

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
November 27, 2017 Meeting**

President Spurlock called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Spurlock, Liebl, O'Connor, Broy, Datta (by phone between 5:26 p.m. and 5:36 p.m., arrived at 5:36 p.m.), Breymaier (5:05 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 Ebony Lofton, Senior Director of Policy, Procedures and Communication Chris Jasculca, Senior Director of Administrative Services Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Equity Dr. Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Director of Organizational Learning Emily Fenske, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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O'Connor moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 5:05 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2)).

Ayes: O'Connor, Breymaier, Liebl, Broy, Spatz, Spurlock, and Datta

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed:

OPEN SESSION

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Breymaier moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:23 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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None

SPECIAL REPORTS

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STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Amy Warke and Emily Fenske came to the table to share the 2016-17 Annual Student Performance Report. They reported that the framework is a continuum of adopting data-driven instruction. They shared the PARCC ELA performance level compared to the state and comparison districts, indicating that the district is comparable to the other districts and ahead of the state average. The PARCC math scores were also comparable except for the sixth - eighth grades which indicated a drop in scores. Comparisons were also shared by race and lunch status which both showed the gap narrowing.

Fenske shared her hypothesis, suggesting that students refusing to take the test are more likely to be full priced lunch students. Additionally, she reminded the Board that when you implement something new (math, language curricula) there is a natural drop in scores during the beginning of the process.

Next steps will be to focus on better PARCC participation, MTSS, Kindergarten - Fifth curricular resources, instructional coaching, leadership coaching, FAR, and the school improvement plans.

Areas of change were identified as;

- Kindergarten – Fifth grade math was implemented last year
- Science was implemented last year
- Second Step Kindergarten – Eighth grade was implemented last year
- Second Step was piloted at Whittier last year
- Writing Units of study was piloted at Hatch last year

Board members were asked to share their thoughts regarding the data.

- How valid are the Sixth – Eighth grade scores when a percentage is not taking the tests?
- On the continuum where are we as a district?
- When we look at the breakout by race, it is still a 10 percent rate of change. Interest was expressed in more information.
- I wonder what your conversations are around.
- Interest in the difference between the IB unit planning and having curriculum similar to Kindergarten – Fifth grade levels.
- What are we doing to change the projector, particularly that of the lower kids?
- Confusion was expressed about the Kindergarten – Fifth grade and middle school instruction.
- Interest was expressed in whether the district should focus on universal targets.

The Board was asked to share their wonderings regarding the data they heard in the report.

- Have we thought about doing these graphs with kids who have been here and tested all three years?
- Have we thought about making contacts with parents who support the test, asking them to reach out to the parents who did not allow their children to participate?
- I wonder about the refusals. Concern expressed that the percentage of students not taking the test were those we would have expected to do well. Interest was expressed in knowing if their participation would be enough to eliminate the discrepancy.
- I wonder how much we talk to teachers about the value of such a high quality assessment and if our families recognize its importance?
- I wonder how complex thinking and independent learning impacts the scores we see at the Sixth – Eighth grade levels.
- I wonder what other data we have to look at to test accuracy. Are there other things we are trying to measure to see other trends?
- I wonder whether administrators, teachers and parents are surprised at the outcome.
- I wonder which interventions we are using that are the most effective.

The Board was asked to share their thoughts for the long-term.

- I wonder how we can work with the community and state to design assessments that are more universally implemented than not.
- Have we thought about other ways to allocate our resources so we can continue to raise the success level?
- I wonder what happened to certain classes that cause different outcomes.
- I wonder how this will impact the recommendation on the next budget.
- I wonder how the work with Dr. Jackson will inform our approach to this data.
- I wonder if we looked at a wider range of districts how they would compare.
- I wonder how we think about what the data tells us, how we connect some of the other domains within the vision, and how do we bring it all together.
- I wonder how low achieving students experience learning.

Concern was expressed that the district is fighting a losing battle using PARCC for decision making when so many families choose to opt out of it. Interest was expressed in seeing if other districts have over 10 percent of their population opting out of test taking. It was noted that although the PARCC data is consistent with the MAP scores, the PARCC data is off due to the lack of participation.

Warke noted that there is a shift due to the IB implementation. She recommended that the leadership stick with the implementation noting that the shift could take anywhere from three to 10 years before recovery is seen. She shared that administration believes that they are making good choices and that they are seeing change occurring.

Board comments included interest in hearing and seeing data that shows the success story and knowing that the gap is not narrowing because the top students are losing ground. Interest was expressed in hearing about inflow and outflow, and knowing if the dips in achievement might be due to children moving into the district. Interest was expressed in looking at how well the district is doing with moving new students through the system. Interest was expressed in looking for other districts that are implementing new curriculum and seeing if they experienced similar drops in growth. Interest was expressed in seeing if there is a connection with how the schools that are doing well on the test are implementing things.

The Board was reminded that the January work session will include MTSS, and it was suggested that the district consider other ways to talk about student performance between PARCC tests.

D97 RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Felicia Starks Turner, Carrie Kamm, and Michele Capio, came to the table with John Williams the Youth Services Director from the Township to talk to the Board about restorative practices. They explained that the practice is about people having more choice and voice about the things that happen to them.

They reported that teams have been participating in training from nationally known trainers in restorative practices. They noted that some teachers started using restorative questions last year and are already working on informal practices before moving to the more formal ones. They explained that each classroom begins by building community and trust.

Williams reported that he has been working with some teachers at Beye for the last year, and that school is seeing a drop in student related problems. He is currently working with all Fifth grade classrooms this year. He shared that teachers are encouraged to begin with low risk topics in the circles to help build relationships. He shared that the circles focus on the fact that everyone has gifts and genius, that students need to be themselves, because if they are not, everyone else will suffer.

Williams demonstrated how a Cargo Circle is run and noted the benefits as;

- Improved quality of relationships between students
- Increased inclusion
- Greater acceptance of differences among students
- Decreased conflict

Williams explained that the classroom sessions will be for 10 weeks over the course of a semester. He will visit 15 classrooms per week, with a focus of building on everyone's strengths. He noted the need for a disciplined system to implement restorative practices.

Capio shared that although the district does not have the professionals in place to support all the needs of this program, the goal right now is to build a strong foundation, and a good network of support.

PERSONNEL AND STUDENT DATA REPORT

Laurie Campbell came to the table and presented the newly formatted Personnel and Student Data report. She reported that the student enrollment as of November 21, 2017 was 6,152. She shared the diversity for the last three years, noting that the Hispanic population is growing steadily, while the African America and White populations are declining.

Campbell shared the Staffing Summary that included changed positions, and diversity. She reported that the number of Hispanic teachers increased as well, along with African American and Multi-racial, while the number of white teachers decreased slightly.

Campbell noted that 17 teachers resigned last year, along with two assistant principals and one principal, and share the reason for their decision. Additionally, 10 teachers are on a one year leave of absence and 25 teachers retired.

Campbell reported that the number of staff earning National Board certification or equivalent will be increasing from year to year. She noted that there are several candidates currently working on this process. Kamm reported that teachers are asked to make a commitment by March of each year to form a cohort, however; there are other entry points available if they wish to join a cohort outside of the district. A decision has not been made as to whether or not the district will support a cohort next year.

She reported that the district hired 59 new teachers (50 females and nine males), four with National Board certification, and 39 with master's degrees. The average experience of the new hires is 4.4 years of teaching. The diversity of the new hires is eight percent Hispanic, 20 percent African American, 68 percent White, and three percent multi-racial.

Campbell reported that in 2018 the district only has 18 confirmed retirees.

Board comments included interest in seeing retention rates for those with highest and lowest evaluation ratings. Interest was expressed in seeing last year's retirement data.

ACTION ITEMS

3.1 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

3.1.1 Approval of Bill List

3.1.2 Approval of Personnel

Ayes: Spatz, Liebl, Breymaier, Broy, Spurlock, O’Connor, and Datta

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

3.2.1 LINCOLN RENOVATION UPDATE

Spatz moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approves the Lincoln Kindergarten classroom renovation as a change order to the summer 2017 work, not to exceed \$60,333.

Ayes: Spatz, O’Connor, Liebl, Breymaier, Broy, Spurlock, and Datta

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

3.2.2 APPROVAL OF DATA SHARING AGREEMENT WITH HOUSING FORWARD

Datta moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education, District 97, enter into a data sharing agreement with Housing Forward.

Ayes: Datta, Breymaier, Liebl, Broy, Spatz, Spurlock, and O’Connor

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

3.2.3 APPROVAL OF THE HOLMES IGA

Liebl moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approves the IGA with the Village of Oak Park as presented.

Evans explained that the change between this agreement and the memorandum of understanding originally approved by the Board is the reconstruction of the water main. She noted that the water main will be relocated with the district splitting the cost with the Village. She noted that the Village will also be voting on this agreement this evening.

Ayes: Liebl, Spatz, Breymaier, Broy, Spurlock, O’Connor, and Datta

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

PRESENTATION OF FINAL LEVY

Evans reported that the Board approved the preliminary Levy in November and will need to approve the final in December. She noted that this evening is step three of a four step process. She noted that the information being shared this evening is identical to the information previously shared. She shared the PTELL rules and noted that the December 2016 CPI-U is at 2.1 percent. She reminded the Board that the Levy can increase annually up to 5 percent or the rate of inflation as measured by the All Urban Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), whichever is less. She reminded the Board that the Levy is simply a request for money and the district will never receive more than they asked for, but they could receive less.

Evans reported that the next step is for a public truth in taxation, which is not required. She reported that the publication dates can be no earlier than December 5, 2017, but no later than December 12, 2017. Evans is scheduled to meet with the County Assessor this week. The deadline for delivering the paperwork is December 26, 2017. She noted that the Board will have the option of amending the Levy in the spring.

It was reported that the Finance Oversight and Review Committee (FORC) spent two hours talking about the Levy and the bond issues. It is FORCs recommendation to not rush into selling the bonds.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

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ITEMS

BOARD REMARKS

A representative from CROAR will be present at the Library this Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. for the anti-racism training. It would cost the Board \$1,000 to attend. Since Board availability was limited, it was determined that sending a couple Board members to attend would be costly. It was noted that District 200 is also discussion their options on attendance.

The Board Secretary was asked to poll the Board for a special meeting to discussion the summer programming options. Administration will come to this meeting prepared to make a recommendation.

The Board was reminded that the Tri-Board meeting will be held at the high school tomorrow evening, with an executive session held prior. President Spurlock reported that she will need to leave the Tri-Board meeting tomorrow evening around 8:15 p.m.

FORC will be asked to share Levy documents prior to the December 19, 2017 meeting.

CLAIM is scheduled to meet this Thursday, but it conflicts with negotiations. Concern was expressed about member Liebl's ability to attend both. She agreed to work with all involved to find a resolution. Member Broy offered to switch with FAC, or it was suggested that one of the Board members take on an additional committee until negotiations are over.

AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The draft agenda for December 19, 2017 was reviewed and revisions were recommended.

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Spurlock declared the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary