

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
November 15, 2012, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Member Greg Smith called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and announced that Chairperson Warden was not able to attend and had asked him to preside over the meeting.

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

Not in Attendance: Carol Threlkeld, Ray Johnson, Anne Warden, Jassen Strokosch, Carollina Song

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments

3. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2012

Smith made motion to approve October 18, 2012 minutes. Member Datta seconded the motion.

Ayes: Smith, Datta, Bell, Greenberg, Gates, O'Connor, Schacht, Samuels, Kell, Schochat

Nays: None

Motion passed.

4. Review of feedback from District 97 Board of Education

Member Smith stated that the Board was pleased and excited by the progress of C.L.A.I.M. The Board would like to know what additional issues C.L.A.I.M. is interested in. Smith reported that Chairwoman Warden has suggested a brainstorming session at January's regular meeting.

Member Gates reported that he will attend the IASB convention the following Saturday and that a vote will be taken at that meeting on the resolutions C.L.A.I.M. submitted. Gates also stated that he attended an Ed-Red meeting on November 9, 2012 and spoke to a representative of Lieutenant Governor Simon's office who was amazed that C.L.A.I.M. was a citizen and School Board collaborative committee. Member Smith asked that Gates contact the members with the result of the IASB results.

5. Sub-Committee Reporting

a. Work Plan

No report was presented.

b. DATA

Member Datta reported that Mr. Steven M. Richart, Associate Attorney with Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn, Attorneys for District 97, looked into the FERPA exception discussed at the last regular meeting. Mr. Richart's recommendations were sent to Dr. Felicia Starks-Turner who then submitted a summary to Superintendent Roberts. After reviewing the response she received from Dr. Starks Turner, Member Datta does not think that District 97 feels that using the exemptions is a good option. Member Datta then asked if in light of the District's position, the DATA sub-committee should continue with the current task or find a different path. Datta suggested if the Data sub-committee should work on Early Childhood data collection further down the road to be productive. She stated that there may be some other issues to pursue, but that a decision does not need to be made right now. Member Gates asked her if she is asking the Board for a directive. Member Data asked if they need Board feedback, or if something the committee can decide internally. Member Gates suggested that the committee pursue Member Kell's previous suggestion of using the district's own data for tracking. Member Gates was not sure what C.L.A.I.M. has to do with actual data collection. Member Kell stated that data collection is not the directive of C.L.A.I.M., noting that data collection is for District 97 staff to do. Member Datta stated that perhaps the committee should tell the district what it has done, be a touch point on how data collection is progressing and to demonstrate a need for legislative change in regard to the difficulties non-unified districts have with sharing of student records. Member Greenberg stated he was surprised by the excess of caution on using the FERPA exceptions by the District's. He stated that it appears the exemptions allow for internal data study. He recommends that the committee push back on District 97 about their decision on why the exceptions are not valuable in the pursuit of the goal. Member Gates stated that he would investigate and ask why the district will not use the exemptions for the retrieval of data. Member Greenberg stated that it is much easier to use the exemptions than to change the law. Member Samuels asked what the district's priority is. Where is data collection on their list of priorities? Is this just a cost-benefit analysis stand? Member O'Connor stated that there is a way to move forward if the committee presses the district to use the exceptions. Member Gates stated that if data collection is such a priority, he questioned why the district is saying no to use the exceptions. Gates asked Datta for a one page summary to give the Board on where the data sub-committee should go next. Datta suggests that this is a larger C.L.A.I.M. policy issue. Member Smith suggests that the sub-committee meet and make recommendations of a path forward and then share them with the whole committee. Member Kell stated that the sub-committee looked at the issue and gave its recommendations; the question now is what next. She asked if it is Okay to say the committee is finished researching this topic. Member Gates stated that that is fine, if the sub-committee feels it is done, than it is done. Member Greenberg stated that if the Board still considered longitudinal data analysis a priority, they need to get the administration to use the exemptions. Member O'Conner stated that the Board might be swayed; that the exemptions are really good stuff. He suggests one more push on the administration. Member Kell stated there is no rush for a decision. Member Datta agreed and stated that C.L.A.I.M. should think about a bigger picture. How the committee chooses topics moving forward. She suggested a generic discussion is needed on C.L.A.I.M. Member Gates asked if the Board is even needed.

Member Smith suggested that the process of choosing sub-committees should be on the January Agenda. Member Gates asks for a motion cancelling the December regular meeting. Member Smith suggests there will most likely not be a quorum in December. He will ask Chairwoman Warden to address the issue to the committee via email.

c. Finance

Member Schacht said that after some minor corrections, the financial fact sheet is ready. Member Moss stated that he will meet with representative Camille Lilly on Monday, December 10, 2012, after the over-ride session has ended. Member Smith stated that no more than four members from the committee, and no more than two members from each sub-committee may attend. Member Moss stated that he had attended a State Board funding meeting and that measurement and student outcomes are where budgeting results will be coming from in the future.

d. K.I.D.S.

Member Smith stated that Board member Spatz is looking at funding for Race to the Top. Smith suggested changing the focus of the sub-committee to Early Childhood and that it would be discussed at the next regular meeting.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson
Secretary