

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
June 20, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Member Warden called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and announced that Chairman Smith was not able to attend and had asked her to preside over the meeting.

In Attendance: Brandon Bell, Meredith Schacht, John Moss, Wiley Samuels, Carolina Song, Jim Gates, Jim O’Conner, Rupa Datta, Anne Warden, Jassen Strokosch, Sanford Greenberg, Peggy Kell, Ray Johnson, and Lou Anne Johannesson (secretary)

Not in Attendance: Greg Smith, Carol Threlkeld, Wiley Samuels

Secretary Johannesson announced that Joanne Schochat has resigned her position as Assistant Superintendent for Human Relations, and therefore will no longer be a member of the C.L.A.I.M. committee.

2. Public Comment/Committee Comment

There were no public comments. There were no committee comments.

3. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes of February 21, 2013

Member Warden made motion to approve the February 21, 2013 minutes. Member Moss seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous.

Motion passed.

b. Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2013

Member Warden made motion to approve the March 21, 2013 minutes. Member Moss seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous.

Motion passed.

4. Sub-Committee Reporting

A. Finance

Members Schacht stated that the finance sub-committee has not met since the last meeting, but will be meeting soon. Member Moss stated that there is movement in H.R. 35 and that C.L.A.I.M. should monitor it.

B. Data

Member Datta reported that the Data sub-committee had met and discussed two items. First, they discussed creating a write-up similar to the Finance Sub-committee's Fact Sheet to be passed to Legislators. She asked the full committee if the write-up should describe the state of data sharing in District 97 or list specific things that Legislators should be thinking about, for instance, the difficulty of data sharing for non-unified school districts. Member Datta suggested that the sub-committee meet with administrators from the district to help draft bullet points for the Fact Sheet. Member Moss agreed that such a meeting would be beneficial. Member O'Conner stated that the Board has been talking about the data sharing problems. Member Gates suggested that the Board talk about it at its upcoming retreat. Member Gates suggested that member Datta go through the Superintendent to ascertain who the sub-committee should meet with. Member Datta asked if the Fact Sheet should be made without an actual agenda to have the Legislators push for. Member Kell stated that the sheet should have points of interest. Member Warden stated that it is her experience that it seems worthwhile and that any information given to the Legislators tells them that this subject is of interest to the District.

Member Datta reported that the second issue that had been discussed is where the sub-committee goes from here. Member O'Connor asked Member Gates if they should bring this issue to the Board. Member Gates agreed and further stated that the Board could perhaps issue a new mission for the Data Sub-committee for the 2013-2014 school years. Member Moss agreed that the subject of student data will be more important in the future and remarked that recently an article in the Wall Street Journal tackled the issue of the connection moving forward between student data and teacher evaluations. Member Datta asked Member Moss if the audience for this discussion is the ISBE is it stills a C.L.A.I.M. charge. Member Warden stated that it is not C.L.A.I.M.S.' job to give solutions to Legislators but to inform them of what has been learned to help define the problem for District 97. Member Kell stated that the District has just hired The ECRA Group. She asked what the point of the sub-committee is beyond advocacy. Member Greenberg asked if they are suffering from mission creep. He stated that it was not worth the committee's time to make-up a task. If there is none, it is time to move on. Member Gates agreed. Member Song questioned if the data sub-committee wants a workable task or is simply waiting for clarity. She reported that OPRFHS Strategic Planning Committee has brought up Data and the lack of communication between the two districts being the biggest problem. Member Datta stated that is not a legislative issue, therefore not for C.L.A.I.M. to address. Member Song stated that C.L.A.I.M. should push the subject of unified vs. non-unified to the legislators. Member Gates agreed. Member Warden stated that a Fact Sheet on Data will show the committee's record of study on the issue of data and therefore is valuable.

Early Childhood

Member Song reported that she has reached out to Representative Danny Davis' office. She was told that Mr. Davis has an interest in Early Childhood Education and Early Intervention. Member Song will follow-up.

5. Other Items

a. Education Advocacy Handout

Member Warden was unsure of Chairman Smith's intention with this agenda item. She volunteered to get clarity.

b. IASB Annual Conference Presentation

Member gates reported that C.L.A.I.M. has been giving a better slot at the conference. He will double check the time. He reported that Chairman Smith, Member Moss, Member Schacht, Member Samuels, Member Warden, Dr. Al Roberts and Bob Spatz will be sitting as the panel. He stated that hand-outs and a Power point need to be created. He reported that the panel will have an introduction, an hour long presentation and then a question and answer period. It was decided that a sub-committee would be formed to create the Power Point and hand-outs for the presentation.

c. Elected Officials Forum

Members Bell and Moss along with Secretary Johannesson met to informally discuss the forum. A tentative date of September 19th, 2013 from 7:30-9:00 p.m was discussed. The proposed location would be the auditorium at Julian Middle School. Member Bell reported that Chairman Smith has an agreed to act as a moderator. It was decided by the committee that C.L.A.I.M. will be the official host. Member Song was concerned about the date conflicting with other district events. Member Gates communicated with Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts (who was not in attendance) and was assured by Dr. Roberts that the date will be set aside for the forum.

It was also decided that the focus of the evening would be the committee's three major areas of interest; finance, data and early childhood education. Member Strokosch suggested three parameters questions for each legislator. The committee agreed to give further debate on the actual format at a future meeting. Member Johnson stated that the Village Manager would aid in security and publicity.

d. Connecting With Education Advocacy Groups

Member Warden reported that Chairman Smith has invited members of the Downers Grove Legislative Action Committee to the July 18th C.L.A.I.M. meeting.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson
Secretary