

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
March 19, 2015 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

In Attendance: Anne Warden, Brandon Bell, Meredith Schacht. Theresa Jurgas, Wiley Samuels, Carolina Song, Greg Smith, Jim Gates, Lou Anne Johannesson.

Also in Attendance: Mike Padavic, Senior Director of Special Services

Not in Attendance: Amy Iverson, Carol Threlkeld, Rick Boultinghouse, Amy Felton

2. Public Comment/Committee Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Action Items

A vote to approve minutes from October 2015 was held. A minor correction will be made. Member Samuels made a motion to pass. Member Song seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to pass the minutes.

4. Sub-Committee Reporting

Chairman Smith asked if any of the sub-committees had met and had anything to report. Member Schacht reported that Finance had not met. Member Song reported that EC had not met but had some concerns to share in regard to the new Governor's budget, which proposes cutting funding to Early Intervention. She stated that she feels this is short-sided thinking. She stated that EI is proven successful and that to be pro-education one needs to be pro-child. The cuts to the program will hurt the most vulnerable children, in her opinion. The Early Childhood Collaboration is considering having a forum with legislators to address their concerns. She asked if it would be appropriate for CLAIM to be involved. Chairman Smith stated that with the limited resources CLAIM has, due to the volunteer nature of the group, it would not be available to be directly involved but perhaps can share information on planning such an event. Ms. Johannesson will send information to Song. Smith asked that Song alert CLAIM if there will indeed be a forum. Samuels asked what the timeline to influence legislators was and if ED-RED is collaborating. Gates will reach out to ED-RED.

5. Other Items

A. Data Sharing and Data Equity Bills

Smith informed the committee that in December of 2014, he, Warden, Jurgas, and Johannesson along with a representative from ECC met with Senator Harmon about the two data issues the committee has been working on. Senator Harmon stated that he would support district's views on the issues of data sharing and data equity. He further asked the committee to draft specific

legislation for him to sponsor on data equity. Shortly after the meeting, ECC felt they needed no intervention. Smith then met with the one of the district's attorneys who stated that he interpreted state law as not restrictive on data sharing. At this point Smith put a general hold on meeting with legislators and reached out to the school board for clarification and further direction. He met with Gates and President Spates to address these matters. As a result, two administrators, Chris Jascula and Felicia Starke Turner will work with CLAIM. Smith also asked for financial resources for outside legislative expertise. The board will revisit this after the two administrators advise them of a need for this. Smith stated that he felt CLAIM and the district had been embarrassed and expended great amounts of time on an issue without true clarity. Gates apologized on behalf of the board and stated that he, the board and the superintendent felt that Smith had been given inaccurate legal advice in his meeting with the representative from the district's legal firm and vowed that true clarity would be given to the data issues.

B. Calendar and Priorities

Smith directed the committee members to submit a list of all priorities CLAIM should present to the board for a direction moving forward and that at the April meeting they would be discussed. He stated that the IASB resolutions and the legislative forum are successful mechanisms to use to push forward the priorities that the board will assign to CLAIM. Warden stated that the priorities, with examples of action should then be presented to the legislators.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson