

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting September 12, 2017**

Vice President O'Connor called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Liebl, O'Connor, Breymaier, Broy, Datta (7:30 p.m.), and Spurlock (8:00 p.m.)
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Dr. Alicia Evans, Assistant Superintendent for HR Laurie Campbell, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Dr. Amy Warke, Senior Director of Special Services Eboney Lofton, Senior Director of Policy, Procedures and Communication Chris Jasulca, Senior Director of Administrative Services Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Equity Dr. Carrie Kamm, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Emily Fenske, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Spatz moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Probable Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11)).

Ayes: Spatz, Breymaier, Liebl, O'Connor, and Broy
Nays: None
Absent: Spurlock and Datta
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Spatz moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:58 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Elisa Lapine, an Oak Park resident for 18 years, and Founder and Community Leader of the Secular Jewish Community and School of Oak Park (SJCS), described SJCS as an inclusive, member-run, non-profit community celebrating and teaching Jewish culture. The community of about 50 families offers children and adult education, and are involved in community activities such as PADS and Muslim-Jewish Forward (inter-faith). She shared that SJCS has been meeting at Irving School on Sundays for the past 10 years and has only been required to pay for custodial services. She expressed concern regarding the recent notification of fees increasing, noting that SJCS could not afford such a large increase. She asked the Board to reconsider the increase and to reflect on how the policy would affect members of the community. She asked the Board to be thoughtful, creative and kind.

James Poznik, an Oak Park resident for 30 years and SJCS member, thanked the Board for their amazing service. He shared that he is an attorney, and referred to the memo from the district regarding the building usage fee increases. He suggested that the fee increase is not in line with district policies, and read part of the policy to support his opinion. He noted how the policy specifically states that fees will be charged on weekdays and suggested that only custodial fees would be charged on weekends. He asked the Board to revisit these rules and involve the principals in the decision making efforts.

Gail Fisher, an Oak Park resident for 25 years and Irving School parent, reported that Principal Hodge defines the school building as a community resource. She suggested that the building is not just for us, but for other groups as well, and suggested charging fees that would allow the district to simply cover expenses. She shared that she understands the importance of volunteers and noted that she is the volunteer coordinator for the Jewish school. She asked the Board to give SJCS more time to find a new location for their meetings, and to reconsider the fee scale for local home grown groups.

Cate Reading, an Oak Park resident and district chair for this scout territory, congratulated the Those Who Excel award winners. She thanked Dr. Kelley and the Board of Education regarding the resolution stating that District 97 is a safe space. She reported that the community hosts four active scout units of about 500 scouts. Reading shared that she has met with Alicia Evans and they have come to an agreement about the fees required by scout troops. She noted that the

PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)

district is very accommodating and thanked them for removing a barrier for an organization that has a mission to build a better world.

Sander Rosen, an Oak Park resident for 14 years, addressed the Board regarding the building usage fees for SJCS. He shared that he joined SJCS over 10 years ago with friends. He described the organization as a community and noted that the little funding they have, keeps them going. The group helps with PADS which teacher children compassion. The organization also participates in Day in Our Village and bake sales at the Farmers Market.

Melissa DeJesus Vasquez, an Oak Park resident, and leader of the first grade Daisy troop at Irving School, requested that the Board keep the girl scouts as a category C. She noted that there is an active group in every grade level at Irving and she currently has 20 Daisy scouts. She described girl scouts as the most inclusive group possible and shared that the troop covers the cost of membership for the girls. Vasquez expressed understanding regarding the concern for fees, but explained the difficulty in paying \$90 per meeting for a troop of six year old girls. She noted that they would have to sell 900 boxes of cookies to raise that kind of money.

Valeriy Shafiro, an Oak Park resident and member of SJCS, thanked the Board for their hard work. He shared that he grew up in the Soviet Union and noted how things are done differently here. He expressed amazement at the community and the ability to work with the school district. He noted that as a parent of students in the district, he can truly appreciate the effort put in to making this a great school district. Shafiro shared that he understands that things may change, but expressed concern over the sudden change. He understands that the increase is not intentional, and suggested that perhaps it was an oversight.

Member Datta arrived at 7:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 15, 2017 BOARD MEETING

Spatz moved, seconded by Liebl, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the August 15, 2017 Board meeting as amended at the table.

Ayes: Spatz, Liebl, O’Connor, Breymaier, and Broy
Nays: None
Abstained: Datta
Absent: Spurlock
Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented.

5.2.1 Approval of Bill List

5.2.2 Approval of Personnel

Ayes: Spatz, Datta, Liebl, O’Connor, Breymaier, and Broy
Nays: None
Absent: Spurlock
Motion passed.

2.3.1 APPROVAL OF THE CULTURAL PROFICIENCY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – NATIONAL EQUITY PROJECT

Breymaier moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the contract with the National Equity Project in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the purpose of Cultural Proficiency Professional Development.

Ayes: Breymaier, Spatz, Liebl, O’Connor, Datta, and Broy
Nays: None
Absent: Spurlock
Motion passed.

2.3.2 APPROVAL OF WAREHOUSE CONTRACT

Broy moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the sale contract with TLC 541 Madison, LLC for the purchase of the 541 Madison Street property.

Ayes: Broy, Spatz, Liebl, O'Connor, Datta, and Breymaier
Nays: None
Absent: Spurlock
Motion passed.

2.3.3 APPROVAL OF PROVIDENCE CAPITAL – CHROMEBOOK LEASE

Broy moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Lease Purchase Agreement with Providence Capital in connection with the lease of Acer Chromebooks as presented on May 23, 2017 and approved by the Board of Education as part of the Technology plan on June 13, 2017.

Ayes: Broy, Spatz, Liebl, O'Connor, Datta, and Breymaier
Nays: None
Absent: Spurlock
Motion passed.

2.3.4 APPROVAL OF A RESIGNATION AGREEMENT

Broy moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the resignation agreement with Nurse Diane Ciancanelli.

Ayes: Broy, Breymaier, Liebl, Spatz, O'Connor, and Datta
Nays: None
Absent: Spurlock
Motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Dr. Kelley recognized the efforts of the GTD Ad Hoc committee selection team. She thanked members Datta and Breymaier, as well as Dr. Warke and Dr. Kamm for their efforts. She reported that the materials are being reviewed and committee members will be notified by the week of September 18, 2017.

Dr. Kelley thanked Dr. Amy Warke and Dr. Helen Wei for leading the K-5 ELA curriculum team. Dr. Kelley reported that the district now has a shared written curriculum and instructional framework.

Dr. Kelley thanked Dr. Felicia Starks Turner for organizing the Parent/Teacher Advisory Committee. This team updated the parent handbook, ensuring that the language is parent friendly and in accordance with the school code.

Dr. Kelley thanked Laurie Campbell, for the combined efforts with the registrar, Administrative Assistants and Principals who made sure that all students were in the classroom on the first day of school and not in the school office for lack of registration needs.

Dr. Kelley reported that the district is still in the process of hiring key staff members; a School Safety and Security person, Middle School PBIS Coordinators, Teacher Assistants and administrative support personnel. She expressed confidence that these positions will all be filled in the next couple weeks.

Dr. Kelley recognized Eboney Lofton and the Special Education team for delivering a standardized district wide presentation on allergy protocols on the first day of school. Everyone has been trained on how to administer the EpiPen and have received a hard copy of the food allergy guidelines. Additionally, letters on this topic have been sent out to parents via school messenger.

**BOARD
ASSIGNMENTS**

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP

FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)

The FAC committee met last week. During that meeting, the committee agreed to recommend Option B for the Holmes School addition. They noted that this option allows for new space for specials. Some projects will need to be deferred because they are not needed until 2021. It was reported that FAC will hold a special meeting at Holmes School tomorrow evening along with the Board of Education to discuss the options.

FINANCE OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (FORC)

FORC met on August 29, 2017 and will meet again on September 18, 2017. They will review the assumptions used in the five year forecast. This information will be shared with the Board after their review. The committee also talked about two

FINANCE OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (FORC) (Continued)

policy items that will be shared with the Board during the policy discussion this evening. FORC is also working on two items that will be shared with the Board at a future date.

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CCE)

The CCE met last week. The team is eager to develop a work plan and get moving. They are hoping to have something for the Board to review in the near future. The committee conducted a survey of community members over the summer, and 400 people participated. They plan to share some initial findings from the survey in an upcoming update to the Board. It was noted that committee members feel that there is a good quality stream of information shared, but opportunities for the community to share with the Board could use some improvement. Additionally, the committee offered to provide professional development to the Board on community contact.

COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION, INTERVENTION AND MONITORING (CLAIM)

It was reported that the CLAIM committee will be meeting this coming Thursday evening.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP
iGOV**

It was reported that iGOV is planning to hold their next assembly on October 21, 2017 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The location is still to be determined. The group will be meeting again before the assembly and an update will be shared with the Board once that occurs.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

The next COG meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2017.

PTO COUNCIL (PTOC)

It was reported that PTOC will be meeting on September 25, 2017.

COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD (CEC)

It was reported that the Collaboration IGA Governing Board meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2017 and the agenda has been included in the Board packet as an information only item. Board members were asked to share items for consideration for the November tri-board meeting agenda with member Spatz in the next couple week.

OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION (OPEF)

It was reported that the Foundation should complete an evaluation of the summer programming by the end of September and will share their finding with the district sometime in October. They will be holding an open house on October 4, 2017 and participating in the Octoberfest on September 14 and 15, 2017. The next meeting of this group is scheduled on September 27, 2017.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Member Liebl noted that the Board Secretary is trying to help her connect with this group.

TRI-BOARD ON EQUITY

It was reported that the Tri-board on Equity met a few weeks ago and shared ideas. They agreed that the first mission of the team will be to go back to their boards and superintendents and see how the committee can best serve the community. The committee will try to connect the three entities in ways they have not in the past. The committee will be meeting again in October, and possibly hosting a public meeting in January. Member Liebl asked for input from the other Board members.

President Spurlock arrived at 8:00 p.m.

BUILDING USAGE FEE DISCUSSION

President Spurlock explained that the Scouts have been moved to Category C. She noted that the restructuring of the building usage fees was an effort to bring in a little revenue and avoid the need for a future referendum. She noted that the Board needs to be cognizant of the communities needs and it was suggested that a moratorium be place on the fee structure for this year.

The Board discussed this issue in detail and agreed that the organizations that have previously rented district facilities will be grandfathered in under the old fee structure/agreement, but will incur a capped 10 percent increase over what they have been paying. Any new organizations that request the use of district facilities will be categorized based on the new fee structure the Board approved in July. In addition, any groups that were not charged to use space in the past despite being in a category that was responsible for covering certain expenses will now be required to pay for custodial overtime fees,

BUILDING USAGE FEE DISCUSSION (Continued)

use of district equipment and any other staff-related costs incurred in conjunction with renting facilities. They will also be required to provide a certificate of insurance.

The district will revisit the fee structure/agreement this year with the goal of developing a more efficient and effective long-term plan that reflects the district's commitment to fiscal stewardship, but also ensures that the district's facilities remain a viable resource for the community partners and local organizations. While there is no set timeline for completing this new plan, the goal is to finalize it in the spring and implement it at the start of the 2017-18 school year.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

President Spurlock reported that she received an email asking the Board to consider changing the Columbus Day recognition to Indigenous Peoples' Day. She noted that the School Code states that Columbus Day is a non-attendance day, therefore a waiver of the holiday might be required if the Board chooses to make a change to that holiday. The Board decided to explore the options that are available for recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day. They will be working with the Board's attorney to determine if there are any issues or challenges associated with recognizing this day either instead of, or in addition to Columbus Day, which is listed as a "legal school holiday" in the Illinois School Code. They also want to explore the potential impact this change may have on how the district teaches this topic in the classrooms. They will be reaching out to peer districts that have made the change from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day to gather information and get their guidance on the process. They plan to update the community on the status of this topic during the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2017.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

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ITEMS**

DISPOSAL OF DISTRICT PROPERTY

Alicia Evans noted that the district has furniture that was recently replaced through the use of grant funds, and requested that the Board consider donating the old items to other agencies. This item will return to the Board for action on September 26, 2017.

UNDERWRITERS

Evans reported that William Blair will no longer be working in the municipal bond market. She has received communications from four companies interested in representing the district and is in the process of researching their credentials. The Board will receive a recommendation on September 26, 2017 and will take action on this item on October 10, 2017.

APPROVAL OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Evans explained that in order for the PTOs, CAST, BRAVO, OPEF, etc., to be covered under the District's insurance policy, all activities for the groups must be approved by the Board. A list of activities was shared and will return to the Board for action on September 26, 2017. Additionally, it was noted that CAST and BRAVO have not completed their filing for 501C3 status, and it was noted that PING should be part of Category B on the Building Usage chart.

DONATION TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

Evans noted that annually, the Oak Park Education Foundation donates \$1,600 to the Special Education department. She asked the Board to accept this donation during the September 26, 2017 Board meeting.

SURETY BONDS

Evans noted that the Board annually approves the surety bonds, and asked the Board to entertain this request on September 26, 2017.

POLICY REVIEW

Chris Jасulca came to the table. He noted that most of the policy revisions shared with the Board this evening were changes made for clarity or to match changes in the law.

The Board was asked to consider if they want the mission statement embedded in policies. It was noted that the mission, although not the main focus of the district, should remain in the policies at this time. Concern was expressed that if the mission is not embraced by the district, perhaps it should be revised.

It was reported that the revised FORC charge will be sent to the Policy committee for consideration. Changes made to the charge include identifying the need for a vice-chairperson and language regarding attendance requirements.

Jасulca noted that he will be meeting with Carrie Kamm regarding the equity policy on September 21, 2017. He noted that equity policies from other districts have been reviewed and appear to be very different. Jасulca expects to have more on this topic to share with the Board on September 26, 2017.

POLICY REVIEW (Continued)

Jasculca noted that the Policy committee is currently researching the needs for a Charter School policy. It was noted that Karen Yarborough might be a good resource for this topic.

Additionally, it was noted that changes are being made regarding Website accessibility. Jasculca noted that the district’s web server supplies the committee with a good set of documents. Once they have been vetted by the attorneys, he will share them with the Board.

Board questions and concerns included interest in knowing if the district has a policy on apps used in the classrooms. Michael Arensdorff acknowledged the request and offered to review.

Interest was expressed in knowing the responsibility of the Board and district regarding the request to “weigh in” on economic development. Member Spatz prepared a draft outline for review. The need for guidelines was expressed, noting the need to know what should be said regarding future development. It was noted that the Board may be legally obligated to take a position at some point and the procedure for response should be clearly identified in the guidelines. It was agreed that once the document is reviewed by FORC, it will be shared with FAC and CLAIM.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

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BOARD REMARKS

Members Liebl and Spatz attended a meeting related to a transgender policy with members from Districts 90 and 200. They reported that all districts seem to be at a different level regarding this topic. Dr. Kelley noted that she met with District 200 last week and they indicated that someone from their district would be reaching out to Districts 90 and 97 in the near future.

Jasculca noted that District 97 already has a document in place addressing transgender concerns and suggested that it could be added to the policy manual as something approved by the Board. He offered to share the current document with the Board. It was agreed that this item should be added to a future agenda.

It was reported that the Board received an email today from ED-RED regarding school funding. It was noted that the expectation is that the district will be up marginally (less than the cost of living); but that is significantly more than what the district projected.

It was noted that the BarrieFest was successful. Everyone who participated was thanked for their efforts.

It was noted that President Spurlock, with the help of the Communications department, will be creating a video summary of some of the key topics of tonight’s meeting to be shared online. Announcements for upcoming topics were also suggested.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA REVIEW FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was reported that a special meeting will be held to discuss the Holmes addition location options on September 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Holmes School. It was noted that the Board will need to vote on a location during the September 26, 2017 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spurlock declared the meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary