

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Cook County, Oak Park, Illinois
July 13, 2010**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Clouser, Spatz, Reddy, Barber, and Traczyk
Absent: Harton, and Gates
Also Present: Superintendent Albert G. Roberts, 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, Data Specialist Harla Hutchinson, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:19 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:10 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Special Reports

MULTICULTURAL REPORT

SPECIAL REPORTS

Lynn Allen and Kevin Anderson summarized the activities of the Multicultural Education Department, including the Multicultural Resource Center (MCRC), for the 2009-2010 school year. Information regarding school presentations was highlighted. Allen shared that during the past school year she made 104 visits to the schools, 94 of which were classroom visits. She also shared that 44 classes visited the Multicultural Center. Slavery was the main topic for the year, with the focus on assembly type presentations. Allen reported that her department also focuses on mediation and counseling.

The department has built partnerships with District 200, Brookfield Zoo, Tri-Star and numerous colleges and universities.

It was suggested that the district consider restarting the African American Leadership program at Julian.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Kevin Anderson and Harla Hutchinson reported on academic and behavioral data by summarizing the cumulative information from the district's elementary common assessments and its discipline reporting systems (SWIS and PowerSchool) for the 2009-2010 academic year. They also provided a brief update on the implementation of the full-day kindergarten program.

They reported that the district will switch to the MAP assessment program in the fall. They also shared that the two new curriculum coordinators have experience with the MAP program. President Traczyk expressed interest in a presentation on the program during a breakout session. Anderson shared that Whittier and Irving made AYP this year, although four other schools did not achieve that goal.

It was reported that PBIS has been successful, with out-of-school suspension at two percent and in-school at only four percent. Dr. Roberts suggested that the district review the infractions and consider other alternatives to encourage the students to not repeat poor behavior.

It was reported that the kindergarten teachers would like to address the Board in the fall and present suggestions on ways to improve the kindergarten program. A brief discussion took place regarding the program. Interest was expressed in knowing how the program will impact the achievement gap, discipline problems and the referendum. Interest was also expressed in knowing how the curriculum has been modified to improve the program.

Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Action Items

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of June 22, 2010

Clouser moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the June 22, 2010 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2010

Barber moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the June 25, 2010 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

2.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

President Traczyk read the items on the consent agenda. Reddy moved, seconded by Spatz, 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: Reddy, Spatz, Clouser, Barber, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Harton and Gates
Motion passed.

New staff members in attendance were introduced.

2.3.2 Presentation and Adoption of the Tentative FY11 Budget

Therese O'Neill updated the Board on the current budget status, reporting significant shortfalls in the education, transportation and operating fund revenues. O'Neill reported that the deficit would have been much larger if it had not been for the concerted efforts of all staff and the Board of Education to under-spend across the board.

O'Neill reported on the 2010-11 major revenue and expenditure assumptions and presented a tentative 2010-11 budget of \$78,558,483. She reported that overall, budget to budget, the revenues are down 2.76 percent and expenditures are down 1.69 percent.

O'Neill shared a message sent from the State Superintendent Chris Koch on July 12, 2010. The message reported that Koch anticipates the funding delays to continue into FY 2011. Koch encouraged districts to rely on their local funds, but anticipate receipt of General State Aid in a timely manner. Koch cautioned that in respect to all other payments from the state, districts should anticipate significant delays.

A discussion took place regarding the budget. Dr. Roberts commended the district for their dedication to the finances and having the ability to maintain funds without seeking a referendum for 20 years. It was suggested that the State Superintendent's message be shared with the community. It was also suggested that the amount the state owes the district should be shared with the public.

Reddy moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education adopt the tentative 2010-11 budget in the total amount of \$78,558,483, thus placing such tentative budget on display for a minimum of 30 days and calling for a public hearing of said budget on September 14, 2010. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.1 Adoption of Policies

Barber moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education adopt the policies listed on page 79 of the Board packet. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.2 Adoption of Resolution for the Disposal of School Property

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education adopt the resolution to dispose of the old middle school language arts textbooks currently stored at the two middles schools. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.3 Approval of Transportation Bid

Clouser moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education award for the 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years, a contract to Lakeview Bus Lines for its regular transportation routes and award for the 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years, a contract to Lakeview Bus Lines for its in and out-of-district special education routes pursuant to Public Act 96-392, and as outlined in the attached documentation and as discussed at its June 22 and 25, 2010 meetings. It was noted that this motion includes alternate number one that would include cameras on the buses.

Roll call vote.

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

Preliminary Recommendation Review **RECERTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS CROSSINGS**

PRELIMINARY
RECOMMENDATION
REVIEW

Per Section 29-C of the Illinois School Code, the Board of Education is required annually to review hazardous conditions of approved crossings and certify to the State Superintendent of Education that they remain unchanged. Attached is a list of hazardous crossings, which has not changed for the past two school years, that the administration is bringing forward for the Board's review and final approval at its August 24, 2010 meeting. Once approved, this information will be forwarded to the State Superintendent of Education.

The intersection of Division and Woodbine was brought up as a concern. It was noted that stop signs have been installed at that intersection, but it was questioned as to whether this intersection should be considered a hazardous crossing and added to this list. O'Neill will look into this request and update the Board. It was suggested that hazardous routes are identified for busing support throughout the village and has something to do with state reimbursements.

Topic Reports

EVALUATION OF BOARD GOALS

President Traczyk reported on the status of the Board goals. He noted that;

- Plans for a referendum are being developed
- The Board has actively participated in the TIF carve-out settlement
- The superintendent's evaluation has been completed
- The Board agenda is currently reflecting time accurately
- The Board is occasionally holding study sessions, with good achievement this year
- The Board agenda structure has been initiated, Dr. Roberts was pleased with the layout
- The Board is actively working on the committee structure, with discussion on the Communication Committee scheduled for this evening
- The Board meeting packets have been improved by moving to online board packets
- The Board is investigating staff recognition programs for the fall

EVALUATION OF BOARD GOALS (Continued)

Dr. Roberts noted that part of his 90-day plan is to set goals for the district. It was suggested that an open session retreat be scheduled in late August. It was suggested that the Board consider a self evaluation with Jeff Cohn in attendance on the same date. Members Clouser and Reddy will work with Cohn to coordinate that meeting. Dr. Roberts and President Traczky will prepare the agenda for this session.

COMMITTEE FOR COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATION

Chris Jasculca referenced the revised committee charge. A discussion took place regarding the need for a standing communications committee. This item will return to the Board for adoption in August.

GIFT POLICY DISCUSSION

It was shared that the policy committee recommends that the gift policy remain as is, allowing for details to be set forth by the administrative procedures. It was suggested that cabinet members and principals get on the same page regarding this issue, then invite the PTOs to help. Dr. Roberts assured the Board that this policy and the procedures can be ready by the beginning of the school year. Jasculca will make sure the PTOs understand the policy. Dr. Roberts and Chris Jasculca will prepare the procedures.

REFERENDUM PLANNING TEAM REPORT

Therese O'Neill, Chris Jasculca, Vice President Barber and Member Spatz will make up the preliminary team. A discussion took place regarding the need for this team to be an administrative committee, and the need for guidelines was identified. It was reported to the Board that once the formal resolution for the referendum has been approved by the Board, employees can no longer use compensated time and the district resources can not be used.

Jasculca reported that a Web page will be created strictly for the referendum data. Cost reductions, the five-year plan and the documents shared at this meeting will be included on this new Web page. This information should be shared with all staff. It was suggested that data be reviewed by at least two people prior to posting data on the Web site.

The following timeline was discussed.

- August 24 – A report on the five-year projections will be given
- September – Consider models for the size of the referendum
- November – Contractual needs will be reviewed in relation to the proposed staff reductions
- December 14 – Last date for first reading of the resolution recommendation and action will be taken on staff reductions
- January 11 – Last date for taking action on a referendum resolution
- February – Resolution must be submitted
- April 5 – Election
- April 24 – Election Results

O'Neill will determine the length of time available after the passage of the referendum that the district has to amend the levy.

Community participation and communication were discussed. The Web site, e-mail, community listserves and media were identified as good ways to share the word. Other suggestions included asking the Village and Park District, high school, flyers in the schools and libraries as well as word of mouth. Community forums were suggested, as well as a survey. It was also suggested that the Board members visit the first PTO meetings of the year.

CROSSING GUARD INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Carlson and O'Neill met with President Traczyk, Connie Collins, Member Reddy and Cindy DeCola who worked collaboratively along with the Village representatives to create an intergovernmental agreement. The agreement identifies a cap on district expenses at \$168,000, and that the Village will continue to supply the services. It was reported that the administrative costs are estimated at \$32,000.

After a brief discussion, it was suggested that the Board review the bus boundaries when they review the crossing guards in January 2011. Several members of the Board expressed concern that the district is expected to cover the cost of this service. A request was made to obtain the actual budget amount prior to September 15. This item is scheduled to return to the Board on August 24.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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Dr. Roberts met with cabinet. The team discussed new norms within the district. They discussed the difference between strategic planning and strategic thinking. He reported that the team is ready and willing to take on challenges. He also met with the executive director of West 40, COG, and the new superintendent of District 200.

BOARD CONCERN

BOARD CONCERNS

Vice President Barber spoke to Dr. Collins regarding a recent newspaper article, sharing that the article did not reflect the opinion of the Board.

It was suggested that the PTOs be asked for ideas on ways to support the technology goals of the district while adhering to the gift policy. It was suggested that the PTOs and the community be challenged to share ideas on funding these needs in an alternative way that would help all the schools, as equity between the schools remains a concern. Dr. Roberts plans to work with the administrative staff and the PTO leaders to identify acceptable purchases.

A TIF meeting is scheduled for Thursday. Discussion will include calculating the projections for the districts point of view and surplus funds.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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A meeting will be schedule with the Village to discuss the future surplus TIF payments. The goal is to have these figures finalized prior to the August 24 meeting.

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday August 24, 2010 beginning at 7 p.m. in the administration building, located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary