

Oak Park Elementary School District 97
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL – Meeting Room
Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention and Monitoring (C.L.A.I.M.)
Regular Meeting
April 19, 2012, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Member Greg Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.and announced that Chairperson Warden was not able to attend and had asked him to preside over the meeting.

In Attendance: Peggy Kell, Greg Smith, Rupa Datta, Brandon Bell, Wiley Samuels, Carolina Song, Sanford Greenberg, Jim Gates, Jim O’Connor, John Moss and Lou Anne Johannesson (secretary)

Also in Attendance: Mary Anderson, Illinois’s Executive Director for Stand for Children

Not in Attendance: Chairperson Anne Warden, Jassen Strokosch, Meredith Schacht, Linda Francis

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments

3. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2012

Members Threlkeld and Johnson pointed out errors in last month’s meeting notes. Member Samuels made a motion to have the secretary revise the notes. Gates seconded the motion. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Kell, Smith, Datta, Bell, Samuels, Song, Greenberg, Gates, O’Connor, Moss

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Greg Smith announced that the evening’s speaker would not arrive until 8:00PM and made the suggestion that the meeting proceed with sub-committee reports.

4. Sub-Committee Reporting

a. Data

Song did not attend meeting. Kell said meeting was previous Monday. Kell said the sub-committee will meet 2 Mondays prior to full committee meetings. Discussion was about longitudinal data from ISBE. Datta mentions lots of obstacles across districts and grade levels. She says Illinois has been recording data on 9-12 grades for 2 years. K-8 will be recorded for the first time, but is behind schedule for the June 2013 goal. Moss said that a real commitment has been made longitudinal data collection and that the process is evolving.

b. Finance

Member Schacht was not present so Smith reported on to IASB resolutions.

5. Resolutions

Smith introduced the two ISBE resolutions. The first deals with Long-Term Budget Stability. The second deals with Staff and State Budget Timing. Copies of the proposed resolutions were distributed to committee members. Samuels asked if it would be a benefit to District 97 to work with other districts as co-sponsors of the resolutions. Gates said absolutely and volunteered to reach out to other districts once the committee has formalized the language of the two resolutions. Regarding the second resolution, Johnson said that Senator Harmon stated that there is no way that the state is going to change its budget deadline. The Senator was not aware that school districts have to submit their budgets much earlier because of deadlines for rified teachers and that the first resolution has a much better chance of being adopted.

Gates suggested that the District's resolution might not be included in the lobbying packet. Datta pointed out that neither resolution deals directly with issues dealing with students. Smith said the finance committee will consider formal language on May 19th to come up with best option moving forward to then be considered by the school board at its May 22nd meeting.

6. Up Date on Springfield

Moss told the group that Senator Harmon is very interested in the work of the committee and the impact of the state's budget on our schools. Moss also said the first issue affecting education currently in Illinois is the pension crisis and the proposals of shifting some of the financial burden to local school boards because teacher's are employees of the districts, and not the state. Gates suggested that because of their contracts teachers are state employees. How much the districts would have to pick up is unclear. Moss suggested working with Therese O'Neil on a letter to tell Oak Park's representatives what impact shifting of pensions would have on District 97.

Presentation by

Mary Anderson, Illinois' Executive Director for Stand for Children(STAND)

O' Conner introduced guest speaker Mary Anderson. Gates welcomed the speaker and explained to Ms. Anderson the mission of the C.L.A.I.M. Committee. Ms. Anderson thanked the C.L.A.I.M committee for asking her to make a presentation. She spoke briefly about the background of STAND and her position with the organization. She then presented a Power Point presentation about the STAND organization.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson
Secretary

