

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 21, 2013, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chairman Greg Smith called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

In Attendance: Greg Smith, Brandon Bell, Meredith Schacht, John Moss, Wiley Samuels, Joanne Schochat, Carollina Song, Jim Gates, Jim O’Conner, Rupa Datta, Anne warden and Lou Anne Johannesson (secretary)

Not in Attendance: Jassen Strokosch, Sanford Greenberg, Peggy Kell, Carol Threlkeld, Ray Johnson

Also in Attendance: Bob Spatz, School Board Member

2. Public Comment/Committee Comment

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

3. Education Funding Update-Presented by Bob Spatz, District 97 Board Member

Mr. Spatz gave a PowerPoint presentation on the subject of PTell. The presentation is attached.

After the presentation Member Gates asked Mr. Spatz if fighting any PTell change was something C.L.A.I.M. should be focusing on. Mr. Spatz stated that at this time there is no legislation proposed, but that keeping an eye on future activity falls under the monitoring aspect of C.L.A.I.M. Member Gates asked if any changes to P-Tell were tied to the pension funding issue. Mr. Spatz stated that no, if PTell were to change it would be an additional \$7 million in lost funding to the District in addition to any pension shifting. Member Moss stated that the Illinois Senate passed their pension bill that morning. He further stated that the House and Senate bills are far apart in substance. He then stated that if a bill were to be signed into law, it would more than likely be phased in over a 10-12 year period of time so that it would develop over several contract cycles.

4. Sub-Committee Reporting

A. Finance

Members Schacht stated that the P-Tell presentation was a good fit for what the finance sub-committee discussed in their last meeting. The sub-committee has been trying to understand PTell and they will be doing some research on the levy cap.

B. Data

Member Datta stated she has been learning about data activity coming from the Board. Member O’Conner stated that some members of the School Board are discussing what to do next about data sharing with District 200. He then explained that the Board is considering a proposal from a firm called ECRA to analyze the District’s own data. The ECRA letter of intent has ten points:

- Management of a student achievement data warehouse
- An online portal to manage research and reports with security implemented to the building level
- Development, hosting, and maintenance of a publicly-accessible dashboard
- Student achievement growth model development and deployment
- Monitoring individual student growth and attainment
- Linking student achievement to teacher and administrator evaluation
- Evaluating the return on investment for programs and interventions
- Student identification and cut score development
- Benchmark analyses of district achievement against comparable districts
- Ongoing consulting for strategic goal-setting and performance management
- Development of district benchmarks
- Dedicated ECRA consultant
- Professional development
- Unlimited phone access to ECRA

The services provided by ECRA would cost the District \$74,000 a year. ECRA will do a final presentation to the Board on April 8th, and have a final vote at its April 23rd meeting. Member Gates stated that ECRA will assist with student motivation for the upcoming Common Core changes to curriculum. He further stated that it will help teachers get a better handle on assessments, because teachers are currently overburdened; it will help inform instruction. Member Samuels asked what the relationship is between ECRA’s work and professional development. Member O’Conner said that it has everything to do with professional development and that it will help inform the assessments given to students. Member Samuels asked what the forecast is on the Achievement Gap. Member O’Conner stated that this program will help the District learn more the Achievement Gap. Member Gates stated that ECRA will help teachers screen for what individual students need in order to be successful. Member Samuels stated that the Achievement Gap is social and emotional based as well as academic. He asked what performance measures will indicate a true baseline. Member Gates suggested that the social/emotional factors are why early childhood education for all is so important. Member Datta stated that the next step is to identify solutions to help students and to get them the proper resources. She further stated that data cannot solve the problems of lack of achievement, but can help identify them. Member Gates agreed and stated that kids give up if they do not get what they need to succeed. He stated that Illinois is number one in the country in terms of benchmarks and that Common Core will be an even more targeted approach. Member Samuels stated that for students at risk, a holistic approach is necessary. Chairman Smith asked Member O’Conner to consult with the data sub-committee regarding ECRA.

C. Early Childhood

Member Song stated that she would like to be included to represent the early childhood sub-committee at the meeting with Senator Kimberly Lightford. Now that the investment by District 97 will be made for Early Childhood Education member Song would like to make sure that our legislators are monitoring and advocating for continued funding. Member Song stated that she is talking to someone about data sharing for transitions from Early Childhood to Kindergarten regarding the privacy laws.

5. Other Items

A. Legislative Forum

Chairman Smith stated some members will meet informally in April to begin to discuss the forum. He asked that those members let him know when to add the forum to the agenda.

B. Connecting With Education Advocacy Groups

Chairman Smith asked if anyone would like to begin to interface with the three other advocacy groups from Schaumburg, Barrington and Downers Grove. Member gates agreed to do so along with Chairman Smith. Member Moss added that it would be a good idea for C.L.A.I.M. members to attend Ed-RED meetings. Member Moss stated that he would work to connect Member Song with Representative Danny Davis to discuss constituent interest relating to Early Childhood Education.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson
Secretary