

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
November 29, 2018 Meeting**

This meeting was held at the Oak Park River Forest High School located at 201 N. Scoville Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois

Vice President O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by the roll call for the Village of Oak Park Board and the District 200 Board of Education.

ROLL CALL

**CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Spatz, O'Connor, Liebl, Breymaier, and Datta (arrived after roll call)

Absent: Spurlock, and Broy

Also Present: Village Board members, Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb, Trustees Deno Andrews, Simone Boutet, Dan Moroney, James Taglia, and Robert Tucker, District 200 board members Fred Arkin, Tom Cofsky, Sara Spivey, Craig Iseli, Jackie Moore, Jennifer Cassell, Matt Baron, Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the agenda for the Tri board meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

**INTRODUCTION OF JOHN BARRERO**

Amy McCormick, Chairperson of the Collaboration for Early Childhood Board introduced John Barrero as the new Executive Director of the Collaboration for Early Childhood. She reported that Barrero joined the organization on October 1, 2018.

INTRODUCTION  
OF JOHN  
BARRERO

Barrero expressed appreciation for being assigned to this position and shared a bit about his experiences, noting that he was an early childhood teacher for several years, worked with families, and was the director of several organizations. He acknowledged that the Collaboration for Early Childhood is well known and is being sought out by other communities.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY GEOFF NAGLE, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ERIKSON INSTITUTE, ON THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI) AND A COMMUNITY-WIDE LOOK AT EARLY CHILDHOOD**

EDI  
PRESENTATION

Geoff Nagle, talked about the first 1,100 days of life (first three years), explaining that the early childhood experience is the key to a good education. He shared that there are seven stages of brain development, with the most critical period being the early years. He shared that the body responds to stress with an increase in heart rate, blood pressure and breathing rate. The trade-off is forgetfulness, lack of attention, and a suppressed immune system. He noted that some children with these symptoms can be labeled as defiant or having ADHD. He noted that the areas of the brain that are affected by stress are also the parts that control memory. Nagle continued by explaining the importance of Telomeres and Epigenetics, and the important role they play in a child's ability to learn and thrive. He reported that schools are doing what they are supposed to be doing, which is educating children by one year at a time.

Nagle explained that EDI is a population measurement, looking at how children are doing in each neighborhood and what is happening there. He described it as a Kindergarten census that looks at language, communication skills and general knowledge. He reported that 100 percent of the current Kindergarten children in District 97 participated in the process (age was not a factor). The tool ranked the students as;

- Top 75 percent – on track
- 10 percent to 25 percent – at risk of being vulnerable

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY GEOFF NAGLE, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ERIKSON INSTITUTE, ON THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI) AND A COMMUNITY-WIDE LOOK AT EARLY CHILDHOOD (Continued)

- Below 10 percent - vulnerable

Jaclyn Vasquez from Erikson Institute explained that the process took about 10 months to complete. Small group meetings were held across the community and she noted that the results indicate that the school boundaries and the census track do not align. She shared several map overlays that indicated that children are on track in most areas of growth. She noted that the area of concern is their emotional growth where 26 percent of the children are not on track.

It was reported that 257 of the children are not on track in one or more domain, 64 are not on track in three or more domains, and seven children are not on track in any of the domains. Nagle explained that the percentages are based on the national statistics, which indicate that Oak Park is 82 percent on track, compared to the national percentage of 79 percent.

Nagle explained that this work can help with special education placement, grade repetition and in the long-term, criminal justice, and the community would see more employment, and less public assistance.

Nagle explained that the next step of the process is for the community to participate in conversations regarding the data. He acknowledged the Robert R. McCormick Foundation for their support of this work, and reported that the first community that participated in the EDI process is receiving \$3,200,000 in grant funding to support their work. The next steps will help determine what is spiking the data and to build a stronger foundation.

Member Breymaier left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

It was reported that, starting tomorrow, the interactive maps will be available online at [edi@erikson.edu](mailto:edi@erikson.edu). Crime block data will be included in that data, and people can toggle between the different overlays on the website. The 18 maps are broken down by demographics, race, gender, poverty, single parent homes, and families. The process is meant to look at what is happening prior to school entry so districts can think about policies and system changes. The school system will receive a confidential report. The process will be repeated every three years. Once that occurs, trends will become evident.

Nagle explained that teachers were trained in the process, noting the need to eliminate teacher bias. The testing was completed during the second half of the school year and was based on recall. Additionally, Nagle reported that out of the 31 most developed nations, the United States falls second to the bottom in the amount of dollars invested by the federal government for education.

It was noted that EDI data is from Erikson Institute and the longitudinal data is from Chapin Hall. There is limited ability for them to talk to each other, but aggregated data is possible.

## FINANCE REPORT

FINANCE REPORT

### FY2017-2018 FINANCEIAL STATEMENTS

Gordon Hellwig, treasurer for the Collaboration for Early Childhood, in reference to the prior discussion reported that 75 percent of current Kindergarten children did attend preschool in Oak Park.

Hellwig reported that the tax return for non-profits has been signed, and he just received the fiscal year audit. He noted that the Grade A rated report indicates no weaknesses or findings, and he offered to share an electronic copy of the report with the board members. He shared that billing is on a two month cycle, and the Collaboration only had the need to bill the jurisdictions four of the six allowable billing periods for last year.

He noted that FY19 is behind on spending to achieve the desired outcome. The Collaboration is getting ready to ramp up with the two largest programs, and expect to be close to the budgeted figure. Hellwig shared that the Collaboration used a new auditor this year, who reported that the audit process was the easiest audit he ever

FY2017-2018 FINANCEIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

processed. Hellwig shared that the Collaboration is always looking for grants to apply for. They had a grant writer on staff, but they are currently outsourcing for that position. It was noted that the budget expectation is about \$200,000 of non-governmental support.

Hellwig shared the need for additional insurance to protect the funds in the bank. Trustee Boutet expressed confusion about the way the accounts are set up, and asked for clarity. It was recommended that Hellwig meet with her to clarify the process.

FY2018-2019 OCTOBER YEAR TO DATE REPORTS: BALANCE SHEET AND PROFIT AND LOSS  
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT AND IGA ADMINISTRATIVE FUND

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT  
REPORT

Member Spatz reported that everyone was billed and paid on time. He explained that the district bills six times a year to limit the amount of necessary transfers.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Vice President O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary