment report indicated that there is very little available space.

Board comments and questions included a suggestion that Dr. Roberts communicate these findings with the high school.

PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE 2011-12 BUDGET

Therese O'Neill came to the table to present the 2011-12 tentative budget. She began by reviewing the 2010-11 actual figures. O'Neill reported that the district received \$1,354,401 more than anticipated and spent less than budgeted, saving \$1,521,543. It was reported that all promises made by the Board during the referendum had been kept.

O'Neill shared the tentative 2011-12 budget, reminding the Board that all employees are taking a voluntary pay freeze, saving the district approximately \$1 million. She reminded the Board of necessary staff additions, as well as building, technology and miscellaneous needs. Dr. Roberts reported that funds were budgeted to invest in the

Fast ForWord program should the data support this program. With the proposed additions, the budget will need to be increased by \$477,401. It was noted that this is less than a one percent increase.

O'Neill explained the timeline that the district typically follows to approve the annual budget, noting that the Board will have three opportunities to make changes to the budget before it is officially adopted.

A backup generator was discussed to support the servers during power outages. It was noted that as the district moves to voice over IP, a generator will be necessary or phones will be lost during outages as well.

Board comments and suggestions included commending O'Neill and the staff for under spending and to administration for keeping their promises. Everyone was encouraged to think about how increases in budget amounts support student learning and prepare them for college, and to be mindful of the need for evaluators. Additionally, it was suggested that the district be prepared to put a program in place for providing teachers with feedback and giving them the student achievement data they need. It was suggested that the district communicate that last year's plan was successful and that commitments were kept.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

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2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2011

Reddy moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the June 14, 2011 meeting as presented. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk

Motion passed.

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes of June 28, 2011

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the June 28, 2011 meeting as presented. Roll call vote.

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

Abstained: Reddy

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk

Motion passed.

2.1.3 Approval of Minutes of July 13, 2011

Reddy moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the July 13, 2011 meeting as presented. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Sacks, O'Connor, and Spatz

Abstained: Gates, Barber

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk

Motion passed.

2.4.1 Adoption of Tentative 2011-12 Budget

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt its tentative 2011-12 budget in the total amount of \$78,610,028, thus placing such tentative budget on display for a minimum of 30 days and call for a public hearing of said budget on September 13, 2011. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk

Motion passed.

2.4.2 Adoption of Policy

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the Aggressive Behavior, Bullying and Harassment policy. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk

Motion passed.

2.4.3 Approval of SELF Insurance Renewal

Sacks moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the 2011-2012 renewal with School Employees Loss Fund (SELF) as presented on June 28, 2011. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Traczyk

Motion passed.

2.4.4 Approval of Crossing Guard Agreement

Dr. Roberts reported that the contract was received and reviewed. It is being revised and will come to the Board for approval in August.

TOPIC REPORTS

PMA RESOLUTION

O’Neill reported that the resolution in place was approved in 2007. The resolution that will be presented to the Board for approval on August 23 will include updated signatories. A concern was shared regarding O’Neill signing the resolution as it requires the signature of the Assistant Superintendent and the Treasurer and O’Neill holds both titles. The issue was resolved with O’Neill agreeing to sign the resolution twice, once for each title.

RECERTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS CROSSINGS

O’Neill reported that this is an annual certification of the hazardous crossings within the district that needs to be approved by the Board. O’Neill reported that there is a formula used to create this data. The data is reported to the Illinois State Board of Education and reviewed annually. This data is used to place crossing guards and identify bus routes.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Dr. Roberts suggested that the district identify a clear vision and focus on a limited list of objectives. He clarified the roles of the Board and administration. Dr. Roberts requested feedback from the Board as to what direction the administrative team should take.

President Barber reminded the Board that this is an opportune time to review plans and reengage the Board, staff, and community. He noted that this is a very good time to update the community on the district’s goals and vision. Dr. Roberts explained that his intent was to create a document that led the Board into discussion. He presented a plan that posed three questions/goals: What is student achievement? What resources does the district need to have? How do we communicate this and engage others to participate and support?

Board comments and suggestions included considering the success of the student, not student achievement. Additional comments and questions included what it means to be a highly successful district and how the district should measure itself locally, nationally and globally. Concern was expressed regarding the need for a clear vision. Wording for the revised plan was suggested, such as, an outstanding teacher in every classroom. The Board was reminded that the district has many offerings that some take for granted, such as P.I.N.G, BRAVO and CAST.

Members Gates and Sacks volunteered to create a rough draft of the vision and agreed to prepare something for the next meeting. The topic will be revisited in September, October and January.

ROLL CALL

Board goals will be shared prior to the August meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The committee charges were discussed and reviewed. It was suggested that the charges be modified to follow a standard format. These modifications should include noting that Board members and staff members are not voting members of the committees and that the chairperson is always a community member. Each committee charge should begin with a heading.

C.L.A.I.M. – Member Spatz explained the history of the Legislative Advocacy Committee and explained the process that led to the proposed Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention, and Monitoring (C.L.A.I.M.). Discussion on the feasibility of this committee took place, as well as the type of people who would be successful on this committee. It was recommended that the committee consist of 13 to 17 voting members.

Members Gates and O'Connor expressed interest in pursuing the idea of this committee. Member Spatz agreed to step down.

Board comments and suggestions included some wordsmithing of the first paragraph.

This topic will return to the Board for discussion during the August meeting.

FAC/FORC – The FAC and FORC charges were discussed and changes were suggested. More frequent, one page reports to the Board were recommended.

POLICY – It was suggested that the Director of Policy, Planning and Communications be identified as a member of this committee. Additional changes were suggested.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts updated the Board on the status of the Julian landscaping. He reported that the architects recommend turf where flooding occurs. He reported that the PTO did not like the idea of turf. A temporary fix using pavers will be installed in September. Dr. Roberts will meet with the PTO representatives when school begins and work out a long-term plan.

Dr. Roberts reported that the administrative retreat this year will include teacher leaders. The agenda will include colors training, developing effective team norms, and communications and professional conversations. In addition, Matt Hanser from the IEA will speak to the group about effective negotiations. Dr. Roberts invited the Board to send a couple members to attend Hanser's presentation.

BOARD CONCERNS

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Member Gates attended the ISBE assessment workshop on July 11. A brief discussion took place regarding assessments. It was reported that the first assessment will be in the fall of 2014, followed by the spring of 2015.

Julie Bernstein was recognized for sharing research on Hemingway.

It was determined that the Board does not need to vote on the length of the first and last day of school.

It was reported that Charlotte Danielson will be speaking locally on February 6, 2012.

The Oak Park River Forest Day Nursery was not approved for funding. It was suggested that letters be sent on their behalf. Member Spatz will draft a letter on behalf of the Board.

The Data First Workshop will be held on October 22. Sixty seats are available. Dr. Roberts will reach out to Districts 90 and 200 to determine if they are interested in participating.

It was reported that the CAST summer plays were wonderful.

President Barber will have a draft of the Board goals for the next meeting.

Community forums were discussed. It was suggested that the Board host one in the fall and focus on budget and the direction of the strategic plan. President Barber will work with Marinier and Jasculca to identify a date for a one and a half to two hour event.

President Barber met with Dee Millard from District 200 who suggested a joint meeting in January. It was suggested that District 97 host the meeting.

President Barber attended the July COG meeting where discussion took place regarding digital efforts. It was suggested that the technology directors from the governing boards discuss what they are currently doing. Using that information, the governing boards may be able to find ways to save money through commonalities. A technology commission was suggested. Jasculca and Mac will attend this meeting. It was reported that the library is looking into converting one of their facilities into a multimedia facility.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD RESPONSE
TO PUBLIC
COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. at the district office located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary