

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
January 17, 2013, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chairwoman Anne Warden called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

In Attendance: Anne Warden, Greg Smith, Brandon Bell, Sanford Greenberg, Jim Gates, Jim O'Connor, Meredith Schacht, John Moss, Wiley Samuels, Peggy Kell, Joanne Schochat, Carol Threlkeld, Ray Johnson and Lou Anne Johannesson (secretary)

Not in Attendance: John Moss, Jassen Strokosch

Also in Attendance: Superintendent, Dr. Al Roberts

Public Comment

There were no public comments

2. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2012

Member Greenberg made motion to approve the November 15, 2012 minutes. Member Smith seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous.

Motion passed.

3. Nomination of New Chairmen

Chairwoman Warden remarked on the amazing things C.L.A.I.M. has accomplished in its first year. She has decided to step down as Chairwoman due to family obligations. She asked for nominations. Member Greenberg nominated Member Smith. Member Johnson seconded the nomination. Member Song made a motion to elect member Smith as the Chairman of the C.L.A.I.M. committee. Member Samuels seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Member Smith thanked the committee and recognized Chairwoman Warden for the accomplishments of the previous year. Chairwoman Warden handed over the chairmanship immediately, and Chairman Smith began to preside over the meeting.

4. Sub-Committee Reporting

a. Finance

Member Schacht gave a report on the meeting that was held with Representative Camille Lilly. Members Warden and Moss were also in attendance. The members presented Representative Lilly with the prepared "Impact Statement", and touched on the issue of pension reform. Member Schacht remarked that it was a productive meeting and good introduction. She reported that member Moss has been in touch with Senator Don Harmon to schedule a similar meeting of introduction. Chairman Smith called for questions. No questions were asked at this time.

b. DATA

Chairman Smith suggested that due to member Datta's absence, the discussion of the future direction of the data sub-committee should be postponed until the regular February meeting. Member Gates asked Dr. Roberts about data sharing and asked why the district will not use the FERPA exemptions for the use of data it has collected. Dr. Roberts stated that there are many inhibitors that District 97 has to deal with in data sharing, especially the timelines involved. He stated that it is the belief of the District to decide whether the purpose of data sharing is for improved educational instruction or purely for research. He stated that most other school systems are simply ignoring the limits in the law. Member Song brought up the subject of District 200's parental override. A discussion followed on the tracking system of District 200 and its strong reliance on the December eighth grade test scores. Dr. Roberts reiterated his position on the 10 day notification and remarked that the success with tracking programs is directly tied to parent involvement in the child's education.

Member Greenberg asked Dr. Roberts if the District is basing its decisions on how the law is being interpreted by the District's attorney's. Dr. Roberts stated that the District's attorneys were directed that the District wants to share more data. He suggested that the committee direct its questions to Dr. Starks Turner, the custodian of records. He added that the state wants Districts to share data but then ties their hands. Dr. Roberts hopes that groups such as C.L.A.I.M. can help push legislators to revisit the language of the law so that districts can better understand and have clarity on the state's directives.

Member Threlkeld asked if it is the job of the committee to help clarify legislative language. Chairman Smith said that the direction of the data sub-committee can be further discussed after they meet again.

c. K.I.D.S.

Member Smith asked if the K.I.D.S. sub-committee discussed changing the focus of the sub-committee to Early Childhood and working on Race to the Top. Member Song stated that there is no further information yet about their change in direction. She told the committee that thank you letters were sent out to legislators regarding the pilot program being awarded to the District.

Chairman Smith suggested that the sub-committee meet to discuss expanding the scope of the issues they consider, and suggested that the sub-committee bring back a proposal for the sub-committee moving forward.

Dr. Roberts stated how pleased he is with the committee's good work and that the committee has gotten more traction than other groups. He stated that C.L.A.I.M. is really making a difference.

5. Discussion of other potential legislative/policy issues as CLAIM priorities

Chairman Smith opened a discussion of other legislative issues that C.L.A.I.M. might focus on, in addition to those suggested by the School Board.

The committee agreed upon:

- A. PTELL** - an amendment to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law to fix the “use it or lose it” provision of the tax cap.
- B. Achievement Gap** – legislative issues related to the achievement gap, such as more funding for early learning.
- C. School Safety** – legislative issues related to school safety.
- D. Outreach** – creating links with other education-focused legislative advocacy groups, and making contact with District 97’s State and Federal officials.

6. Discussion of CLAIM presentation at IASB conference

Member Gates reported that the committees’ resolutions were well received. He recommended that C.L.A.I.M. submit a proposal to present at the 2013 IASB conference. He suggested that the focus of the presentation would be to share the success that the Committee has had and to describe how a district could set up a legislative advocacy committee. The deadline for submission was discussed. Members, Gates, Smith, Threlkeld, and Warden will work on the proposal.

7. Concluding Items

- a. 2013 CLAIM calendar

The committee decided to continue to hold its regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Member Greenberg will be unable to attend through April due to a scheduling conflict. Chairman Smith stated that the planned legislative forum will be pushed out until committee members have an opportunity to meet with more legislators. He will speak to Member Moss about upcoming meetings.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson
Secretary

