

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
July 17, 2018 Meeting**

President Spurlock called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Spurlock, Liebl, Broy, Spatz, Breymaier (6:12 p.m.), and Datta (6:38 p.m.)
Absent: O'Connor
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Paul Starck-King, Senior Director of Buildings and Grounds Jeanne Keane, Senior Director of Policy, Procedures and Communication Chris Jasculca, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Spatz moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Self-Evaluation 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(16))

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Breymaier moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 8:33 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The Board took a short recess and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

Lincoln Construction Project

Jeanne Keane came to the table with STR Architect Jennifer Costanzo and Bulley and Andrews representative Peter Kuhn.

Costanzo reminded the Board that there are three options on the table for the Lincoln School addition (options B, B1 and C). She explained that option C does not include a separate expansion, option B does include a separate expansion, and option B1 includes a separate expansion but it would be done in two parts.

Paul May reported that FAC originally recommended option B, but since then, several committee members have reviewed option B1 and are recommending that option instead.

The general education classroom analysis was shared, noting that option B would have 36 classrooms, option B1 would have 34 classrooms, and option C would have 31 classrooms (a loss of one classroom due to resizing of space).

The Library size would change depending on the selected option, with option B having the largest Library, B1 having the second largest and option C having the smallest.

It was reported that the current enrollment for the 2019 school year requires 33 classrooms, and administration will look to repurpose one space this year to accommodate that need. Currently, the average class size is 22. Under normal circumstances, administration would add another classroom, but space is not available.

Lincoln Construction Project (Continued)

Financially, it was reported that the cost between options B and B1 is \$2,500,000. B1 has been designed so that the district can add on at a later date. The Board was reminded that the costs would accelerate by about three percent annually, but would be reduced by the cost of interest for the same period of time. It was suggested that the acceleration cost would not be a determining factor of the decision.

Cost – less soft costs
Option C - \$10,500,000
Option B - \$15,300,000
Option B1 - \$17,400,000

Kuhn explained that the Holmes bid package process allowed the team to make adjustments to the overall target amount. There is a five percent contingency now and the team is comfortable with that. They are always looking at the cost, but also the long-term plan. The cost is estimated by the square foot, and he suggested that the team might be able to cut the cost by about five percent.

Kuhn explained that the ideal alternates would be the renovation spaces which total about \$20,000. The cost of that area is estimated at \$5,500,000.

Board comments included noting that all options have space for small instructional groups, special areas, offices for speech and psychologists. All options would update the multipurpose room and update the auditorium with ramps and a chair lift to the stage.

It was noted that part of the referendum recommended 21 century libraries. Because of that, the Holmes School construction project includes these revisions, and is being considered the pilot. Costanzo noted that the intent is to create a more collaborative environment that is divided into three areas; a story time area with soft seating, a more interactive area with a community circle table, and a tinkering lab for small group study. There is an enclosed larger group room with a green screen. The STEAM lab (art room) is separated by barn doors. Dr. Kelley explained that there are other ways that the remaining Libraries can be updated so they are similar to Holmes School; it is a matter of reinventing the learning space to support our vision plan.

- A summary was shared, noting that FAC recommended B and B1
- Administration will need 33-35 classrooms next year, and up to 36 classrooms at some point
- If we go with the Evidence Based Model, we would need 34 classrooms

Longfellow Construction Project

Costanzo reported that moving the location of the addition would not be cost efficient. She recommended some playground changes that would allow the two to five year olds a private area on the west side of the building. The courtyard could be utilized for the PKP or Kindergarten play area. This area is secure and would elevate some of the flow on the playground. Additionally, Costanzo recommended landscaping along Jackson Boulevard.

It was noted that there is only one addition option for Longfellow School because building upward is not cost prohibited. It was noted that there will be a wall installed in the lunch room that will allow for separation of the space when needed to accommodate needs.

The addition would add six classrooms (including one for special education), and two floors, at a cost of \$11,100,000. It was noted that the interior renovations would cost \$3,600,000 of the total cost, but some of the funds would come from the Life Safety budget.

It was reported that the Finance Oversight and Review Committee (FORC) took a look at this and deemed that coming in under \$30,000,000 for both projects would be satisfactory, so that would mean moving forward with Longfellow School and B1 for Lincoln School, or Longfellow School and C for Lincoln School, as Longfellow School and B for Lincoln School would not fit within that price bracket.

Longfellow Construction Project (Continued)

It was reported that any of these options would include;

- 21 Century learning spaces
- ADA Compliance at Lincoln, Longfellow, Beye, Mann and Hatch Schools
- All Life Safety work
- All expansion needs
- HVAC – ventilators would be replaced to support cooling. Beye School is done, Whittier School has 15 units that need to be replaced.

Keane reported that the Life Safety work will be continuous through 2020, however; the B items have already been completed. She reported that DSEB funds may be necessary to replace the roofs at both middle schools and DDCs.

Board comments included interest in knowing how the square footage of the Longfellow School playground will compare to the other schools. Interest was expressed in knowing if anything will be done to elevate the group spaces.

President Spurlock read the following recommendation from the FORC Committee.

FORC is comfortable with the total, including soft costs, for the Lincoln School and Longfellow School additions being as high as \$30M, because it stays within the existing debt guidelines. However, FORC strongly encourages the Board:

- To consider the five-year operating projections as part of the decision making process
- To ensure that the costs for external spaces (replacement play equipment, reading garden, etc.) are included in the cost calculations.
- To clearly identify, in advance, offsets in the capital plan, if there is a need to exceed \$30M.

It was suggested that an internal discussion be held during one of the September Board meetings.

Longfellow Addition

Spurlock moved, seconded by Breymaier that the Board of Education, District 97, approve for STR Partners to develop bid documents for Longfellow School based on the selected scheme dated July 10, 2018 and have further discussion for alternates for the internal renovations during one of our Board meetings in September 2018.

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Spatz, Datta, Liebl, and Broy

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

Lincoln Addition

Spurlock moved, seconded by Broy that the Board of Education, District 97, approve for STR Partners to develop bid documents based on the selected scheme (B1) dated July 10, 2018 and have further discussion for alternates for the internal renovations during one of our Board meetings in September 2018.

Ayes: Spurlock, Broy, Spatz, Breymaier, Datta, and Liebl

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Spatz moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as modified at the table.

Item 1.2.9 Approval of the Data Sharing Agreement with the Collaboration for Early childhood was removed from the Consent Agenda.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Breymaier, Datta, Spurlock, Liebl, and Broy

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

Data Agreement with the Collaboration for Early Childhood

The Board was asked to take action on this agreement this evening, even though they were not giving the opportunity to review the document at their last meeting. This request was made in order to ensure timely data analysis. The Board was reminded that the agreement they have in support of the Collaboration for Early Childhood requires the district to supply data to the Collaboration in a timely manner. Additionally, it was noted that there were no material changes made to the agreement.

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education approve the Data Sharing agreement with the Collaboration for Early Childhood.

Ayes: Spatz, Datta, Breymaier, Spurlock, Liebl, and Broy

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tanesha Watkins, an Oak Park resident and district employee, expressed concerns about the way administration is interpreting the OPESP contract. She quoted Article II (2) which states that the agreement can be modified by mutual consent, and Article IV (4), section 2 that states that "before the Board changes any policies or procedures they shall notify the association and provide an opportunity for a meeting between a representative of the Board and the association." Additionally, she noted that Article V(5) states that "all management rights and functions shall remain vested exclusively in the Board." And "There should be no change without prior negotiation with the association." Watkins noted that, based on the above; administration has violated the following articles of the agreement:

- Article VI (6) Section 3.C – the allowance of vacation time rollover with supervisor/Board approval. (Changes were made without approval)
- Article VI (6) Section 11 – job descriptions have been changed.
- Article VII (7) Section 2 – The employee evaluation instrument has been changed.
- Article XIV (14) – regarding vacancies was violated as members are not properly notified of all openings. In one instance, she was only added to the interview roster for a position which she applied for after she inquired about being interviewed. Some internal candidates are not given the position when they were more and/or equally qualified and applicants are not always properly notified when positions for which they applied have been filled.

Robert Douglas, an Oak Park resident and parent of two Longfellow School students, expressed concern about the sharing of data with other entities, particularly the Collaboration for Early Childhood. He explained that he moved into Oak Park a few years ago, and recently participated in a survey that inquired about his family's pre-kindergarten experience. He expressed concern that the survey was not clear as to how the data would be shared with a local group. He explained that he imagined that the agency collecting the data would have a secure location to store the data. Douglas explained that he figured out that the Collaboration for Early Childhood's original agreement was out of code with the federal and state law, and a patch was required. He also expressed concern that the Collaboration is contracting the work out which is in violation with the current agreement. He expressed concern that the agencies involved have an extreme lack of concern for how this data is being collected, stored and shared. Douglas asked the Board to be cautious of data being shared until the Collaboration can internalize that data.

Elizabeth Jarpe-Ratner, an Oak Park resident and Lincoln School parent, thanked the Board for including a gender equity statement into Policy 7:10. Ratner shared that she volunteers within the community, and recently participated on a committee with District 200 for their administrative procedures for a similar policy. She noted that the vision is to bring alignment between the three districts. She applauded the Board for making this change, and requested that administrative procedures also be revisited so there is alignment with what they did at District 200. She encouraged the Board to consider regular staff training, inclusion of LGBT curriculum, and access to restrooms and locker rooms that relate to gender recognition.

Kristi Dahm, an Oak Park resident and Lincoln School parent, expressed support for the Lincoln School addition plan B. She shared that she believes that a smaller project with additional construction at a later time is not politically feasible. She shared that she has never visited a school anywhere where someone regretted spending the money on bettering a school.

Victoria Bynum, an Oak Park resident with three children, one of which is a member of the LGBT community, thanked the Board for taking the time to review the policies and procedures; making sure that things are solidified for these students. She noted that the policy now is in alignment with District 200 so there is smooth transition from one district to another. Bynum said that she now feels more secure that things are set in stone, and is no longer worried about her daughter's safety.

Theresa Heif Murray, an Oak Park resident, and parent of a fifth grade student at Lincoln School, expressed support for the school addition plan knowing that it will be on budget. She ask the Board to think about the children in the classrooms, and suggested that they will learn better when they have a better relationship with their teachers. She suggested that larger class sizes makes building relationships difficult. Murray shared that her daughter has ADHD and is distracted easily, and asked the Board to consider how the environment effects the children and the workers. She suggested that the current building is a sick buildings, with poor drinking fountains, and needs to be updated. She asked the Board to make sure that quality products are purchased during the construction, suggesting that it would be money well spent. She noted that she participated in the Field Museum design lab renovation. She shared that the renovation occurred years ago. Good quality items were used in the renovation and everything is still in good working condition.

Terry Keleher, an Oak Park resident shared a story about how he struggled to figure out who to play with as a child, and was overcome with a profound feeling of being different and being an outsider. He noted that much of the daily school routine was very gendered. Keleher shared that it is now known that gender occurs on a non-binary spectrum and that gender and sexual orientation are distinct, though not completely unrelated. That is why, even at the elementary school level, it is so critical to have gender expansive and affirming policies. He urged the Board to support and adopt expansive and inclusive gender policies.

Kitty Conklin, an Oak Park resident, shared that about eight or nine months ago the Village considered a bond sale. She noted that some trustees questioned what debt service meant, and she explained that it meant that the Village would be required to pay off the interest on the debt in the first few years, before paying off any of the loan. Conklin shared that she is in agreement that Lincoln and Longfellow schools are in need, and encouraged the Board to not pay for the upgrades using debt. She asked them to be careful and look out for the tax payers.

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

TIF UPDATE

President Spurlock reminded the Board that the Mayor and Village Manager have offered to talk to the Board about the Madison Street TIF extension. She reported that the Joint Review Committee meets at least once a year, and she attended the most recent meeting. She ask them to explain the rate of return that the district could expect to see. She expressed concern about the enrollment changes and expressed concern about how the TIF might limit the return to the schools. She suggested an "out" clause that could be executed if the development does not occur. She asked if the size of the TIF could be changed to target areas that would be most impacted by it. The Village listened to her concerns and said that they could not respond until after the July 6 RFP. President Spurlock shared that the decision to extend the TIF is a legislative decision, so she is talking to Senator Harmon to see if it can be delayed.

It was noted that the Village has not made a decision as to whether they want to extend the TIF, but are considering an extension from the beginning of the agreement. Concern was expressed that the figures in the agreement have

TIF UPDATE (Continued)

changed drastically since its conception and an extension could be hurtful to the school district, because of that, an IGA was suggested.

Member Spatz offered to share a document that was drafted with simplified graphs and details on how the TIFs performed. He explained that the document is a nine month study of TIFs and their effects on school funding.

It was noted that although the tax bills have been released, the TIF bills have not. This makes it hard to predict what the TIF increments will be.

Board comments included suggesting that the Village consider resetting the base year. It was also suggested that the Village mix residential and non-residential properties. It was noted that the extension would require legislative approval.

The Board members were asked to send their questions to member Spatz and ideas to President Spurlock.

TASK FORCE UPDATE

President Spurlock met with David Pope regarding the status of the Task Force. She shared that the team met on July 10. At that time, the team discussed the possibility of recommending that a question be added to the next ballot that would give the Task Force authority to look into combining all of the Village's taxing bodies. They are also considering a question on the ballot that would limit taxing bodies from going out for any referendums for the next ten years.

Concern was expressed about the second question as the district's costs are driven by enrollment, and the new state funding formula does not give the district any more money when residents move into the community.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

President Spurlock shared the 2018-2019 Board Committee assignment recommendations. She shared that member Spatz and Vice President O'Connor will be the designated backups for the committees, and asked that Board members give them a week's notice when they will need one of them to attend a meeting in their place.

Present Spurlock reminded the Board that there are two contracts up for negotiation this year, and she will take volunteers for those positions when the time arises.

Board comments included interest in creating documents to help the Board members transition to their new committee assignments. Interest was expressed in rethinking the Board's committee activity. It was agreed that President Spurlock will work with Dr. Kelley and the Board Secretary to identify about 20 minutes on a future Board agenda for this discussion.

It was noted that the transportation committee and community partners are not included on this list.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Breymaier moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 10:50 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1))

Ayes: Breymaier, Datta, Spatz, Spurlock, Liebl, and Broy

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

The Board took a brief break and reconvened at 10:55 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Breymaier moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 11:16 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spurlock declared the meeting adjourned at 11:16 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President

Board Secretary