

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
September 28, 2010**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton (6:36 p.m.), Barber, and Traczyk
Absent: None
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 Jasculca, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Barber moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into Executive Session. Roll call vote. Trish and Therese were in attendance

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

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Reddy moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into Open Session at TIME p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Special Reports -

SPECIAL REPORTS

SALE OF BONDS

Therese O'Neill and Liz Hennessey provided the Board with information about the new ratings updates. Hennessey reported that D97 received an AA2 rating. Hennessey recommended a maturity date of January 1 instead of December, giving the state more time to pay the district. Hennessey reported on the advantages to the district selling bonds in the current economy. She explained the option of a short term sale and suggested that the district consider this option. Hennessey reported that this bond issue will be a tax exempt transaction.

PRESENTATION OF FY10 AUDIT

Brian Guastella of McGladrey and Pullen and Therese O'Neill reported on the FY10 audit. Guastella shared the preliminary draft financial statement report for the audit. He reported that the A-133 compliance audit is still in process, and will be ready for the October 12, 2010 meeting. He also reported that the district is on schedule to file the Annual Financial Report to meet the Illinois State Board of Education's October 15, 2010 deadline.

Guastella reported that the audit had no findings and that the clean audit is a great reflection on O'Neill and her staff.

The Board briefly discussed the audit findings and identified items that need to be revised before on the draft audit prior to completion. The Board acknowledged the efforts of the Business Office staff.

FORC ANNUAL REPORT

Craig Iseli came to the table. Iseli reviewed the committee’s charge, and a general background of the committee members.

This year the FORC educated the four new members of the group. In doing so, they put into place a procedure for future training of members. They established a standing agenda to review the district’s budget, and the PMA five year forecast. They also compared budget trends, reviewed and commented on the annual budget, and reviewed the proposed annual tax levy. In addition, the committee reviewed spending relative to strategic plan initiatives, and the district’s investment and borrowing strategies.

Iseli recognized that the expenses came in well under budget last year. Regarding state aid, the delays are mainly a working cash problem. The committee feels that most of will eventually be collected. They were supportive of the DSEB borrowing.

Iseli shared the committee’s opinion regarding the future financial needs of the district. Moving forward, the committee would like to be more formally incorporated into the key Board and district financial processes and would like to be provided specific reports to the Board on key financial matters as they arise on the Board’s calendar as part of the quarterly reports. This could take the form of formal comments provided to Board members in writing or presence at Board discussion of the annual budget, approval of the investment portfolio, and review of the PMA forecast including comments on key assumptions.

Iseli shared that the FORC is a resource which can take on other specific business challenges as they relate to financial matters. In the past, this relationship yielded support on issues such as hiring, strategy, and the district’s financial policies. These activities make the FORC a more rounded resource for the district and should continue to be fostered to the extent possible.

Public Comment – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Action Items -

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of September 14, 2010

Harton moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the September 14, 2010 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

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.

2.2.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.3.2 Adoption of 2010-11 Budget

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt its 2010-11 budget (in the Illinois state format) in the total amount of \$79,942,279, following adoption of its tentative 2010-11 budget on July 13, with proper notification posted in the newspaper, and Public Hearing conducted on September 14, 2010. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.3.2 Approval of Resolution providing for the issue of \$6,750,000 General Obligation Limited School Bonds, Series 2010, for Working Cash Fund purposes.

Harton moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the attached formal Resolution of Intent providing for the issue of \$6,750,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Working Cash Bonds, Series 2010C and 2010D of School District Number 97, Cook County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest of said bonds.

Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.1 Approval of Zero Waste Grant Proposal

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, renew for the 2010-11 school year the consulting contract entered into with Seven Generations Ahead for the 2009-10 school year, at the identified fee of \$7,500 as delineated in the attached memorandum and proposal dated September 9, 2010. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.2 Approval of Donations at Holmes

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of \$10,000 from May Je and Stephen Schuler of the Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation to support the after school tutoring program and summer program for T2 and T3 students, and a donation of \$19,000 worth of technology and related devices from the Holmes PTO. Roll call vote.

Barber shared concern regarding the acceptance of donations so that it becomes equitable to all schools.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

Topic Review **REFERENDUM PLANNING UPDATE**

A discussion took place regarding the proposed referendum timeline. Dr. Roberts reported that the community is stepping forward to offer support. The Board agreed that a message should be sent to the staff. The Board secretary will distribute a list of potential dates for a study session on this topic for the Board members to review and respond to. Jasculca will send a revised timeline to the Board members for their review and feedback.

POLICY REVIEW

POLICY REVIEW

Jasculca presented the policy Verbatim Record of Closed Meetings for a first reading. Discussion took place regarding and minor changes were agreed upon. Discussion continued with a conversation regarding the Board of Education members ability to listen to the tapes and the need for different storage guidelines should the meeting include discussion about the Superintendent or the Board Secretary. The Board agreed to follow the advice of the attorneys and allow Board members to remove a copy of the recording for a brief period of time.

This policy will return to the Board for approval on October 12.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent's Report

TIF Meeting

Some progress appeared to have been made at the September 21, meeting and the relationships among participant groups were positive. The agenda for this latest meeting focused on footnote 1 of the TIF agreement.

Early Childhood Meeting

Dr. Roberts met with Jennifer and Bob Spatz to discuss the Early Childhood Collaboration and the challenges that we face. They provided him with perspective about Headstart and a host of other issues that could better be addressed if the municipal, school and federal representatives from the catchment area communicated more effectively.

Madison Highlands Project

The district is looking at the possibility of partnering with the Park District to relocate our operations in a more suitable space. Dr. Roberts met with Nevin Hedlund and Mary Jo Schuler to take a look at their proposed development and to listen to some of their ideas about the available space. If the district can partner in a way that is cost neutral and perhaps can save dollars by sharing resources (human and facility); then this is a project worth pursuing.

School Visits

Dr. Roberts continues to be pleased by his overall observations and plans to meet with all building principals in the next week or two to discuss the evaluation process from several perspectives.

Rotary Club

After a brief meeting with Adi Onayemi and Gerald Lordan, Dr. Roberts believes that membership in this organization will be beneficial to both the district and himself.

Principals' meeting this Friday

The principals met to discuss the evaluation process.

Referendum

Dr. Roberts continues to meet with people who are willing to help with the referendum.

Board Concerns

BOARD CONCERNS

The Board expressed their interest in participating in the community chats with Superintendent Roberts.. The Board secretary will send the members a list of dates and they will respond with their availability.

The Joint Conference presentation was discussed. Member Reddy expressed her interest in participating.

It was reported that the community appreciates seeing Dr. Roberts visiting at the schools. It was suggested that administrators might consider visiting regularly as well.

It was reported that the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care and Education relocated its office to Village Hall, and Head Start may need to relocate as well.

It was reported that Steven Huth is relocating to Colorado.

Members Spatz and Gates would like to distribute a one page survey to the other Board members regarding the LAC.

It was reported that the FAC will be meeting on Thursday.

A joint meeting between the FAC and FORC was suggested to discuss a possible relocation of the district office.

It was reported that the IASB is looking for input. Member Gates will supply a form for the Board members to respond on.

The PAC is hosting a rally on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Member Gates will represent the Board. Dr. Roberts will also attend the rally. Member Spatz will also try to attend.

The Madison Highlands project was introduced. President Traczyk requested administrator’s feedback on the project prior to the Board members. It was also suggested that the plans be shared with FAC.

Board member comments regarding the self evaluation were requested by October 1.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Response to Public Comment - None

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, October 12, 2010, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary