

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Cook County, Oak Park, Illinois
June 22, 2010**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Clouser, Spatz, Harton, Barber (6:43 p.m.), and Traczyk
Absent: Gates, Reddy
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, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education moved into executive session at 6:10 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Barber moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:15 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Special Report

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Members of the Leadership Academy updated the Board on its activities during the 2009-2010 school year. The team explained that the mission of the academy is to provide, support and influence the development of leadership skills and academic achievement through progressive mentorship. The program is achieving this goal by mentoring students and parents, monitoring academic achievement with encouragement and proper resolution, monitoring discipline and behavior, peer-to-peer council, brainstorming and service projects.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF JUNE
7 2010

The academy will focus on improving parental involvement, avoiding schedule conflicts with other activities, incentives for participation, improving student commitment, and cooperation / timeliness of staff input per program request.

Board feedback included a suggestion to communicate with John Williams from the Township regarding the need for mentors. It was also suggested that a senior level member of the administration oversee the program until the new superintendent is in place.

Public Comment

None

Proclamation in Recognition of Dr. Constance Collins

Michelle Harton read a proclamation in recognition of the service of Dr. Constance Collins as superintendent of District 97. Barber moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education accept the proclamation. Roll call vote.

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

Dr. Collins responded by reading the following letter to the Board and the community.

Dear Members of the Board and the District 97 Community,

It is with sincere appreciation that I thank you for the five years in which I have been able to serve as superintendent of this excitingly wonderful district. During my tenure here, I have found myself constantly taking action on behalf of students, staff, parents, board members, and community stakeholders and now find that transitioning to a new district is a bittersweet experience. My goal has always been to make a positive impact on our community's most precious possession, our children. I leave knowing that has been accomplished and yet there is more work to do as this district continues to move from 'good to great.'

Again, I thank you for the experience, the opportunity and the challenge to serve and impact the lives of 5500 wonderfully talented, diverse and beautiful students. As I move forward, know that I will continue to “work on behalf of the children.”

Action Items

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of June 7, 2010

Clouser moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the June 7, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2010

Clouser moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the June 14, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.2.1 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.

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

Ayes: Clouser, Harton, Barber, Spatz, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Gates, Reddy
Motion passed. New staff members in attendance were introduced.

2.4.1 Approval of CLIC Insurance Renewal for 2010-11

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education approve the renewal for its property and liability insurance with Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) for the 2010-11 school year in the total amount of \$269,123 as delineated in the memorandum dated June 14, 2010. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.2 Approval of SELF Insurance Renewal for 2010-11

Harton moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education approve the renewal with School Employees Loss Fund (SELF) at a premium of \$353,895 per the memorandum dated June 14, 2010. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.3 Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Interest Income to the Education Fund

Clouser moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education approve the transfer of interest from the Operations and Maintenance, Debt Service and Working Cash Funds into the Education Fund in the total approximate amount of \$218,069.74 per the attached formal resolution. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.4 Resolution Abating Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education approve the formal resolution abating the Working Cash Fund in the amount of \$2,905,271.70 as presented at the June 14, 2010 meeting and per the attached documentation. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.5 Resolution Authorizing a one-time Accounting Adjustment from the Capital Projects Fund Group to the Fire Prevention and Safety Fund Group

Spatz moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education approve the formal resolution authorizing a one-time accounting adjustment from the Capital Projects Fund Group to the Fire Prevention and Safety Fund Group in the amount of \$948,165 as presented at the June 14, 2010 meeting and per the attached documentation. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.6 Approval of Resolution of Intent to issue \$6.75M Working Cash Fund Bonds

Harton moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education approve the formal resolution of intent to issue \$6,750,000 of Working Cash Fund bonds as presented and discussed at its June 14, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.7.1 Acceptance of Donation to Holmes School

Clouser moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education accept the donation of \$14,000 in supplies and equipment that includes white boards, a multimedia projector, die cast machine, Elmo digital presenter, Wii system, storage containers and miscellaneous classroom materials donated by the Holmes PTO. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.7.2 Acceptance of Donation to Whittier School

Harton moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education accept the donation of \$50 in memoriam of Michael Velarde, given by Mrs. Geraldine Velarde to Lincoln School. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.7.3 Acceptance of Donation to Lincoln School

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education accept the donation of four small tricycles to the early childhood program at Whittier School by Radio Flyer. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.8 Approval of Video Camera Bid

It was requested that this item not be voted on until after the discussion on transportation.

2.4.9 Approval of Hephzibah Contract – Liaison Salary

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education approve the 2010-2011 salary for the Hephzibah behavior interventionist at \$45,503, a one percent increase from the previous salary. For the 2010-2011 school year, approximately \$30,000 will be paid from Title I-D. The district's share of the contracted service will be approximately \$15,503. More exact figures will be available when Title I-D funding is finalized in fall 2010. Roll call vote.

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

Preliminary Recommendation Review
FINANCE OVERSIGHT REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

PRELIMINARY
RECOMMENDATION
REVIEW

The Finance Oversight Review Committee recommendation was included in the budget discussion.

TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT RENEWAL

O'Neill reported that after a discussion with legal counsel regarding Public Act 96-392, the administration is amending its original recommendation specific to the special education transportation contract. She updated the Board on this policy, referring to an exception in terms of special education. The act states that a contract must be advertised and awarded, "by first considering the bidder or bidders most able to provide safety and comfort for the pupils with special needs or disabilities, stability of service, and any other factors set forth in the request for proposal regarding quality of service, and then price."

After review and consideration of this policy, administration is recommending that both regular and special education transportation contracts be awarded to Lakeview Bus Lines.

After a discussion took place, it was agreed that the topic of transportation would be added to the special meeting agenda scheduled for June 25, 2010. The Board raised the following questions to be answered at that time.

1. What is the total cost of both regular and special education transportation (base bid, alternate one [video cameras], and alternate two [hybrid buses])?
2. Are video cameras a one-time cost or ongoing cost?
3. Can Life/Fire/Safety money be used for the cameras on the buses given ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) authorized its use for video cameras for the two middle schools?
4. What would be the additional cost of hybrid buses?
5. Given that, without inclusion of the video camera cost, the second lowest bidder is being recommended for award specific to the special education transportation contract, what is the justification for awarding both contracts to Lakeview Bus Lines?

2.4.8 Approval of Video Camera Bid

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education award a contract to McWilliams Electric for video cameras to be installed at Brooks and Julian Middle Schools as outlined in the memorandum presented to the Board dated June 14, 2010. Roll call vote.

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

DISPOSAL OF SCHOOL PROPERTY: LANGUAGE ARTS TEXTBOOKS

Kevin Anderson recommended that the old middle school language arts textbooks, which are currently stored at the two middle schools, be approved for disposal. He outlined the resolution for disposal of school property as recommended by legal counsel. Due to the age and condition of the books, it is the recommendation of the administration to dispose of these books by throwing them away or by using a recycling service. This action will return to the Board for action on July 13, 2010.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

O'Neill reported on the status of the FY10 budget, sharing that all payrolls have been met. As of June 22, revenues were \$72,968,966 and expenditures were \$74,690,341.

O'Neill shared that she used the state draft budget identified at an ED-RED meeting earlier this year as her baseline for the FY11 budget proposal. Assumptions on revenues and expenditures were shared along with the proposed FY11 budget.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION – (Continued)

A memo from FORC was shared. In the memo, the committee recommended that the Board consider DSEB borrowing, organizing a referendum for the spring of 2011 and taking actions to preserve the existing current fund balances. Additionally, the committee suggested a wage and hiring freeze.

Dr. Collins responded to the suggestion of hiring and wage freezes by stating that the teacher contracts need to be considered. She also explained that some services are required by law and the district would not have the option of not filling positions within those programs. Additionally, Dr. Collins shared that the cabinet members would be willing to take a salary freeze should the referendum not pass.

POTENTIAL REDUCTIONS IN EVENT OF A FAILED 2011 REFERENDUM

The District 97 Board of Education charged the administration with identifying potential cost reductions for the 2011-2012 school year if a proposed spring 2011 referendum fails to pass. The administration presented its tier one recommendations for reductions totaling more than \$2.6 million. The Board expressed its appreciation for the administration's efforts, emphasized that these recommendations were preliminary and reiterated that they will only be considered if a referendum is unsuccessful.

All cabinet members came to the table to present this report, expressing that all 28 administrators shared input into this recommendation. Items making the least impact on classrooms were considered. In addition, they looked at reductions as opposed to elimination whenever possible, and took into consideration whether there is a better way to provide services and how work will be completed.

A brief discussion regarding the possibility of a referendum took place. Members Barber and Spatz agreed to participate in an ad-hoc committee to determine the steps necessary to pursue a referendum. It was recommended that Jasculca and O'Neill also serve on this committee. The ad-hoc committee will report back to the Board during the July 13 meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

It was reported that three Board members will be participating in a site visit tomorrow.

FIRST READING OF POLICIES

The policy committee submitted several policies for first reading. Policies included; 1225 New Superintendent Mentoring, 2431 Extra-Curricular Activities, 3430.02 and 4430.02 – Leave Pursuant to Victim's Economic Security and Safety Act, 3430.04 and 4430.04 Military Leave, 5610 Suspension and Expulsion, 6144 Investments, 6350 Prevailing Wage Coordinator, 7420.01 Radon Testing, 7510 Access to School Facilities for Community Groups, 7542 Network Access from Personally-Owned Computers and/or Other Web-Enabled Devices, 7543 Remote Access to the District's network, 8433 Integrated Pest Management and 8500 Food services. A brief discussion took place regarding each policy and changes were suggested. These items will return to the Board for second reading and adoption on July 13, 2010, with the exception of policy 2432 Extra-Curricular Activities which will return to the Policy committee for substantive revisions to the policy. Member Spatz agreed to provide the Policy committee with suggested language for this policy.

Superintendent's Report

The district is still awaiting response from the FOIA Public Access Counselor regarding the climate survey comments.

The district received a FOIA from the Chicago Tribune requesting the name of the superintendent finalist. A response will be issued by June 28.

Lincoln, Hatch and Whittier have been experiencing power glitches the past few days. Hatch and Whittier are fully powered and Lincoln's power is expected to be restored by 10:30 this evening.

Superintendent's Report – (Continued)

The district's Technology Integration Plan has been approved for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013. This certifies that the program meets the requirements for the E-Rate and the Ed Tech programs.

Dr. Collins conveyed appreciation from Anita Howard to the Board for her time in District 97.

Board Concerns

The Village is currently suggesting that they continue to run the crossing guard program through the 2010-11 school year, with District 97 paying \$168,960 to support the program. Additionally, the Village will look into outsourcing the service in the future. This item will be reviewed during the July 13 meeting.

It was reported that the Circuit Court ordered District 200 to amend their complaint against the Village regarding the TIF agreement by July 12 or the complaint will be dropped. If amended, District 97 must be identified as a party in the complaint.

Normal Lane was asked to monitor the less used school building entrances. It was shared that some doors are being propped open to allow access.

It was reported that the new entry system will be installed at the district office over the July 3 weekend. Central office staff, principals and Board members will receive keys on July 1.

Board Response to Public Comment

None

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 11:31 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday July 13, 2010 beginning at 7 p.m. in the administration building, located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary