

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Cook County, Oak Park, Illinois
May 11, 2010**

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

Present: Clouser, Spatz, Reddy, Harton (6:15 p.m.), Barber (6:05 p.m.), and Traczyk
Absent: Gates
Also Present: Superintendent Constance R. Collins, Director of Human Resources Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kevin Anderson, Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, Alternative Education / Grant Administrator Felicia Starks-Turner, Teacher Harla Hutchinson, Student Achievement Data Analyst Mark Pickus, Curriculum Coordinator Kelly Baird, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:02 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Reddy moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:40 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

The open session reconvened at 7 p.m.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF APRIL
27, 2010

1.1.0 Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2010

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 27, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Calhoun, Oak Park resident and Brooks teacher, addressed the Board regarding academic language.

Action Items

4.1.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education approve the Bill List and Related reports as presented. Roll call vote.

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

New staff members in attendance were introduced.

4.3.1 Action on Student Discipline

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education approve the following resolution.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, Cook County, IL, did through the Board on May 6, 2010, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student No. 20100506; and,

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that; Student No. 20100506 has been found guilty of violation of the rules and regulations of this School District, the Illinois School Code, and the statutes of the State of Illinois.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, Student No. 20100506 is:

Expelled from attendance at Oak Park School District 97, effective May 10, 2010 and through June 3, 2010, provided that the expulsion will be held in abeyance. This action is taken to allow the student to receive instruction through a tutor (certified teacher) housed at the district office. This model will be in effect through the end of the 2009/2010 school year. The student will not be allowed to attend or participate in any District 97 activities including athletic events, social events, and those events related to eighth grade graduation.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Superintendent is to issue a written notice of the Board’s decision to the parents.

Roll call vote.

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

4.3.2 Approval of Painting Bid

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education award its 2010-11 painting contract to National Decorating in the total amount of \$71,345 per the attached memorandum dated April 27, 2010. Roll call vote.

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

District Activity

REVIEW OF MEDICAL, DENTAL, & LIFE INSURANCE RATES

Trish Carlson and Therese O’Neill updated the Board on a proposed six percent increase in the medical insurance rate, with dental and life insurance remaining the same. O’Neill shared that many districts are recommending double-digit increases, but, due to District 97’s healthy insurance fund balance, the district will be able to move forward with the original PMA projection.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH WEST40 INTERMEDIATE SERVICE CENTER

Dr. Collins explained that the approval of the West40 Intermediate Service agreement occurs annually. Felecia Starks-Turner reported that the tuition rate is typically \$50 to \$100 each year and the program usually begins the school year at 50 percent capacity.

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

John Williams from the Oak Park Township was introduced. He shared an overview of the 14-year-old program. Williams invited the Board to help promote the 100 Mentors program. It was suggested that Chris Jasculca work with Mr. Williams regarding this request. It was also suggested that the district consider ways to require students to participate in a mentoring program as opposed to suspension.

CUSTODIAL SUPPLY BID

Norman Lane and Therese O’Neill explained that historically the buildings and grounds department prepares a supply bid for the upcoming school year. This year the bid has been itemized and the recommendation is to split the bid between several vendors. This approach will save the district approximately \$28,000. This item will return to the Board for approval on May 25, 2010.

PAPER BID

O’Neill introduced the annual paper bid. She shared that four vendors submitted bids. She is recommending that the district continue to use the same vendor as their bid came in approximately \$7,400 below that of last year.

Academic / Instruction Report

STUDENT PERFORMANCE – ACADEMIC / BEHAVIORAL

Kevin Anderson and Harla Hutchinson shared a recap of the second trimester math and reading data for third through fifth graders.

Math Data:

Interest was expressed in analyzing whether children enrolled in specific classes are making advancements within a predetermined timeframe. Hutchinson was asked to determine if the PASeries data could be used as a predictor as to whether the African American students and free and reduced lunch students might meet AYP in the future. Interest was expressed in reviewing data to determine which classes and after school programs are the most successful. It was also suggested that the data might be used to tailor the extra programs or activities for home use, suggesting that activities could be cultural based.

Reading Data:

A discussion took place regarding testing of the students in kindergarten through second grade. The fourth grade cohort was discussed as this group has consistently tested below the other cohorts. It was suggested that it might be helpful to review the statistics and determine if the data might identify a normal variation within this group. It was suggested that the Board consider scheduling time for a full-year report on this topic. It was also suggested that the district identify which programs are successful and make those programs mandatory as part of the curriculum.

Hutchinson was replaced by Mark Pickus at the table. Pickus shared data on trends by gender and ethnicity broken down by the ISAT scale. Interest was expressed in knowing if District 200 has a gender gap. Interest was also expressed for more discussion regarding the achievement for the entire year and a

STUDENT PERFORMANCE – ACADEMIC / BEHAVIORAL (Continued)

determination as to the success of the plan. It was suggested that a discussion take place on the program used at Longfellow as this model is being utilized at other schools as well. It was suggested that a future discussion include a conversation on consistency and expectations. A work session was also suggested for this topic. It was suggested that the district consider the high school assessments as that is our district’s end goal. Dr. Collins suggested that the district consider internships for staff working on their Type 75.

Kelly Baird replaced Pickus at the table and discussed discipline data with the Board, reporting that inappropriate behavior is substantially lower than this time last year.

Anderson reported that the middle school study shows progress toward achieving the district’s goals. Julian has set up committees, with every staff member required to participate on one committee. Dr. Sharts meets with each committee on a monthly basis to set goals around the Strategic Plan. Brooks doubled their literacy block and is working with an RTI coordinator and GTDs. Both schools will have a curriculum handbook available in the fall, and are spending more time on transitioning. Anderson shared that there will be a full middle school report in the fall. A list of goals and initiatives was submitted for each middle school. Additional information was requested regarding special education transitions at Brooks. Several requests for information during the next official report were expressed regarding the two middle school documents.

Anderson explained that there are several downfalls to the current Pearson assessment system. He recommended that the district convert to the computer based NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Anderson has found this program to be well used and accepted by many groups that include teachers, principals, and teachers who have children of their own. The MAP assessment program is adaptive and will administer a test to the child at the appropriate level. The level of the testing will increase as the student advances academically. The MAP program will cost approximately \$20,000 more than the current PASeries and Benchmark programs, and the principals are recommending that testing begin in second grade and continue through eighth grade.

Anderson explained that the basic MAP package includes testing for reading, language and math, with the science module an additional expense. Anderson also explained that the program monitors for algorithms and the speed of the test taker to ensure that the student is not just filling in blanks. As the language arts component was not available in the PASeries, Anderson expressed interest in introducing this option during the first year and moving toward mandatory use in the future. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that the district should use the 2010-11 school year to communicate the advantages of the language arts testing to the community and administer one language arts test in May of 2011.

This item will return to the Board for approval on May 25, 2010.

Board of Education Priorities
TAX BILL RESOLUTION

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION
PRIORITIES**

President Traczyk reported that at a recent Council of Governments meeting a resolution was shared urging Cook County to establish paying taxes to public agencies in a timely manner. It was agreed that District 97 should pass a similar item at the next Board meeting. Traczyk will work with the Board secretary to prepare a resolution.

REVIEW BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

President Traczyk briefly reviewed the Board of Education goals reporting that the Board held off on establishing a comprehensive referendum plan pending the state’s financial issues. The Board will discuss setting a date for this discussion during the May 25 Board meeting. Regarding the participation in the TIF carve-out settlement, Traczyk reported that this item has been well acted upon. He reported that a meeting has been set with the District 200 board and the Village board for June 1. Traczyk suggested that District 97 offer their board room as a location for the meeting.

REVIEW BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS (Continued)

Under Board Governance, Traczyk reported that the Board has done a wonderful job at ensuring that the Board agendas reflect realistic time requirements, and noted that they are working very hard to monitor the discussions and kept to the predetermined timeline. Study sessions are being considered for future meetings.

The Board has agreed upon a meeting structure and Traczyk will meet with the Board secretary to implement the agreed upon changes. Traczyk reported that committee structure will be reviewed at this evening's meeting. The Board will discuss the charge for a standing Communications Committee this evening. The Board implemented an online Board agenda and meeting packet program at the beginning of 2010. Finally, the RED committee will be meeting one more time this month with a focus on staff recognition, and a goal of implementing a program in the fall.

COMMITTEE FOR COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATION

Member Reddy and Chris Jасulca shared a recommendation from the two of them and member Gates to create a committee to evaluate and improve two-way communication between the district and the community. They determined there is value in forming a communication committee that would begin meeting in fall 2010, and be comprised of community members, Board members and representatives of the district's administration. They also decided to collaborate on the creation of a charge for the committee which includes a proposed committee name – (Committee for Collaborative Communication or C.C.C.), an overview outlining the need for the committee, the purpose of the committee, the charge of the committee, the authority and composition of the committee and an acknowledgement that the committee is subject to the Illinois Open Meeting Act. It is the recommendation of Reddy, Jасulca and Gates that the Committee for Collaborative Communication be established as a standing committee of the District 97 Board of Education along with the proposed charge for this committee.

After discussion, the Board agreed that this committee should be considered. Several changes were suggested to the charge. The revised document will return to the Board on May 25 for further consideration.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Three additional forums were scheduled focusing on reaching minority families, teachers and support staff. It was agreed to post the survey online to encourage more participation as well. Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates, Ltd. will review the additional information and consider the results. If the results disagree with the original profile, Attea will discuss options with the Board.

Superintendent's Report

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

The Board agreed that due to a scheduling conflict with the search firm, the Board meeting scheduled on June 8 should be cancelled. Dr. Collins made recommendations for agenda items for the June meeting. The Board agreed to schedule several brief agenda items at the beginning of the special meeting on June 14.

OPRF High School is hosting a parent forum on May 19 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. A copy of the flyer was distributed to the Board.

The WSCAE/ Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) Awards Ceremony was held May 5 at LaGrange Jr. High School. To be eligible for recognition, children had to have taken the SAT the previous January. In addition, children had to score 500 or above on any one of the SAT subtests (Math, Reading, or Writing). Based on these criteria, 10 students each from Brooks and Julian qualified and were honored.

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Sponsored by GSBI [Give Something Back International], the GVC (Global Virtual Classroom Contest) program provides an opportunity for primary and secondary school students from different countries to work with and learn from students in other countries, as they collaboratively design a Web site on a topic of their choice. Teams are comprised of either three primary or three secondary schools from different countries. A panel of international judges evaluates the final work and determines the winners. Student efforts are judged for content, presentation, collaboration, and a helping focus.

Each division has three prize winners and three special merit awards. Oak Park Schools received four of these awards in the 2009-2010 contest.

In the primary division (grades 3-7), Julian Middle School's seventh graders won first prize with the site: Save Earth! They Partnered with students from New York and India. The teacher leader for this group was Janet Barnstable. Lincoln School's fifth graders won third prize with the site: Imaginary Island. They partnered with students from Florida and Taiwan. The teacher leader for this group was Matt Kuntz. Mann School's fourth graders won a special merit award for the site: Animal Stories. These students partnered with students from New York and Czech Republic. The teacher leader for this group was Jim Hayward. Julian Middle School's eighth graders won third place in the secondary division (grades 8-12) for the site: Mystical creatures and gods. They partnered with students from Malaysia and Kenya. Janet Barnstable also mentored this group of students.

These sites and all the winning sites can be viewed by going to <http://www.virtualclassroom.org/win09.html>

Congratulations was also extended to the students from Longfellow's fifth grade advanced math class on their success in the recent Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) competition. The students scored 335 out of a possible 360 points and placed first out of 70 teams from across the state. They will be recognized at the Fifth Grade Awards Ceremony at the end of the year.

A crossing guards meeting with the Village is scheduled for Thursday, May 13 at 8:30 a.m.

A TIF meeting with the District 200 board and the Village board will be held June 1 at 7 p.m. Tom Barwin is coordinating the meeting and will distribute the agenda once it is finalized.

Phillip Harris, a Julian eighth grader received the highest score in reading and math out of all the West40 area students.

Board Concerns / Announcements

BOARD CONCERNS
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board discussed the policy committee and how it should operate in the absence of member Gates. It was agreed that, with the exception of the Security Camera policy, the committee should wait for his return. Member Barber volunteered to sit on the policy committee in Gates' absence. An update on member Gates' status was requested at every meeting.

A discussion regarding the reconsideration committee and video usage took place.

Member Clouser, who was absent at the April 27 Board meeting, expressed his support of Members Traczyk and Barber continuing in their board leadership roles. Member Clouser also expressed his support for the Technology Plan which was adopted during the April 27 meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the sharing of information from other community boards. Traczyk reported that he always forwards messages sent to him from other boards and expected that they would do the same.

Board Response to Public Comment

President Traczyk will write a letter of appreciation to Karen Calhoun for sharing her concerns.

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday May 25, 2010 beginning at 7 p.m. at Julian Middle School 416 S. Ridgeland.

Board President

Board Secretary