

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
September 14, 2010**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton (6:40 p.m.), Barber (6:30 p.m.), and Traczyk

Absent: None

ROLL CALL

Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Human Resources Director Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Kevin Anderson, Director of Special Services Mike Padavic, Communications Coordinator Chris Jасulca, District Technology Administrator Cao Mac, Student Data Analyst Harla Hutchinson, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session

Gates moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into Executive Session. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Barber, and Harton

Motion passed.

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Reddy moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into Open Session at 7:08 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing - Budget

No comment

**Special Reports -
ZERO WASTE REPORT**

SPECIAL REPORTS

Therese O'Neill introduced Gary Cuneen and Jennifer Nelson from Seven Generations Ahead. Mr. Cuneen explained that their organization is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization based in Oak Park whose mission is to promote the development of healthy and ecologically sustainable communities. They are a state funded program working with many of the District 97 schools. Their role is grant development, product/materials research, purchasing coordination, distribution troubleshooting, report facilitation and communication. They reported that the district has saved more than \$25,000 since the program has been implemented. This is due to the implementation of the reusable lunchroom program at five schools and paper recycling at eight schools. As the program is 100 percent grant funded, they reported that this year's focus will be to get the other schools on board with these initiatives.

ZERO WASTE REPORT - (Continued)

Seven Generations is looking into the use of hand dryers, digital backpacks, smart boards, dry erase boards, zero waste lunches, composting food scraps and reducing lunchroom waste as additional ways for the district to save money.

Cuneen reported that last year District 97 supported the program with a \$5,500 contract. This year, Seven Generations is asking for an increase of \$2,000 from the district and asking the PTOs to support the program with a \$2,500 contribution.

It was suggested that the middle school's media centers monitor their paper usage. It was also suggested that a person be paid to support the zero waste initiative in the middle schools if a volunteer cannot be found. Dr. Roberts suggested that the Leadership Academy take on this initiative. It was also suggested that this topic be shared at the PTO Council meeting and with the media.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Kevin Anderson and Cao Mac came to the table. They introduced the new technology team. Mac reported that since July, 500 laptops have been distributed to teachers. Older equipment is being evaluated and repurposed. The middle schools have five carts of Netbooks ready for MAP testing and Mac labs have been set up for Mac and Windows 7 usage. He also reported that LCD projectors and carts are being set up for building use. A new login structure is in place for local and network savings. Mac shared that an average of 350 wireless connections are being detected daily.

Mac reported that 390 teachers have completed the District's Dell training, and were given a brief walkthrough at the time of pickup for information about usage and the login progress. A September training will be offered for teachers who did not complete the summer program. Additionally, workshops on Google Docs and Google Calendar will be offered at school planning meetings, as well as workshops related to curricular integration and ePortfolios through U97.

It was reported that the technology goals and objectives for the district are to integrate technology at all levels throughout the curriculum, encourage teachers to integrate technology in at least one lesson in each curricular area weekly, and to train teachers about the National Education Technology Standards (NETS) so they can effectively model and apply NETS as they design, implement and assess learning experiences for students. Additionally, the district will integrate technology using NETS throughout the curriculum, assisting the students to become proficient in skills taught from NETS.

They reported that the MAP testing proctors have been trained and the digital leaders increased from 15 to 45. Mac shared that the digital leaders would like to come back and address the Board in the future.

Suggestions included reminding staff of the copyright laws, and consider repurposing machines for low-income families. Interest was expressed that mechanisms are put in place to ensure the program goals and objectives are met. A one-page proficiency checklist and a list of skill expectations was suggested to be used during teacher evaluations. It was also suggested that the district needs to ensure that there is enough open and honest communication to remedy problems that may occur. Documentation was requested to show how the teachers are using technology. The Board expressed appreciation for the amount of professional training being provided to staff.

ISAT SCORES

Kevin Anderson and Harla Hutchinson came to the table. Anderson noted errors in the narrative on page 22 of the report. It was suggested that the errors be revised and the data reposted on the Web site.

They shared data that summarized the 2010 State testing information for grades 3-8. Highlights included six schools made AYP for the 2010; the District as a whole continued to make AYP in all areas; Irving and Whittier both made AYP following a year of not meeting the testing level in 2009; Holmes, Lincoln, Brooks and Julian did not make AYP for 2010. Graphs were shared that showed ISAT/IAA achievement trends over five testing years. Tables were included that indicate the results of students who may be in two or three sub-groups.

Discussion took place around the success at Whittier and Irving this year and how their success can be duplicated in the other schools. A Board academic and instruction work-study was suggested before winter break. A complete list of initiatives focused on meeting AYP was requested.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The cabinet members came to the table. Dr. Roberts suggested that the Board consider reviewing the plan and focus efforts on a few key goals. It was suggested that the Board consider streamlining the Strategic Plan.

Chris Jasulca reported that the document shared this evening will be posted on the Web site for viewing. The Board agreed that their questions submitted prior to the meeting should be answered in writing at a later date.

A brief discussion took place regarding the ombudsman position. It was suggested that this position be revisited by the community. One Board member expressed interest in seeing what would be shared with the community regarding this position. It was also suggested that the Board schedule a study session prior to winter break with this topic on the agenda. Dr. Roberts suggested that ideas and suggestions on how to frame this discussion be submitted ahead of time. Board members were asked to email their suggestions to Dr. Roberts with a subject line of Academic Study Session.

It was suggested that focus be placed on the middle school and elementary school instructional time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment -

None

ACTION ITEMS

Action Items -

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2010

Reddy moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the August 24, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

1.1.0 Approval of Closed Meeting Minutes

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education keep confidential the executive session minutes from January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010.

Roll call vote.

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

Absent: Barber

Motion passed.

Consent Agenda -

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

2.2.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

Details were requested regarding the district's annual contribution to the Early Childhood Collaboration. Member Clouser reminded the Board he previously requested return on investment information from the Collaboration related to the District's contribution. He reported that Carolyn Newberry-Schwartz responded to the request, and provided information indicating the District should see a 17% return on investment by FY2019.

ACTION ITEMS

Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.1 **Approval of School Recognition Application**

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, recertify previously identified hazardous routes and forward the same to the State Superintendent of Education, per Section 29-C of the Illinois School Code. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.2 **Approval of Elementary Reading Adoption**

Gates moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the recommendation of the District 97 Administration and Elementary Reading committee to purchase the *Treasures* reading/language series from MacMillan/McGraw-Hill at a cost of approximately \$425,000 from the Teaching and Learning budget for instructional materials.

Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.3 Approval of Non-Engagement in Intergovernmental Agreements Regarding the No Child Left Behind Act

Clouser moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, agree to not engage in any intergovernmental agreements with neighboring school districts that did not reach the adequate yearly progress goal outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

Topic Review

ZERO WASTE PROPOSAL

Board members had no questions at this time.

BUDGET UPDATE

Therese O'Neill submitted the most current version of the 2010-11 budget for the Board's review. She explained the FORC's recommended formula for preparing the budget. A brief discussion took place.

COMMITTEE FOR COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATION

Chris Jasculca came to the table to initiate a discussion regarding whether the Committee for Collaborative Communication should be a standing Board committee or an administrative committee. After discussion, the Board agreed to make this committee an administrative committee with quarterly updates to the Board. The administration assured the Board that increasing mechanisms for two-way communication between the Board and community will be among the committee initiatives.

Superintendent's Report

Individual Board Members Meetings

Dr. Roberts met individually with members Reddy, Clouser and Traczyk to discuss their views and vision for our schools, and reported that the conversations have been helping him gain perspective.

COG

Dr. Roberts reported that the meeting focused on gang activity and substance abuse issues. He was interested in the topic and eager to get some assistance from the Oak Park Police Department. He wants the faculty, particularly at Julian and Brooks, to be made more aware of gang-related activities.

IASA Regional Meeting

State funding continues to be the major topic at these meetings; but this session also provided a presentation on the use of technology to better evaluate teachers.

Deacon Samuels

Dr. Roberts met with Deacon Samuels regarding his work to keep our youth engaged in wholesome activities on Friday evenings and about our efforts to address the achievement gap.

Administrative Leadership Team

Dr. Roberts met with the administrators to discuss a variety of topics. Some of the more pertinent items were; faculty and staff evaluations and setting high expectations and follow through.

Donations

Two donation letters will be presented to the Board for approval during the September 28 meeting. The Holmes PTO would like to donate \$19,000 worth of technology and related devices. Holmes is also the recipient of a \$10,000 donation from the Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation to support their after school tutoring program and their summer program for T2 and T3 students.

School Drop-ins

Dr. Roberts has begun to visit one of the schools every morning before he reports to the office. Other than those dates where an event conflicts with the visits, he plans to make this a regular practice.

Board Concerns

BOARD CONCERNS

It was suggested that the Board members attend the community chats.

President Traczyk and Dr. Roberts were invited to attend the Oak Park Business and Civic council meeting in October.

The Board received a formal request from David Pope and Tom Barwin to look into the status of the warehouse and the district office. The Village suggested that the district consider sharing the proposed Madison-Highlands building with the Park District.

Interest was expressed in discussing the documents that Dr. Roberts shared with the Board during the next meeting.

It was suggested that the Board send a card to the family of the father who died this week.

Therese O'Neill and Member Spatz attended the green community connection meeting. The community is looking at sustainability and solar panels in the parking garage.

Dr. Roberts shared that he met with Jan Pate from the YMCA. She invited him to participate in the steering committee for this group. The committee plans to attend an event in Washington DC on February 22-24, 2011. The Board approved Dr. Roberts' participation at this event. They will determine if they will hold the second meeting in February without Dr. Roberts in attendance, or possibly reschedule the meeting.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Response to Public Comment

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session

Clouser moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into Executive Session. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Barber, and Harton

Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, September 28, 2010, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary