

**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.)**  
**Special meeting**  
**September 5, 2013, 7:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**In Attendance:** Brandon Bell, Meredith Schacht, Wiley Samuels, Carolina Song, Amy Felton, Rupa Datta, Anne Warden, Jassen Strokosch, Sanford Greenberg, Ray Johnson, Greg Smith, Carol Threlkeld, Wiley Samuels and Lou Anne Johannesson (secretary)

**Not in Attendance:** Peggy Kell, Jim Gates, John Moss, Steve Cumming

Also in attendance: Dr. Al Roberts, Oak Park Elementary School District Superintendent.

Chairman Smith welcomed Member Felton to the committee, and stated that she is replacing Member O'Connor. He stated that it was important for members to report to him if they are unable to attend meetings. He reported that both July and August's meetings were not held due to a lack of a quorum. He also reported that he and Member Moss had successfully met with Senator Lightford. During that meeting, the Senator remarked that there will be work resuming soon on Senate bill 8 regarding teacher evaluations. The Senator told them that she expects heavy negotiations involving the bill.

**2. Public Comment/Committee Comment**

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

2. Legislators Forum

Member Smith asked Members Bell, Strokosch and Ms. Johannesson to update the committee on plans for the forum. Member Bell pointed out the posters that were available to view. Member Smith asked about the time of the event. The event will run from 7:30-9:00 p.m. on the evening of Wednesday, October 9, 2013. The event will be held in the Commons of Percy Julian Middle School. The doors will be open to the public at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Smith will moderate the event. The first half of the evening will be comprised of three questions, one from each of the sub-committees given to the legislators. The legislators will be given the questions in advance. The topics of the questions will be; how upcoming legislation in regard to school funding, student data/outcomes and Early Childhood Education will affect District 97. The questions will be asked by the chair people of the sub-committees. The public will be asked to submit written questions to be asked in the second portion of the evening.

Dr. Roberts stated that for student involvement, parents need to approve. He said that it is his experience that when parents work with their children they are more responsive, more natural, and more transparent. He would like to see parents with the students and feels that it is much more powerful. Chairman Smith asked for suggestions on how to involve students in the actual event itself. It was suggested that students act as escorts and tour guides for the elected officials, sit at the registration table and provide music prior to the event. Dr. Roberts stated that it is important to make sure all diverse groups are represented in the students who attend the event.

He remarked that Oak Park represents something very special in its diversity, and is really a lab school for the country. Member Felton suggested student council members might participate. Other suggestions included F.L.O.W. Dr. Roberts added that there is a real opportunity to highlight in a real way who our student body really is. He further suggested that perhaps social studies classes could form questions. He would ask if any teachers would be interested. He stated that he would begin the process of reaching out to parents. Chairman Smith asked who would take the lead in reaching out to students and teachers. Dr. Roberts volunteered.

Member Greenberg reported that he has attended many events like this. He feels that it is important that the event not be too strictly controlled and pre-packaged. Member Johnson agreed but stated that the questions should be education related. Member Samuels asked how the process would work in regard to the public questions. Member Strokosch stated that questions would be collected throughout the evening. They would be screened for commonality and repetitiveness and would perhaps have to be re-written for legibility. He stated that they would not be censored as much as sorted by topic. If there are many questions on the same topic, perhaps rewrite the question of many to capture the essence of the question. Ms. Johannesson stated that there will be preprinted cards available throughout the evening. Member Song suggested that all members of the committee will most likely be needed as runners and readers. Member Bell will bring a sign-up sheet to the next meeting.

Member Johnson reported an incident at the last Village Board meeting involving the local press live blogging at the meeting. He asked who will meet with and wrangle the press. Ms. Johannesson stated that Chris Jasculca, the District's Director of communications will handle that.

Member Samuels asked why Representative Ford was not being advertized as attending. Chairman Smith stated that Member Moss had repeatedly reached out to Representative Ford, to no avail. Chairman Smith stated that he will be mentioned in the opening remarks of the evening.

Member Datta asked if the committee should prepare the officials for audience questions. Member Warden said that was the job of their staff members. Member Song suggested reaching out to the PTO Council and Collaboration for Early Childhood to get the word out.

Member Bell asked what C.L.A.I.M. should use as a handout. Chairman Smith asked Member Felton if the Board would need to approve something. She said no, if the committee just tweaks the original mission statement with some community outreach information. Chairman Smith asked Members Bell, Strokosch and Ms. Johannesson to edit the handout and bring final to next meeting. Ms. Johannesson asked Member Johnson to contact the Village Clerk in regards to security. He agreed. Chairman Smith asked Member Johnson to ascertain if there will be a fee involved for staffing security. Member Warden suggested using a separate entrance for the officials. Member Therlkeld suggested secured parking. Dr. Roberts said parking will be taken care of. Chairman Smith thanked all those who have worked on the details thus far.

### **3. Action Items**

#### **a. Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2013**

Chairman Smith made motion to approve the June 20, 2013 minutes. Member Johnson asked for a change. Chairman Smith asked again for a motion to approve. Member Greenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous.

Motion passed.

### **4. Sub-Committee Reporting**

#### **A. Finance**

Members Schacht stated there were no updates.

#### **B. Data**

Member Datta reported that the Board had given permission to dissolve the sub-committee. She asked Member Felton if the Board will be giving them a new mission. Member Datta is waiting for clarification. Member Felton will get clarification from the Board. Chairman Smith asked if she wanted to dissolve the sub-committee now. She and Member Greenberg decided to wait until after the forum.

#### **Early Childhood**

Member Song reported that she has reached out again to the office of Representative Danny Davis 'office. She knows that Mr. Davis has an interest in Early Childhood Education especially early intervention. Member Song will follow-up. She said that she was trying to meet at the end of September but that Representative Davis will be out of the country. She asked if she should try for late October. Chairman Smith said October would be beneficial. Member Song is trying to coordinate with members of the Collaboration for the meeting.

### **5. Other Items**

#### **a. IASB Annual Conference Presentation**

Chairman Smith reported that the title of the panel will be, "Successful Educational Advocacy in Your School District". He reported that reported that C.L.A.I.M. was chose for the long form panel. Chairman Smith, Member Schacht, Member Samuels, and member Gates are currently working on the hand-outs and a PowerPoint.

## **b. Connecting With Education Advocacy Groups**

Chairman Smith had invited the President of the Downers Grove Legislative Action Committee to the July 18, 2013 C.L.A.I.M. meeting, but there was no meeting. He will look into rescheduling and continue to reach out to other school district's advocacy groups.

Chairman Smith asked Ms. Johannesson to send out an invitation to all members for the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson  
Secretary