

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
November 16, 2010**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Present: Barber, Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton, Spatz 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

SPECIAL REPORTS

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IRVING SCHOOL GROUNDS PROJECT

The Irving School Grounds Project committee lead by Principal Hodge updated the Board on the status of the project. It was reported that the area surrounding Irving Elementary School is the smallest outdoor space surrounding an Oak Park elementary school. The goal of the project is to replace the un-shaded asphalt area with an inviting green space. The idea of artificial turf was introduced. Surveys identified the need for sustainability, removing blacktop and getting the students outdoors as the main focus for the project. The design criteria for the project focused on safety, accessibility, curriculum opportunities, sustainability, community asset and child fitness.

The committee representatives reported that work began by focusing on curriculum based improvements. The Oak Park Education Foundation introduced architecture to the fifth graders by encouraging the students to design their own outdoor area. The Irving Blooms Art in the Schoolyard was celebrated by using 500 recycled cartons to create art work. Additionally, each classroom was designated a bed for gardening that the community enjoyed as well. The year's efforts were celebrated with a soup tasting that used the vegetables grown in the student gardens.

The focus of the committee for this year was on reaching out to the families and community members. Handouts were distributed to raise community awareness and invite the neighbors to get involved. Several successful fund raisers were run throughout the year and partnerships with businesses were formed. The committee reported that their branding is strong and their outreach has been effective. It was reported that over 20 percent of the parents at Irving are actively supporting the project. The team estimated that over 300,000 hours of volunteer work has been donated to the project.

The team explained that the next step is to hire a design architect at a cost of approximately \$16,000, to determine the cost of the project. It was suggested that the architect identify phases that could be implemented as finances permit. Additionally, the team was seeking approval to work on a partnership with the Park District and a commitment that funding brought in through grants initiated by this committee would be reserved for this project.

Interest was expressed in studying the success of similar projects in other cities and participating in a discussion addressing the referendum initiatives and how the funding could support this project. It was agreed that moving forward the project would be identified as the Irving Schoolyard Project and not Irving Playground Project. Dr. Roberts was asked to review the proposal, and if necessary report back to the Board at its November 30 meeting.

5-YEAR PROJECTIONS REPORT

Therese O'Neill introduced projections that included the end of year audit and next year's budget. O'Neill reported that when looking at the aggregate view, if the district does nothing, it would be in serious financial trouble by 2013. It was noted that the 2010 CPI may be a variable when identifying the financial need of the referendum.

5-YEAR PROJECTIONS REPORT

Public Comment - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

3.1.1 Approval of Minutes of October 26, 2010

ACTION ITEMS

Harton moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the October 26, 2010 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

2.3.1 Approval of Bill List and Related Reports

Clouser moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, district 97, approve the Bill List and related reports as presented in the Board packet. Roll call vote.

- 3.2.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports
- 3.3.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

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

2.4.1 Approval of Estimate of Property Tax Levy

Gates moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the estimated 2010 levy as presented at the October 26, 2010 meeting and as delineated on the attached Certificate of Levy. Roll call vote.

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

TOPIC REVIEW

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POLICIES FOR FIRST READING

It was agreed that the policy committee will work on a policy that would govern the use of the referendum funds. The Board was asked to supply their questions and suggestions to the Policy committee prior to their next meeting. Member Spatz will meet with President Traczyk and Therese O'Neill to recommend wording. It was suggested that this policy come to the Board for a first reading and hold adoption until after the referendum passes.

The following policies were shared for first reading: 0169, 1530, 1560, 3160, 4160, 2260.01, 2431, 2461, 3122.02, 3362, 4362, 5517, 3419.01, 4419.01, 3430.01, 4430.01, 5605, 8315, 8600 and 9150.

Policies 3362, 4362, 5517 and 8600 were discussed and will be revised before returning to the Board for approval.

POLICIES FOR FIRST READING (Continued)

Policy 5517 will be reviewed by the policy committee regarding the need to specifically identify adults and discipline.

Policy 9150 will be removed from the table for first reading. The policy committee will review the policy before bringing it back to the table.

The policy committee will discuss 1530 again so Dr. Roberts can participate in the discussion.

2431 will be sent back to the committee to get administrative input.

REFERENDUM PLANNING UPDATE

A revised spreadsheet was shared that identified the outcome of working cash referendums of \$70,000,000, \$75,000,000 and \$80,000,000. The Board will need to take action on the actual amount of the referendum during their January 11, 2011 meeting.

Member Harton left the meeting at 10:19 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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Dr. Roberts reported that tomorrow is the last community chat at Holmes. He shared that these meetings have been a good experience for him as well as the community members. Dr. Roberts also shared that he met with realtors and religious leaders. This realtors requested additional information about our schools. Chris Jasculca will create an electronic brochure for this purpose.

Dr. Roberts met with professionals within the community regarding the referendum.

Dr. Roberts reported that the principals will be looking at the evaluation process from a different perspective.

BOARD CONCERNS

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The draft PowerPoint presentation for the joint conference scheduled for this weekend will be shared with the Board members via email.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT - None

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ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, November 30, 2010, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary