

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
November 2, 2010**

This meeting was held at Longfellow Elementary School located at 715 S. Highland Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton (7:30 p.m.), Spatz and Traczyk
Absent: Barber
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 Temporary Board Secretary Tulicia Edwards

REFERENDUM
DISCUSSION

WORKSHOP - REFERENDUM DISCUSSION

President Traczyk explained that the focus of the discussion for this evening would be to identify expense targets, revenue forecast, and DSEB Split-Operating in relationship to a referendum. He also explained that state funding is a large issue based on the tax levy, and that the district is dealing with variables that are out of its control.

Member Spatz explained the different model options for a referendum. He expressed the importance of ensuring that there is enough capital investment to complete maintenance on the buildings and grounds, and contingency dollars if the state does not have the funds available to make payments to the district in a timely manner.

President Traczyk explained that a working cash bond referendum would eventually expire and would not raise the taxes in the community. Traczyk also reported that the downtown TIF is scheduled to expire in 2019.

Member Spatz advised that with the shared models there is no single number that is right for our expense target. The expense side is targeted and there will be nine possible outcomes. It was reported that the intent of this meeting is to confirm revenue and expense ranges, and to decide on a capital target.

It was suggested that a narrower range be considered as it would allow the district to calculate a more accurate financial target. Bundling issues like enrollment, property growth, school fees, and new mandates was also suggested for consideration.

Dr. Roberts reminded the Board that reductions and cut backs will be necessary. Meetings have taken place with faculty and community members regarding the district's future. Administration is working aggressively to make that vision come true.

Items shared as a preferred future included;

- The special education department has grown and is considering a therapeutic day school within the district.
- Improvements in the technology department need to be considered.
- Healthcare and benefits continue to increase.
- Initiate an International Baccalaureate program.
- A second language for all students.

Member Spatz explains that the district needs to shoot for a reasonable target to ensure that it has enough money and is not doing a disservice to the community.

Dollar amounts and fund balances were requested. It was recommended that the PMA model be placed on the Web site for community viewing. A list of possible capital projects was requested. It was agreed that the wording for the referendum will be discussed during the December 14 meeting.

After consideration, the Board unanimously agreed to pursue a working cash bond referendum.

President Tracyzk challenged Therese O'Neill to review the five year plan, to contact the architect concerning some numbers with our buildings depreciations, and email that information to the Board. It was also suggested that Liz Hennessey be contacted to ask her opinion on the best way to borrow money.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, President Tracyzk declared the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday, November 16, 2010, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary