

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

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6 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

Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:04 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Therese O'Neill reported on the steps that have been followed in the process of adopting the levy. Members of the audience were invited to speak on this topic. There was no public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING
ADOPTION OF THE
PROPERTY TAX
LEVY

SPECIAL REPORTS

REPORT FORMAT DISCUSSION - ACADEMIC BEHAVIOR REPORT

Kevin Anderson reminded the Board that last year they expressed interest in considering a different format for this report. The Board members offered several suggestions. Anderson concluded by reporting that the discipline data will be reported in January and the MAP data will be shared in February. The Board's recommendations will be taken into consideration when preparing these reports.

SPECIAL REPORT

Public Comment

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

3.1.1 Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2010

Clouser moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the November 13, 2010 meeting with revisions. Roll call vote.

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

3.1.2 Approval of Minutes of November 30, 2010

Barber moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the November 30, 2010 meeting with revisions. Roll call vote.

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

Consent Agenda

Clouser moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda 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.

3.3.2 Adoption of Property Tax Levy

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the resolution authorizing the reduction of certain fund levies for the 2010 levy year. Roll call vote.

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

3.4.1 Appointment of Alternate Election Official

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, appoint Chris Jasculca as the designated representative for elections when needed in the absence of the Board of Education Secretary. Roll call vote.

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

3.4.2 Acceptance of Donations

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept a donation of two coats from Morocco and one child's outfit from Liberia donated to the Multicultural Education Department by Ms. Bobbie Raymond and Mr. Richard Larsen, and a donation of books donated to Beye School from the Mexican Consulate. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

3.4.3 Action on Student Discipline

Traczyk moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the following resolution.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, Cook County, IL, did through the Board on December 14, 2010, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student No. 20101214; and,

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that; Student No. 2010214 has been found guilty of violation of the rules and regulations of this School District, the Illinois School Code, and the statutes of the State of Illinois.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, Student No. 20101214 is: expelled from attendance at Oak Park School District 97, effective December 15, 2010 and through June 3, 2011. The student will not be allowed to attend or participate in any District 97 activities including athletic events, social events, and those events related to eighth grade graduation.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Superintendent is to issue a written notice of the Board's decision to the parents. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

TOPIC REVIEW

TOPIC REVIEW

2011/2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Trish Carlson explained the process involved in the creation of the district's calendar. The Board asked the committee to review the draft calendar. The Board posed several questions and asked the committee to return with another draft calendar.

REFERENDUM PLANNING UPDATE

FINAL SIZING OF THE REFERENDUM

President Traczyk and member Spatz reported that there are a few factors that could impact the required size of the referendum between now and January 11, 2011. The Board agreed to move forward with the current referendum timeline while paying attention to the reported variables.

REDUCTIONS

Dr. Roberts presented an overview of the district's efforts to be transparent regarding the reductions process. He reminded the Board that the district has not requested a referendum since 1989, is committed to prudent fiscal management, and is working diligently to prepare the students to be 21st century learners.

Dr. Roberts introduced a recommended reduction list, which, if approved by the Board, would be implemented to balance the budget if the April referendum were to fail.

REDUCTIONS (Continued)

Dr. Roberts reported that it should be noted that the structural flaws in the state's education system cannot be addressed by an isolated district. Changes in the way educators are compensated must be addressed on a larger scale. By comparison, the salary and benefits of our faculty and staff are a little below the mean when compared with the other Bright Red Apple districts throughout Illinois. It was also noted that the district has little influence relative to the state pension system.

Dr. Roberts shared the proposed reduction list of \$5,707,900, and explained each item and its potential impact on the district. Future considerations were shared, including returning to the one and one half mile standard for transportation. A Board member recommended considering this now, suggesting that the community might be supportive. Additionally, there will be consideration of grade level centers, restructuring of special education substitute teachers, employee group concessions and further administrative recommendations.

President Traczyk explained the steps that need to be followed regarding the referendum moving forward. Trish Carlson will prepare a timeline that identifies crucial dates including those requiring personnel action.

Discussion took place regarding the recommended reductions and how they would affect the similar programs for the older students. It was noted that some of the staff positions identified were general and will be clarified during the January meeting.

Board members expressed interest in knowing if there are any legal aspects that need to be considered regarding the elimination of summer school and reducing the number of special education teacher assistants. Additionally, interest was expressed in understanding the plan to restructure the special education substitute teacher program. Interest was expressed in considering the financial impact of raising class sizes and utilizing more teacher assistants.

It was noted that the CPI percentage will be available on January 14. The Board secretary will identify a date in the week following January 14 that could be used as a special meeting date if necessary.

FORMAL REFERENDUM RESOLUTION

President Traczyk read the recommended wording for the referendum. The Board will take action on this resolution during the January 11 meeting.

It was reported that the community committee for the referendum will be organized after the January 11 meeting. Interested parties should visit the Web site for information. It was suggested that the document that outlines what the Board can and cannot do in support of the referendum be redistributed. It was also suggested that the information be added to the frequently asked question section of the Web site.

POLICY REVIEW

An outline for the Working Cash Referendum Bond Policy was reviewed. It was reported that the intent of this policy is to provide a measure of accountability, transparency to community and to communicate directives to future boards and administrations.

It was recommended that this draft go to the policy committee for review. The draft will return to the Board on January 25. Suggestions to be considered included dividing the policy into more than one section allowing each to focus on one topic, consider removing the preamble and including an activation clause. Additionally, it was recommended that all hard numbers include an explanation, and that some of the data and information be moved from the policy into administrative guidelines.

POLICY REVIEW (Continued)

It was suggested that the final policy be approved during the second Board meeting in March.

DONATIONS

Dr. Roberts reported that he examined the furniture in the Mann library and it is in need of replacement. The Board suggested that the PTO work with Therese O'Neill to ensure a standard is set. Regarding technology at Holmes, it was noted that there are still some inconsistencies in the gift policy that will be investigated.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that he attended the one or 97 breakfast where the keynote speaker was a former Brooks student. The organization wants successful schools that are run economically.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Dr. Roberts asked that the policy for disposal of old textbooks be reviewed as there are outdated science materials under the Whittier stage.

BOARD CONCERNS

BOARD CONCERNS

Member Harton read a prepared statement regarding the assessment of the full-day Kindergarten program and its impact on AYP subgroups, especially in looking at developing a district approach to monitoring and enhancing AYP subgroup achievement. She noted that the district has a unique opportunity to work with students that may be in threat of not meeting achievement goals for AYP or being on grade level. She challenged the district to take on the task of learning new techniques and procedures for intervening at this early stage with students and with their parents. She suggested that the district should be proactive, anticipating possible skill gaps and working more effectively to eradicate the skill gaps with which some students present. Harton's comments were in part prompted by a meeting she recently had with African American parents. They too are interested in the district being more effective in unraveling the factors that impact African American student achievement especially in these early grades.

To this end, Dr. Roberts recommended that a task force be put together to investigate AYP subgroup achievement at the primary grade levels focusing initially on the Kindergarten experience.

Harton's statement also suggested a need to ensure that it is clear that all hiring within the district is based upon seeking out and hiring the best qualified candidates and that no one within the community expects political correctness or any other factor to be of more significance. Harton's comments were prompted by a recent Wednesday Journal newspaper article.

Congratulations were extended to Dr. Kevin Anderson for receiving one of three Leaders of the Year awards from Tech & Learning magazine.

Concern was expressed that 22 of the identified reductions involve staff and those people may begin to look for work elsewhere. It was suggested that the district assure staff that they are cared for and that the district cares about their jobs. Chris Jасulca will help the district be transparent with the staff.

Member Gates read a prepared statement that suggested that the Board regard the 2010-11 teacher evaluations as a baseline. He believes that these evaluations, collected under the inspirational leadership and expectations mindset of Dr. Roberts, will provide this Board and the school community with a more accurate baseline of the performance levels and capabilities of our professional teaching staff.

BOARD CONCERNS (Continued)

The Board was reminded that at the last tri-district Board meeting, each Board was asked to return with suggested goals to be discussed. District 97 recommended a joint longitudinal database. Dr. Roberts reported that the three superintendents have been discussing a future joint Board meeting.

It was reported that the Illinois P20 council has hired an Oak Parker.

Ed-Red will be meeting on the house education reform committee. Additional information will be sent to the Board via e-mail.

Member Spatz will be attending a lecture by James Heckman at the University of Chicago titled "Reduce Deficit and Strengthen the Economy, Invest in Early Childhood."

The format of public comment was discussed.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 10:12 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:42 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Brooks Middle School Auditorium, located at 324 S. Kenilworth.

Board President

Board Secretary