

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
April 30, 2019 Meeting**

President Spurlock called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Spurlock, Broy, O'Connor, Liebl, Breymaier, and Datta
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Paul Starck-King, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Laurie Campbell, Senior Director of Policy, Procedure and Communications Chris Jasculca, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Special Services Eboney Lofton, Senior Director of Buildings and Grounds Jeanne Keane, and Interim Board Secretary Sue Vercocke.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sheela Raja, an Oak Park Resident, spoke in support of the Sexual Harassment policy and thanked the Board for their hard work in this area.

Eric Gershenson, an Oak Park resident and former District 97 Board member, recognized Bob Spatz for his many years of service.

Carolyn Newberry Schwartz, an Oak Park resident and former District 97 Board member, recognized the outgoing Board members and thanked Bob Spatz for his many years of service.

Jeff Weissglass, an Oak Park resident, thanked the outgoing Board members and congratulated the newly elected Board members. Weissglass continued by recognizing Bob Spatz for his many years of service.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 9, 2019 BOARD MEETING

Breymaier moved, and seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the April 9, 2019 Board meeting.

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

2.1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 23, 2019 BOARD MEETING

Spurlock moved, and seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the April 23, 2019 Board meeting.

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

2.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

2.2.1 Approval of Bill List

2.2.2 Personnel

2.2.3 Policy Adoption

Policy 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification)

Policy 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct)

Policy 2:120 (Board Member Development)
 Policy 3:40 (Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process)
 Policy 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other than the Superintendent)
 Policy 4:30 (Revenue and Investments)
 Policy 4:45 (Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery)
 Policy 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts)
 Policy 4:100 (Insurance Management)
 Policy 4:130 (Free and Reduced-Price Food Services)
 Exhibit for Policy 4:130 (Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; Meal Charge Notifications)
 Policy 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs)
 Policy 4:160 (Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds)
 Policy 4:170 (Safety)
 Policy 4:190 (Targeted School Violence Protection Program)
 Policy 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria)
 Policy 5:60 (Expenses)
 Policy 5:100 (Staff Development Program)
 Policy 5:220 (Substitute Teachers)
 Policy 5:250 (Leaves of Absence)
 Policy 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays and Leaves)
 Policy 6:15 (School Year Calendar and Day)
 Policy 6:50 (Wellness)
 Policy 6:60 (Curriculum Content)
 Policy 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy)
 Policy 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations: Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students)
 Policy 7:190 (Student Behavior)
 Policy 7:250 (Student Support Service)
 Policy 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Education)
 Policy 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students)
 Policy 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention)
 Policy 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries)
 Policy 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)

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

2.3.1 APPROVAL OF TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Datta moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education of Oak Park, District 97, directs that \$30,000 be included in the District 97 2019-2020 Technology Plan budget to cover purchases that have not already been Board approved for the second year of the 3-year Technology Plan as presented and discussed at the April 9, 2019 meeting.

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

2.3.2 APPROVAL OF AV BIDS FOR LINCOLN AND LONGFELLOW

Liebl moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education of Oak Park, District 97, authorizes and approves the bid for audio visual equipment and installation for the Lincoln and Longfellow addition and renovation projects that was presented on April 9, 2019 in the amount of \$117,562.50.

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

2.3.3 APPROVAL OF AMENDED BUDGET

Spatz moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park, District 97, approve the attached Resolution calling for a Public Hearing on Intent to Effect Interfund Transfers.

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

2.3.4 APPROVAL OF FIELD MAINTENANCE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PARK DISTRICT

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the terms of the new five-year Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park District.

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

2.3.5 ADOPTION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH RESOURCE 2019

O'Connor moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education of Oak Park, District 97, adopt the Pearson Math Connected Mathematics Project 3 Resource for Brooks and Julian Middle Schools not to exceed \$243,000 and the professional learning to support the teachers learning with the implementation of the new resource at \$33,300 for a total of \$276,300.

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

2.3.6 APPROVAL OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Spurlock moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park, District 97, approve the Sexual Harassment Policy as presented.

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

2.3.7 APPROVAL OF DENTAL AND LONG-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL

Breymaier moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education of Oak Park, District 97, approve the Dental Insurance and Long-Term Disability Insurance Renewal Rates effective July 1, 2019, as presented.

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

2.4.1 MOTION TO CERTIFY OFFICIAL RESULTS – SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION OF APRIL 2, 2019

O'Connor moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education of Oak Park, District 97, certifies the official results of the April 2, 2019 School Board election as reported by the Cook County Clerk's office, naming Jung Kim, Cheree Moore, Gavin Kearney and Holly Spurlock elected to four-year terms as members of the Board of Education of School District 97.

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

2.4.2 PROCLAMATION OF NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

O'Connor moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education of Oak Park, District 97, proclaim that Jung Kim, Cheree Moore, Gavin Kearney and Holly Spurlock have been duly elected members to the District 97, Oak Park Board of Education.

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

2.4.3 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS ON OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Spurlock moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education of Oak Park, District 97, adopt the proclamations honoring the outgoing Board members Bob Spatz, Rupa Datta and Jim O'Connor.

Resolutions were read honoring Bob Spatz, Rupa Datta and Jim O'Connor.

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

2.4.4 SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

President Spurlock, Gavin Kearney, Cheree Moore and Jung Kim read the oath of office and were sworn in as new member of the District 97 Board of Education.

SWEARING IN OF THE
NEW BOARD MEMBERS

RETIRING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Rupa Datta shared some of the insights that she learned during her tenure on the Board of Education. She shared that she found that it was difficult to give up the habit of acting as a parent and only wear the Board member hat. She noted the importance of following the Open Meetings Act rules when working in the school setting. She recommended that everyone not only listen to the loud voices, but make sure they seek out the other voices when making decisions. She recommended that the Board members find a way to recognize priorities and stick to them through completion.

RETIRING BOARD
MEMBER COMMENTS

Jim O'Connor expressed his thanks to the administration, staff and community. He thanked the individual Board members for the special gifts they bring to the Board table. He encourage the new Board members to build strong relationships with each other and the administrative team.

Bob Spatz thanked his family for their support and for those who shared kind words on his behalf this evening. He noted that some time the big projects just take time. He noted that some of the issues being dealt with currently were not even thought about in the past. He noted that there are some things in the Board's control and some that are not, and encouraged the Board members to help to make that clear to the community. He commended Dr. Kelley for her leadership and reminded everyone that Oak Park is not an island and needs to reach out to other communities. He noted that the new Board has little experience, and suggested that they should commit to professional development to grow as a team. He reminded them that there are numerous past Board members available when historical perspective is needed.

ADJOURNMENT OF OLD BOARD

The Board adjourned their meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m. and a reception was held to thank the outgoing Board members and welcome the new ones.

ADJOURNMENT OF OLD
BOARD

CONVENE NEW BOARD

The meeting of the new Board members was called to order at 8:21 p.m. All new Board members in in attendance.

CONVENE NEW BOARD

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY OFFICERS

Member Liebl nominated member Spurlock to be the temporary President during the election process, and member Spurlock nominated Sue Vercnocke as the Temporary Secretary. All Board members supported the nominations.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Member Liebl nominated Member Broy as the Board President and it was seconded by member Moore. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Liebl, Broy, Spurlock, Breymaier, Moore, Kim and Kearney
Nays: None
Motion passed.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Member Broy nominated Member Kim as the Vice President and it was seconded by member Moore. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Broy, Moore, Kim, Liebl, Spurlock, Breymaier, and Kearney
Nays: None
Motion passed.

ELECTION OF BOARD SECRETARY

Member Spurlock nominated Sheryl Marinier as the Board Secretary and the motion was seconded. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spurlock, Liebl, Broy, Breymaier, Moore, Kim and Kearney
Nays: None
Motion passed.

NEW BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Kearney expressed his excitement for the ability to support the children.

Member Moore expressed gratitude to the community for its support, and shared that she looks forward to learning a lot.

Member Kim expressed gratitude to the community and her family. She shared that she looks forward to helping to make the district more equitable, and asked everyone to keep the Board of Education accountable.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

6.1 RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 6-10, 2019 AS TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Broy moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, recognize the week of May 6, 2019 as Teacher Appreciation Week.

Ayes: Broy, Spurlock, Breymaier, Liebl, Moore, Kearney, and Kim
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Items Pertaining to the New Board)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shawn Seaton-George, an Oak Park resident and middle school parent, spoke about the WPA murals. She noted that she and her husband both noticed the mural at the middle school and questioned why it was there. She expressed concern that the visual did not reflected everyone who was being schooled there.

Dot Lambshead Roche, an Oak Park resident, parent of Mann students and co-president of the Mann PTO, spoke about the WPA mural at Mann. She described the mural and shared that it sends messages to the community every day. She reported that the PTO at Mann agreed months ago that the mural should live somewhere else. She acknowledged that the mural has historical value but explained that there are no rules about removing and relocating the artwork, and encouraged the Board to remove the mural from the school building.

Cynthia Britto, coordinator of the Julian Social Justice club, explained that she is tired about the white inflicted exhaustion that has disseminated within the district. She explained that the mural was removed because of the actions of the Social Justice club. She is concerned that the actions of the club members are being considered

aggressive, and suggested that their voices need to be respected and heard. She told the Board that these students are not being a disruption and their voices have the right be heard.

Students of District 97 addressed the Board regarding the WPA murals.

- Antuan explained that a lot of the arguments about the mural were because it was historical, but it does not represent the diversity of the community now. Oak Park likes to promote how diverse it is and this mural did not support that. The painting could be moved to another location and the original location should receive another painting that represents all of the students. You teach us about respect, but the mural was not respectful to us. He is afraid that history might repeat itself if that is what the children are exposed to. He hopes that Oak Park becomes better in that area.
- Jacob Diez, a multi-racial students, explained that the mural of all white kids sits in the lunch room at Brooks. This is just a tip of the iceberg and there are other problems at the school that need to be addressed.
- Taylor, a Julian Middle School student, asked the Board to think about the living room of your house. When people walk into your living room do you want them to think about the bad parts of our country? She asked them to replace the mural with something that All students would be proud of.
- Seth, a Julian Middle School student, shared that he feels that there is a lack of urgency to act on their request. Many people justify the painting because it is history. They are racist and not inclusive of people of color. He shared that students have been harassed and targeted because of the painting.

BOARD DISCUSSION

WPA MURALS

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE BROOKS AND MANN SCHOOL MURALS

Dr. Kelley shared that the Julian mural has been removed. The district received emails, some of a threatening nature from across the country about the actions that were taken. Administration has been working with the Brooks PTO about the mural at that school, but decided to bring the discussion to the Board to ask their opinion on how to move forward. She noted that Brooks and Mann murals are scheduled to be removed. She explained that WPA art was something that was used to stimulate the economy, but only white artists were allowed to participate. She reported that the mural is being stored in a climate controlled area and the district will try to find a new home for any murals that are removed. She reported that the district is funding the cost of the removal.

Interest was expressed in knowing how many schools have WPA murals. Member Liebl expressed support to remove any art that does not support the district's vision. She suggested developing procedures that would direct what artwork is displayed.

Member Kearney acknowledged the voices of the children and recommended removing the artwork in question.

Member Moore supported removing the murals, and considering the development of procedures to guide the process in the future.

Member Kim shared that she was part of a school that actually found murals in the past. She supported the removal of the artwork.

Member Spurlock recommended waiting until the end of the school year to remove the murals as not to district from the end of the year activities.

Dr. Kelley explained that the cost to remove some of the murals may need to be approved by the Board. Jeanne Keane is looking into finding a new home for them.

Member Breymaier suggested removal of all the WPA murals and expressed interest in replacing them with more appropriate artwork.

Member Moore ask if the district could temporarily cover the artwork if it cannot be removed in the near future.

Dr. Kelley was asked to share the cost of removal if it will be expensive.

OAK PARK TIF UPDATE

Rob Grossi came to the table. He shared that he has been working with District 200 for the last 18 months as a financial advisor, and also works with about 60 school districts in Illinois. Dr. Kelley asked him to help out at the school district during the Business Office's transition. He explained that the TIFs froze the taxes to the schools and gave the Village 23 years to spend the money to make the community more appealing. He noted that both the Downtown and Madison Street TIFs are close to expiring. Last year, the district received \$3,800,000 from TIF surplus, but with the TIF going away, the district will not receive any more funding. The taxes that were collected by the TIF are not eligible to be collected by the district. The district will have only one change in December to collect the funds.

He explained that there is approximately \$18,000,000 sitting in the TIFs back accounts. About \$6,500,000 is related to District 97. Grossi shared a timeline of the two TIFs, noting that the timeline for how long a TIF can last is very confusing. In 2018, the Village voted to levy taxes to collect the 23rd year of taxes. In checking with the county, this is the 24th year. An attempt was made to meet with the Village to get a better handle on this. Grossi noted that the timing of this will be very important to the school district. The Village's plan is to use the money to streetscape Madison Street. He questioned if the TIF should have expired and the money is not being used correctly.

Grossi recommended that a Board member and/or the superintendent meet with the Village and get a handle on this. He noted that the 5-year projections depend on this information.

Member Spurlock reported that legal counsel has been advised and that further discussion should be held in closed session. She noted that it is obvious that the funds are being used to upgrade Madison Street. She expressed concern that the county does not end the TIF, but the Village has to take action to do so. She recommended that the district send letters to the Village to encourage the Village to take action to end the TIF in a timely manner. She noted that it may not be a priority for the Village like it is for the district. She noted that the Madison Street updates were part of the original plan.

Concern was expressed that the money could have been used to support education opposed to making more traffic on Madison Street, and cutting down trees.

BOARD REPRESENTATION AT GRADUATION

It was reported that graduation is scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2019. Brooks students will graduate at 10 a.m. and Julian students at 2 p.m. Both will take place at the high school. Dr. Kelley shared that the Board President usually speaks to the graduates. President Broy indicated that she would be willing to address the students, but wanted to see if other Board members might be interested in the opportunity first. Some Board members shared their plans to attend the ceremonies.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

BOARD REMARKS

The new Board members were updated on what the Board Remark section of the agenda is for.

A copy of the Committee List for this year was shared for review. President Broy recommended assigning committee assignments for two years, opposed to one year assignments. She asked the current Board members to indicate if they would find it helpful to stay on their current committee assignments. She asked everyone to get back to her within a week or so with their preferences.

President Broy reported that a Board retreat is scheduled on May 16-18, 2019. Dinner will be held on Thursday evening. President Broy will chat with the facilitator next week, and will reach out to the Board members for direction on what they would like to get out of the retreat.

Member Moore expressed concern about the onboarding process, and shared that she asked Community Relations Commission to host a dinner and dialogue at a location of our choice on a Friday or Sunday. They usually talk about items that are relevant to the community. She will follow up with the commissioner. It was noted that, due to the

restrictions of the Open Meetings Act, the dinner would need to be strictly for fellowship and no business can be discussed.

Dr. Kelley shared a draft letter that was requested about the PTO Insurance. She reported that in the 2016-2017 school year, Dr. Evans began a conversation with the PTOs about liability insurance. The Longfellow PTO Co-Presidents requested the letter from the attorneys confirming what they heard from Evans and Starck-King. The outcome is that if the PTO hires District 97 staff for after school activities, and they need to be covered under the PTOs liability. Member Spurlock explained that it is a fine line and depends on the situation, and if items are approved by the insurance carrier. Concern was expressed about teachers needing liability insurance to work after hour programs run by other entities like PTO or Oak Park Education Foundation (OPEF). Interest was expressed in looking into PTA opposed to PTO because they carry their own insurance. Interest was expressed in knowing if the OPEF is researching any options for insurance.

Member Kim expressed concern about the Gifted and Talented Committee Report. She noted that the GTD Ad Hoc Committee was not consulted about the results shared in the report, and some recommendations that the committee made did not make it into the report. They expressed concern about resource allocations, and requests an external evaluation. She noted that there is an interviewing process for the GTD teachers interested in the new teacher position of Advanced Learning Specialist which does not have any special endorsements. The memo does not clarify how there will be greater equity for students of color.

Amy Warke shared that programming for GTD will take place next year, and the draft job description will be formulated before that time. She assured the Board that everything will be worked out during next year's school year and everything that member Kim expressed concern about will be addressed by the GTD team next year. President Broy asked if the team could talk about the GTD model and why it was chosen during the retreat.

Member Liebl shared that she attended "Dismantling Islamophobia in Our Schools ", which was held at Irving and supported by Irving and Longfellow PTOs as well as DivCo. Nadine Naber, Dima Khalidi and Zeina Zaatari shared with their audience ways to identify and combat Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism in our community and in our schools. They shared that sometimes that we often do not think about or acknowledge ways in which we perpetuate racism and make children and families feel excluded. One example that was given was the way in which our schools celebrate Veteran's Day. Often, while we are celebrating people who have served in the U.S. military, we are not acknowledging that we have children in our classrooms whose lives have been negatively impacted by U.S. military action. The discussion also included concerns about what is, and is not included in our curricula as well as concerns about our schools not celebrating Arab American Heritage Month. Member Liebl asked Dr. Kelley if there was a way to put out more information, and highlight changes that are being made in our schools in regard to culturally relevant teaching and curricula. Dr. Kelley said that she would inquire about it.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Broy declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary