

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting - October 11, 2011**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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Paula Andries, Oak Park resident and the District 97 Hephzibah coordinator, invited the Board to the Hephzibah Open House on October 25.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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**Consent Agenda**

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

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**2.2.2 Acceptance of FY 2010-2011 Audit**

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the Fiscal Year 2011 audit as prepared by its auditing firm, McGladrey & Pullen, and forward it to the Illinois State Board of Education by its identified due date of October 15, 2011. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**2.2.3 Resolution declaring the intention to avail of the provisions of Article 20 of the School Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and to issue \$5.2M Working Cash Fund Bonds of School District Number 97, Cook County, Illinois, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law.**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the resolution declaring the intention to avail of the provisions of Article 20 of the School Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and to issue \$5.2M Working Cash Fund Bonds of School District Number 97, Cook County, Illinois, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**2.3.1 Resolution Appointing Legal Counsel in Connection with Tax Rate Objections**

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the resolution appointing legal counsel in connection with tax rate objections. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**TOPIC REPORTS**

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**UPDATE ON SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING**

Felicia Starks-Turner and Harla Hutchinson came to the table. They reported that the district participated in an all-day school improvement planning workshop at the West40 office. Timelines have been established and West40 will provide guidance. During the meeting, teams highlighted areas of pride at their individual schools. The ISAT data was analyzed, reviewing the top three and bottom three sub-groups. West40 prepared their own analysis of the data, identifying students who demonstrate gains, stick or slide status from year to year

Action plans were mapped out, and two or three goals were identified for each sub-group. Additional meetings are scheduled to continue work on the school improvement plans and to identify benchmarks, with Board approval of the plans scheduled in November.

## UPDATE ON SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

It was noted that school improvement teams are made up of six to eight people, including the principal, teachers, and social workers. Parents are included later in the process.

Board comments and questions included a suggestion that data be sent to the district for analysis for categories that lack district level reports. Interest was expressed in seeing more MAP test analysis, and in knowing if there is appropriate standardization across the district in reading assessment. It was suggested that the district coordinate the tools used for assessment. Interest was expressed in knowing how age effects the data. It was suggested that the district should be careful not to overgeneralize regarding age. Interest was expressed in knowing if there are certain areas where students with IEPs stand out more than others.

It was reported that the School Improvement Plans will return to the Board for additional discussion in early November, and will be approved in late November.

## NEW MEMBER PROCESS

Member Sacks reported that the deadline to submit an application to the Board for the open seat is Friday, October 14, 2011. October 18, 21, 29 and November 1 were identified as possible date for interviews. It was agreed that the Board should plan on meeting early on October 25 for this purpose.

## POLICY – FIRST READING

Chris Jasculca introduced policies 1613 – Student Supervision and Welfare, 2270 – Religion in the Curriculum, 2461 – Recording of IEP Team Meetings, 3120.04 – Assignment of Substitutes, 3215 – Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff, 3430.04 – Military Leave, 4215 – Use of Tobacco by Support Staff, 5512 – Use of Tobacco, 7434 – Use of Tobacco on School Premises, 7530.01V2 – Staff Use of Wireless Communication Devices, 7540 – Computer Technology and Networks, 7540.03 – Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use of Safety, 7540.04 – Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use of Safety, 8550 – Competitive Food Sales, 9150 – School/Classroom Visits, and 9160 Public Attendance at School Events for a first reading, clarifying the changes made to the existing policy. A few revisions were suggested.

## COMPETITIVE FOOD SALES

Therese O'Neill came to the table. She explained that the two middle schools have a waiver to sell food for fundraising purposes that is set to expire at the end of this school year. The district has the ability to renew this waiver if it chooses.

## COMPETATIVE FOOD SALES (Continued)

President Barber will reach out to the school PTO presidents and Wellness Council and inform them that the Board discussed this issue and invites them to share their opinions. He will suggest that they consider options that support the district's wellness guidelines.

Board comments and questions included an expressed interest in knowing how many meals are impacted, the cost associated with the items in question, and if the sales affect the high school's supply of meals. It was suggested that the district should be setting an example, and interest in the stakeholders' opinions was expressed. It was suggested that the waiver not be renewed as the district has a wellness policy that needs to be followed.

It was agreed to table this policy until further notice. The length of the waiver was questioned. The procedures will be shared with the Board, and it was suggested that the district reach out to press, informing them that no decision will be made at the next meeting.

## KINDERGARTEN IPAD INITIATIVE

Duane Meighan, Cao Mac and Lorrie Applebey came to the table. Meighan explained that the kindergarten iPad initiative, which is part of the balanced literacy program, assists with advancing student literacy skills, broadening student inquiry and increasing technological skills and understanding. The applications are identified by skill level, making it easy for teachers to assign the appropriate application to meet each student's needs. Numerous applications have been added to the devices, supporting other areas such as math, core curriculum, science, social studies, and world language. Students will use these tools approximately 40 to 60 minutes per week. They explained the initial training process and the process used for communicating between teachers and the teacher leader.

The vision of this initiative is for all kindergarten classrooms to use this tool with fidelity; and to ensure that all students have equal access and that all teachers have the support they need with professional development to enhance their teaching strategies and standards based applications. It was noted that this initiative must be aligned with the common core standards. The possibility of using this tool in other grade levels will be discussed at a later time.

Mac explained that the \$180,000 investment was made through cost savings in the student laptop lease.

KINDERGARTEN IPAD INITIATIVE (Continued)

Board comments and questions included interest in knowing what the downside of this technology might be.

IASB DISCUSSION

Member Gates shared data showing the individual Board members opinions on the upcoming IASB elections. The Board discussed the items in questions to determine consensus. Member Gates will represent the Board during the upcoming conference and vote accordingly.

<b>Resolution Topics</b>	<b>Jim G.</b>	<b>Bob S.</b>	<b>Denise S.</b>	<b>Peter T.</b>	<b>Peter B.</b>	<b>Jim O.</b>	<b>BOARD POSITION</b>
1. Modify GSA to include all Pre-K		<b>YES</b>			<b>YES</b>		<b>OPPOSE</b>
2. Categorical reductions prospective only	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>
3. Residential facility reimbursement						<b>YES</b>	<b>OPPOSE</b>
4. Debt service extension base	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>
5. EVA adjustments-timely notice	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>
6. Property income for schools		<b>YES</b>				<b>YES</b>	<b>OPPOSE</b>
7. Legislative pay account ability	<b>YES</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>
8. School board member compensation				<b>YES</b>			<b>OPPOSE</b>
9. Transportation – sharing vehicles						<b>YES</b>	<b>OPPOSE</b>
10. Salary caps for school employees							<b>OPPOSE</b>
11. Amend NCLB	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES?</b>		<b>SUPPORT</b>
12. Modify GSA to include all Pre-K		<b>YES</b>		<b>YES</b>			<b>OPPOSE</b>
13. State aid payments	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>
14. Amend Prevailing Wage Act				<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO POSITION</b>
15. District reorganization				<b>YES</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>OPPOSE</b>
16. Standardized test procedures	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>SUPPORT</b>
17. Student assessment	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>SUPPORT</b>
18. IEP out of grade level assessment	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>
19. Student academic placement	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>
20. Budget stability for school districts	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>
21. Board rights			<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>

**Please note:** To access the specific details of these IASB proposed resolutions, follow this online protocol:

1. Search for **iasb.com**
2. Click on **iasb.com** (Illinois Association of School Boards home page)
3. Scroll down on iasb.com home page and click on **2011 Report to Membership Resolutions**
4. Scroll down to **Resolutions** (pages 10-20)

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Robert reported that the Insurance Committee may need to hold a meeting prior to the replacement of member Reddy. Member Traczyk volunteered to attend the November 14 meeting and represent the Board.

Members Gates, Reddy and Chris Jасulca were recognized for their service on the Policy Committee.

Dr. Roberts participated in a League of Women Voters' presentation today. He talked about a variety of topics. Member Sacks was also in attendance.

"A Celebration of Poems" was shared, noting that numerous poems written by Oak Park students were included in the publication.

Dr. Roberts participated in the "Walk Around Town" green initiative with Mark Fenton and community members. He will attend the Greentown Conference at the Unity Temple tomorrow.

Dr. Roberts noted that the administrative guidelines need to be reviewed and revised. This is an extensive project and will not be completed until next year.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOARD CONCERNS**

The Illinois Early Childhood Council met yesterday. A grant was approved providing money for birth to eight-year old programs throughout the state. Pilot schools will need to comply in 2012 and all other schools will be required to comply in 2013. Member Spatz will draft a letter to the state that expresses District 97's interest in participating in the pilot program.

Members Spatz, Sacks and Gates attended the IASB fall dinner meeting. It was reported that the state will require mandatory school board training.

Committee assignments will be determined after the new Board member has been seated. If a need arises during the interim, President Barber should be contacted.

Member O'Connor will share an article on the "No Child Left Behind" act with the Board.

## **BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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TO PUBLIC  
COMMENT

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. at the district office located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

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Board President

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Board Secretary