Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
September 22, 2026 - Regular Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Livestream. Board members met in person along with D97 Administration.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Moore called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL

Present: Kim, Spurlock, Gay, Hurd Johnson, Moore, Ross Dribin (arrived at 6:03 p.m.)
Absent: Kearney (arrived at 6:06 p.m.)
Also Present: Dr. Terri Bresnahan, Superintendent; Dr. Natacia Campbell Tominov, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Equity; and Lee-Ann Roskopf, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Secretary.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:03 p.m. Spurlock motioned, seconded by Kim, to enter Executive session for the: Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees; Collective Negotiating Matters; Matters Relating to Individual Students; and Litigation of an Action against a Public Body; Discussion minutes lawfully closed under Open Meetings Act. 5 ILCS 120/2 (C)(1), (C)(2), (C)(10), (C)(11), (C)(21). A roll call vote of those present resulted in all ayes. Kearney joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

4: OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

At 7:02 p.m. the Board of Education resumed Open Session. The roll was called and all members were present. Joining the meeting were Dr. Crystal LeRoy, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Ebony Lofton, Chief Learning Innovation Officer; Dr. Tawanda Lawrence, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning; Michael Arensdorf, Chief Operations and Technology Officer; Amanda Siegfried, Senior Director of Communications and Engagement; and Rob Grossi, District consultant.

5. PUBLIC HEARING | FY27 BUDGET ADOPTION

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT

Kim motioned, seconded by Spurlock, that the Oak Park Elementary School District 97 open the Public Hearing on the District's FY27 Budget.
Ayes: Gay, Hurd Johnson, Kearney, Kim, Ross Dribin, Spurlock, Moore
Nayes: None

There was no public comment for the Hearing of the SY27 Budget.

Dr. LeRoy and Rob Grossi presented the final budget for FY27. They highlighted some changes to the tentative budget that was presented on August 11, 2026. These changes were related to Purchased Services, Out of District tuition, Supplies and Materials (related to math curriculum at the middle school), and Capital work related to safety. Dr. Bresnahan discussed her financial goals for her first year.

Kim motioned, seconded by Ross Dribin, that the Oak Park Elementary School District 97 close the Public Hearing on the District's FY27 Budget.
Ayes: Spurlock, Gay, Hurd Johnson, Kearney, Kim, Ross Dribin, Moore
Nayes: None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leo and Nyah Gary, Lincoln students, addressed the board regarding recess time.
Annie Stark, Whittier student, addressed the board regarding recess time.
Olivia Bryant, Lincoln 5th Grade student, addressed the board regarding recess time.
Lauren Johnson, Brooks and Lincoln parent, addressed the board regarding the role of screens in education.
Emma Mercier Newton, Holmes parent, addressed the board regarding technology use in classrooms.
Alison Nelson, community member, addressed the board on screens in school.
Megan Jackson, community member, addressed the board on Policy 7:12.

Dr. Bresnahan responded that the district is in the process of evaluating instructional and recess minutes and will share once collaborative meetings have happened.

7 BOARD RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

No recognitions or presentations tonight.

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

8:1 Technology Guidance Presentation

Michael Arensdorff, with Dr. Tawanda Lawrence, shared how we are balancing high quality instruction and the use of technology. He summarized the changes that have been shared with families and how we will analyze the impact of the changes over this year. Guardrails have been implemented for students: Restrictions on screen time, grade K-2 have classroom carts, nightly offline hours, student access to YouTube is fully disabled, restrictions on using technology as a reward, and social media is blocked.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

Spurlock motioned, seconded by Kim, that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 approve the consent agenda as amended at the table. The amendment corrected a clerical error on a salary on the personnel report.

9.1 Approval of Minutes from the September 8, 2026 Board Meeting
9.2 Approval of Closed Session Minutes from the September 8, 2026 Board Meeting
9.3 9.22.26 Bill List and 9.4.26 Payroll
9.4 Personnel Report
9.5 SY27 IMRF Total Compensation Report
9.6 SY26 EIS Administrator & Teacher Salary Benefit Report
9.7 Curriculum Disposal Request
9.8 Facilities Disposal Request
9.9 Middle School Out of State and Overnight Field Trip Request

Ayes: Kim, Ross Dribin, Spurlock, Gay, Hurd Johnson, Kearney, Moore
Nays: None

Absent: All Present
Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

10. ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Adoption of the FY27 Budget

It was moved by Kim and seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 adopt the FY27 budget as presented.
Ayes: Kearney, Kim, Ross Dribin, Spurlock, Gay, Hurd Johnson, Moore
Nays: None
Absent: All Present
Motion passed.

10.1 Beye School Donation

It was moved by Kim and seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 approve the $10,000 donation to Beye Elementary School for auditorium audio upgrades.
Ayes: Hurd Johnson, Kearney, Kim, Ross Dribin, Spurlock, Gay, Moore
Nays: None
Absent: All Present
Motion passed.

10.3 Teacher Leave

It was moved by Kim and seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 approve the recommendation to deny the requested leave of absence for Lauren Brown, teacher in the District.
Ayes: Gay, Hurd Johnson, Kearney, Kim, Ross Dribin, Spurlock, Moore
Nays: None
Absent: All Present
Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS

11.1 Press Plus 121, Policy 6:120 First Read

Holly Spurlock, Board Policy Committee member, discussed the changes recommended by Press Plus 121. Additional district edits are recommended to Policy 7:50 in order to align early entrance requirements to first grade with for early entrance to kindergarten. The revised policy will state that anyone seeking entrance to kindergarten or first grade, will need to follow policy 6:153, Accelerated Placement Program.

The recommended changes to Policy 6:120 add the procedures required for parent or guardian use of audio recording during his or her child's student-related meeting

CONCLUDING ITEMS

12. CONCLUDING ITEMS

There were no concluding items.

13. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

13.1 Facilities Advisory Committee
Kearney and Gay met with FAC. There were updates on the summer project and the solar work. Next for FAC is to meet with FORC and to go over the master facility plan and the funding needs.

13.2 Parent Teacher Advisory Committee
Spurlock noted that PTAC will have their first meeting in December.

13:3 Financial Oversight Review Committee
Spurlock noted that FORC will meet with FAC. More people are needed on the committee.

13:4 District 97 Negotiations Committee
Ross Dribin: Negotiations will start with OPTAA and OPESP.

13:5 District 97 Policy Committee
Spurlock: Updates were provided during the discussion portion of the agenda,

13:6 Intergovernmental Committee of Oak Park (IGOV)
Ross Dribin: There will be a meeting at Lincoln Elementary School on October 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.titled "Demystifying Refererendums".

13:7 Parent Teacher Organization Council
Moore: At the first meeting PTAC discussed the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), the PTO toolkit that is available on the D97 website.

13:8 D97 Sustainability Task Force (Cross-Agency Sustainability Team/Oak Park)
Kearney: Have not met.

13:9 Collaboration Early Childhood (CEC)
Ross Dribin: Have not met

13:10 Oak Park Education Network (OPEN)
Kim: Discussed expanding afterschool programming.

13:11 Oak Park River Forest Community Council
Hurd Johnson: No update

13:12 Oak Park Council of Governments (COG)
Moore: Have not met yet

13:13 ED-RED
Kim: Upcoming luncheon is coming soon.

14. AGENDA - October 13. 2026

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Board Retreat

EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION OF THE BOARD

Not required for this meeting.

16. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

All present members of the Board were in agreement that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, Kim declared the meeting adjourned by voice vote at 9:00 p.m.

Cheree Moore - Board President

Lee-Ann Roskopf - Board Secretary