

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois
February 9, 2010**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Present: Gates, Spatz, Clouser, Reddy, Harton, Barber, and Traczyk
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Constance R. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kevin Anderson, Communications Coordinator Chris Jасulca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spatz moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:05 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:13 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Clouser, Reddy, Barber, Spatz, and Traczyk
Nays: Harton
Motion passed.

1.1.0 Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2010

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2010

Harton moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the January 26, 2010 meeting with revisions.

Roll call vote.

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

Public Comment

Kimberly Werner, an Oak Park resident and parent, asked for clarification on Board policies. She was specifically interested in understanding if adopted policies are followed as written or if there is room for interpretation. She referred to policy 9150 which outlines parents ability to observe their child's classroom, and she compared the District policy against Illinois Public Act 96-657. Werner shared a situation where a principal told her that parents need to be accompanied by an administrator when visiting. She was concerned that this practice limits the time when parents can have access to their child's classroom. She noted one incident when a parent with an appointment was turned away at the last minute because the administrator was called away.

Action Items

ACTION ITEMS

3.1.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

President Traczyk read the items on the consent agenda. Clouser moved, seconded by Harton, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda.

3.1.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

3.2.1 Personnel Action as presented

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Clouser, Harton, Gates, Barber, Spatz, Reddy, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Motion passed.

3.2.2 Approval of SEIU Memorandums of Understanding

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education of Oak Park approve the SEIU Memorandums of Understanding as presented.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Spatz, Clouser, Barber, Harton, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Motion passed.

3.3.1 Adoption of Board Meeting Management Protocol

Reddy moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park adopt the Board Meeting Management Protocol document.

A few minor corrections were identified. A brief discussion took place regarding the use of straw polls. A second discussion took place regarding the language used to limit the continuation of executive sessions following open session meetings.

President Traczyk will meet with the Board secretary to determine implementation of this protocol.

3.3.1 Adoption of Board Meeting Management Protocol (Continued)

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Gates, Clouser, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk

Nays: Barber

Motion passed.

District Activity

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

TECHNOLOGY PLAN REVIEW: EMPOWERING 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

Dr. Kevin Anderson presented a report focused on the changing nature of teaching and learning, and the efforts made to meet the needs of 21st Century learners. An overview of recommended learning conditions was provided from the ISTE National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers. Also included was an explanation of the process followed in addressing the District's learning environment.

During the past 18 months, several core subject teachers from across the District have participated as Digital Leaders. Under the leadership of Susan Oxnevad, a teacher leader for instructional technology, these teachers have worked to develop new techniques for engaging students and staff in the digital world.

Therese O'Neill, Sue Tresselt, Susan Oxnevad, Angela Dolezal and Sheri Lenzo were invited to participate in the discussion. They all spoke highly of the progress made by the participating teachers and commended their level of enthusiasm.

Board comments and suggestions included a suggestion that the District review the teacher evaluation documents and ensure they meet the needs of the additional technology requirements. It was suggested that the District be cognizant of the structures put in place to support the staff in reaching the expected goal.

Interest was expressed in seeing how the District will move through the Apple chart displayed during the presentation. Interest in how the staff will be supported, measuring the outcome of the project, and how the progress will be assessed was also shared. Several members expressed interest in knowing what will be taken off the plates of the administrators and teachers for this initiative to be successful. Concern was expressed over how the District will deal with staff members who choose to be unsupportive. Interest was also expressed in seeing how the District will use technology for teaching math to help meet AYP.

Additionally, interest was expressed in identifying the top five priorities. It was suggested that, in moving forward, the District consider preparing a baseline to use as reference.

It was suggested that the students should be made part of the collaboration process by asking them for feedback regarding what they use technology for, how they like to learn, what is the best technology to learn.

TECHNOLOGY PLAN REVIEW: EMPOWERING 21ST CENTURY LEARNING (Continued)

It was suggested that the PowerPoint for this presentation be made available for viewing on the District Web site.

This presentation was devoted to the evolving philosophy of 21 Century teaching methodologies. The second half of the technology plan report which is scheduled for March 23, will focus on the essential tools needed to meet these goals.

SUMMER 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS REVIEW

Therese O'Neill reported that 18 vendors attended the pre-bid meeting, and out of those, 11 vendors submitted bids. O'Neill is recommending that the District award this project to the same vendor that did the life safety work last summer. She reported that the Facilities Advisory Committee will review the proposals tomorrow. If the committee is in concert with her decision, the bid will be brought to the Board for approval on February 23.

POLICIES – FIRST READING

This item was tabled until the February 23 meeting.

Superintendent's Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

The three latest FOIA requests have been completed. Chris Jasculca reviewed and redacted 424 emails (compiled by Cao Mac) and 18 additional documents taking approximately 50 hours of time. A brief discussion took place regarding FOIA requests. It was suggested that members of the SIT committee be informed that their data and correspondence could be requested through a FOIA. Additionally, it was suggested that District e-mails be supplied to the SIT members in the future, and an explanation of FOIA be added into the SIT handbook. One Board member suggested keeping a log of FOIA requests and the time involved to fulfill them. It was also suggested that a clerical position might be necessary in the future to keep up with these requests.

Dr. Collins met with Linda Francis and Karen Su regarding their comments at the last Board meeting. One of the major areas of concern was minority hiring. In order to most effectively communicate the District's plan and obtain feedback from parents, Trish Carlson and Dr. Collins will attend the next Diversity Leadership Network meeting, scheduled for March 2 at 7 p.m.

On February 26, Dr. Collins will meet with Trish Carlson, Therese O'Neill, Peter Traczyk and the District's attorney regarding crossing guards and school resource officers. One of the major goals of this meeting will be to determine the District's legal capability regarding the current crossing guard contracts.

The District is on schedule with the staffing process that was presented to the Board last fall.

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Dr. Collins is conducting discussions with Cabinet members and Cathy Hamilton, principal of Lincoln School, regarding space issues at Lincoln. Several options including portable classroom units and adjustments to the media center have been considered. The administration is researching which options are most cost effective and investigating the possibility of using ARRA money to assist in cost coverage. A copy of the letter sent to the Lincoln community was distributed to the Board. The target for presentation to the Board is at the February 23 meeting.

The Board had shown interest in presenting during this year's joint annual conference. The Board was reminded that the deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, February 19 at 5 p.m. Members Barber and Reddy expressed interest in pursuing this initiative.

The Board secretary met with two vendors this week regarding the replacement of the Board room microphones. She is waiting on one proposal and will be prepared to update the Board in the near future.

Dr. Collins will be attending the AASA conference February 10 through 12.

Board Concerns / Announcements

BOARD CONCERNS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board members were asked to submit their recommendations for the February 22 agenda items to President Traczyk by next Monday. He will prepare the agenda for the evening with the assistance of member Spatz.

Dr. Collins and the administrators were recognized for the successful State of the District address.

A recommendation was made to include a statement on the FOIA portion of the District Web site. The statement should make it clear that there are costs incurred by the District when a FOIA request is fulfilled, and some minor costs can be incurred by the person making the request.

District 200 Citizens Council will be meeting on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Member Reddy will attend in place of member Spatz.

It was suggested that NEOLA be asked to evaluate policy 9150 in reference to Illinois Act 96-657.

A letter was received from Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas. Therese O'Neill will look into the request.

Interest was shown regarding the hiring timeline and the possibility of posting the timeline on the Web site.

Board Concerns / Announcements (Continued)

An updated Collaboration directory and a brochure announcing the February 20 symposium were distributed.

ED-RED directors met last week. The Illinois Superintendent of Schools raised the idea of district consolidation.

Board Response to Public Comment

BOARD RESPONSE TO
PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Collin will meet with Kimberly Werner to address her concern. President Traczyk clarified that policies should be implemented as written unless someone comes to the Board and asks for a modification.

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A special Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 22, 2010 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street to discuss the District's finances and the potential need for a referendum.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary