

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
January 9, 2018 Meeting**

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Spurlock, O'Connor, Liebl, Datta, Breymaier (arrived at 5:20 p.m.), and Broy (arrived at 5:12 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 Jasculca, Senior Director of Administrative Services Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Equity Dr. Carrie Kamm, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Liebl moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 5:05 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2)).

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

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Datta moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:47 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kitty Conklin, an Oak Park resident, shared that she attended the budget meeting where the Board adopted the levy, and expressed hope that the Board will represent all constituents honestly.

Venus Hurd Johnson, an Oak Park resident and Co-President of the PTO Diversity Council (DivCo), spoke on behalf of DivCo. She explained that the Diversity Council is made up of Diversity leaders from each of the district's schools and the mission is to support the district's vision.

Johnson noted that the Council reviewed the draft equity policy and consulted with other community members/organizations, and would like to make the following recommendations;

- 1) DivCo believes that there must be a robust community engagement process for the development of the policy.
- 2) DivCo recommends an ambitious, but efficient, timeline for the community engagement and policy development process.
- 3) DivCo recommended titling and framing the work as a "Racial Justice and Equity Policy".

Johnson offered the Council's explicit support and availability to partner on this project.

President Spurlock shared that the Community Engagement Committee will be meeting in the near future. She explained that discussion has already occurred regarding the need for community engagement on this topic and possible next steps.

**ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 15, 2017 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AND DECEMBER 19, 2017 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Spatz moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the December 15, 2017 special Board meeting and the December 19, 2017 regular Board meeting as presented.

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

2.2 **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 2.2.1 Approval of Bill List
- 2.2.2 Approval of Personnel
- 2.2.3 Acceptance of Donations
- 2.2.4 Adoption of budget Authority
- 2.2.5 Approval of Disposal of Property
- 2.2.6 Approval of Depositories and Signatories

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

2.3.1 **APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE OAK PARK EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION**

Datta moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the memorandum of agreement with administrative assistant Debra Sample and the Oak Park Educational Support Professionals Association effective January 9, 2018.

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

**APPROVAL OF HOLMES CONSTRUCTION BIDS**

Spatz moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approves bidders and corresponding bid amounts pursuant to the Holmes project, Bid Group 1C – Structural Steel and 1D – Concrete, as presented.

Alicia Evans explained that the original motion for this evening included excavation. Bulley and Andrews recommended holding off on taking action regarding the excavation needs, so the motion was reworded to eliminate that reference. The Board will be asked to take action on the excavation needs and the site utilities during the next meeting in order to meet a critical scheduling point, and the exterior closure request will be made in February. It was reported that the Facilities Advisory Committee discussed the Holmes construction extensively and recommended the review of excavation and site utilities prior to Board approval.

Jeanne Keane and her team were acknowledged for the fine work and extra effort that it took to make the plumbing repairs at Lincoln School. They were able to complete all the work in time for the children to return after winter break.

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

**SALARY REVISIONS**

Laurie Campbell reported that the rates of pay for playground supervisors, teaching assistants, custodial substitutes and lunchroom workers has been reviewed and it was recommended that these groups each receive an increase as identified in her memo to the Board. The Board would be asked to take action during their next meeting and the pay raise would go into effect immediately after the Board takes action. It was noted that this increase would not be retroactive.

It was suggested that the Board consider smaller, more frequent salary updates to these groups.

## REVIEW DRAFT 2019-2020 CALENDAR

Laurie Campbell acknowledged the members of the calendar committee, and reported that they met during the months of November and December to create the draft 2019-2020 calendar. She noted that the committee took extra care in aligning the major breaks in the calendar with that of District 200. They considered a later start to the school year in order to ensure that the construction work at Longfellow has time to be completed. She reported that the Illinois School Board of Education recommends closing the school on election days, and the committee worked hard to recommend a calendar that did not end the school year on a Monday.

Additionally, the committee recommended that the district close on Indigenous People Day, although Campbell noted that the high school will be open on that day. She reminded the Board that the district could choose to remain open on that day, however; they would need to request a waiver and hold a public hearing to do so. A brief discussion took place regarding this holiday and the majority of the Board expressed interest in holding school on that day.

The election days were questions and Campbell agreed to double check the dates, specifically the one held in November.

It was suggested that after the buildings are all air conditioned, the district will have more flexibility and could start school earlier in August and possibly take off a full week around Thanksgiving if they so desire.

**BOARD  
ASSIGNMENTS**

### **BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

**STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (AS NEEDED –FAC, FORC, CCE AND CLAIM)**

#### **FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)**

The FAC committee discussed the frozen pipes at Lincoln. It was noted that everything the committee discussed was included in the administrative update and it would be redundant to write a liaison report.

A brief discussion took place about including the committee minutes in the Board packet, noting that the committee liaisons would prefer to update the Board orally. It was agreed that the draft committee agendas and minutes will be circulated to the Board via email.

#### **FINANCE OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (FORC)**

It was reported that FORC will be meeting on January 30, 2017. It was noted that the Board will be attending the joint equity meeting with District 90 on that evening.

#### **COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CCE)**

It was reported that the CCE will be meeting next Thursday. Members Datta and Breymaier agreed that training led by CCE members would be useful to the Board, but not required. The training will focus on whatever the plan is for the equity policy.

The length of time (4 hours) for the training was questioned, and it was suggested that perhaps the training last one hour and be followed by an equity forum.

Dr. Kelley explained that the CCE committee would like for the Board to engage the community and she believes that the committee could advise them how to engage the community on equity. She explained that the training would consist of more hands on approaches so the Board members could be more comfortable being approached when out in public. She reminded the Board that they are the leaders in the equity effort and have the right to determine how they want to engage the community.

Board comments included noting that the plan is to ask the CCE how to engage people, not that they would be asked to lead the process. It was noted that the Board members are not experts on some of the topics they are presented with, and PTO members may not just be parents, they might be the experts.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (As needed – IGOV, COG, PTO COUNCIL, CEC, OPEF, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, TRI-BOARD ON EQUITY, POLICY AND SELF-EVALUATION)**

#### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

It was noted that the Community Council has not had a representative attend their meetings because they meet on Thursdays, which has proven to be a very busy meeting night this year. President Spurlock will email the committee and let them know why District 97 will not be able to participate this year.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL (Continued)

The joint equity training may be scheduled on April 7, 2018. It was noted that District 200 has not expressed interested in participating and the Village has not yet responded. The Board agreed to see if two members would like to attend. Dr. Kelley noted that the Management Council talked about this request and if there might be a shared interest in training, hiring practices, etc. The Council will be meeting again tomorrow morning.

The Board was reminded that the West Cook Division dinner meeting will be held on March 6, 2018, and the ED-RED Annual meeting will be held on January 29, 2018. Board members were asked to let the Board secretary know if they are interested in attending.

**CONCLUDING ITEMS**

CONCLUDING ITEMS

**BOARD REMARKS**

President Spurlock reported that she spoke to the Village regarding the draft amendment to the Public Works building agreement prior to the deadline of December 29, 2017. She reported that the agreement is currently in extension.

Member Datta reported that she submitted questions as follow-up regarding the long-term substitutes. She expressed the need to ensure that students with long-term substitutes are receiving quality instruction.

**AGENDA MAINTENANCE**

The draft agenda for January 23, 2018 was reviewed and revised.

Dr. Kelley explained that administration needs to start planning for the 2018-2019 school year and this meeting will help kick start the learning sessions in the community. She explained that since the district cannot do everything that they would like to do, they need to have a conversation with the Board in January so they know how to move forward. She reported that the administration will be conducting “road shows” on these topics, with the first event being held on January 20, 2018. She noted that there will be multiple opportunities for the community to hear these discussions.

It was noted that the January 23, 2018 agenda is quite full and discussion occurred about possibly having FORC review the five-year projections first, bringing them to the Board in February, or simply including the report as information only on.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spurlock declared the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary