

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
October 18, 2012, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chairwoman Warden called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

In Attendance: Anne Warden, Greg Smith, Rupa Datta, Brandon Bell, Sanford Greenberg, Jim O'Connor, Wiley Samuels, Margaret Kell, Carollina Song, Jassen Strokosch, Meredith Schacht and Lou Anne Johannesson (secretary)

Not in Attendance: John Moss, Ray Johnson, Joanne Schochat, Carol Threlkeld

Also Present: Dr. Felicia Starks-Turner, Curriculum Coordinator for Administrative Services District 97; Meg Ross Manager, Student Information Systems District 97, Steven M. Richart, Associate Attorney with Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn, Attorneys for District 97

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments

3. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2012

Warden made motion to approve the September 20, 2012 minutes. Member Samuels seconded the motion.

Ayes: Smith, Datta, Bell, Samuels, Gates, O'Connor, Strokosch, Schacht

Nays: None

Motion passed.

4. Guest Speakers

Chairwoman Warden introduced the three guest speakers. Member Gates informed the guests that the committee is trying to help the district to legislatively have the ability to use long-term data to predict analytics. Member Datta said the Board wanted to be sure the district could get data on former students. That was the commission to the sub-committee. She also stated that they were trying to understand the transaction cost of non-unit district compliance with the new "Student Records" act.

Mr. Richart explained that the transfer of information to District 200 without notice to parents had lead to a law-suit. Dr. Starks-Turner said a letter is now sent to the parents of eighth graders. Ms. Ross said this year's process just started by sending the first letters of the year to parents. The letters were sent directly to parents the week of October, 15. She further stated that the cost was minimal; just the cost of first class mail.

Chairwoman Warden stated that that does not address data on former students coming back to District 97 for analysis. Member O'Conner suggested that data coming back to District 97 could be at the aggregate level. Member Gates stated that this was important to track what programming is most likely to succeed. Member Smith asked if District 200 could send a consent letter to parents. Mr. Richart stated that would be notification not consent. With consent, a parent can say no. Member Datta asked what the difference would be, why can they not be notified. Mr. Richart said that there is no issue in terms of data going in the direction of the student. Member Greenberg stated that currently there are no legal issues related to unified districts. Perhaps the question to legislators should be why unified and non-unified districts are being treated differently. That the non-unified has all the cost and risk. Dr. Starks-Turner stated that each time a request is made by District 200 a letter has to go out. This year the process between the two Districts has been streamlined. Mr. Richart said each letter has to be dated and document the parent's rights in writing. Member Strokosch ask if that is every time. Mr. Richart said yes. Member Gates reiterated that the question to poise to legislators is why non-unified Districts were not considered in the law. Member Strokosch suggested going to District 200 with a plan about data. The goal would be how to get consent for data flowing backwards. Member Samuels said that it is vital to show parents the benefit for all students. Member Gates said he and member O'Conner will go to the School Board about the proposal of having the two superintendents meet about data sharing in both directions. Mr. Richart stated that there is elaborate and extensive research on FERPA, and that he will research about the committee's specific questions.

Member Strokosch asked about anonymous tracking of raw data. Member O'Conner mentioned access to the National Student Clearing House. Member Gates asked Mr. Richart to look into it. Member Datta said that it is virtually impossible to keep data anonymous unless a third party is hired to do the analysis. It does not remain anonymous if Districts 200 or 97 do the analysis. Member Song asked what the harm of looking backwards on data is. Ms. Ross said the law is the impediment. Member Song suggested that the law needs to be changed. Member Samuels suggested a small pilot program telling parents what data is really needed. Member Datta stated that District 97 should analysis their own nine years of data first, before gathering data from District 200. She said that should be the first in a sequence of events. Member Kell strongly agreed. She stated that we need to tell District 200 that we have our own predictors. Dr. Starks-Turner said that the District started a growth model last year. Member Strokosch asked if we can simply get consent to send data backwards from District 200. Mr. Richart said there is not a lot of case law on this subject. Member Song asked how the discussion relates to Early Childhood. She asked where the law is on Early Childhood tracking. Member Datta stated most Early Childhood programs are not in or affiliated with specific school districts, and that most preschools are stand alone. Mr. Richart stated that Early Childhood is not covered under the law. Mr. Richart stated there may be two exceptions in the law regarding data; 1) Internal sharing (feeder schools within a district) and 2) All participants should have access to track when a student is no longer enrolled. He reiterated that unit districts do not have any of these concerns. Member Strokosch stated that the model for legislative reform should included FERPA/Inter-District Agreement and Anonymous data. Chairwoman Warren sated that the committees action moving forward should be a recommendation to the Board that Superintendent Roberts meet

with the District 200 Superintendent about creating an intergovernmental agreement. Member Gates stated that in addition, the legislators are made aware of the problems faced by non-unified districts. Member Datta stated that the information was very helpful to the subcommittee and that their next step will be to put together their work plan.

The guests left the meeting at 8:17PM

5. Sub-Committee Reporting

a. Data

Member O'Connor presented handouts from an organization he has looked into call Beyond 12 that does post secondary tracking using the National Student Data Base. Member Kell said that it is important to do District 97 internal analysis first and asked why the high school data is important. A discussion regarding K-8 ensues. Chairwoman Warden stated that before anyone goes to District 200, the committee needs to find out what exactly District 97 is doing. Member Smith suggested that District 97 needs to adopt a specific data policy. Member Datta reminded the committee that the goal is to improve instruction that is what data collection is for. Member Song agreed that the Board needs to set a policy goal for data. Member Datta said her sub-committee will come back with a plan.

b. Finance

Two small grammatical errors need to be corrected on the fact sheet. Member Datta suggested that the sheet sends a message of, "digging in our heels". She asked if the tone of the statement should be altered. Member Kell said that it relates to a revenue issue and should be a statement of the fact of the pension reform's effect on the district. Member Gates said it is important for the legislators to hear. Member Schacht stated that the document is an impact statement. Member Datta stated it should be seen as neutral and compelling. Chairwoman Warden suggested that the District needs to be seen as a serious voice and that the legislators might use the district as an example on the chamber floor if they know of the financial impact of their legislative acts. She suggested that it would help get "a foot in the door" and the district needs to be on the list of "people" that matter. Member Schacht stated that the next step is to get Board approval for the document.

Chairwoman Warden stated that Lou Anne Johannesson would get the final version of the document and the work plan to the superintendent's office for the Board packet. She suggested that each sub-committee appoint a spokesperson to address the upcoming Board meeting.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson
Secretary

