

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Cook County, Oak Park, Illinois
July 21, 2009**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barber, Reddy, Gates, Spatz, Harton, and Traczyk
Absent: Clouser
Also Present: Superintendent Constance R. Collins, Human Resources Director
Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Kevin Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and
Operations Therese O'Neill, Curriculum Coordinator Kelly Baird,
Teacher Harla Hutchinson, PMA Consultant Steve Miller, and
Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Executive Session

Gates moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into executive session. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Harton, Reddy, Barber, Spatz, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Clouser
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

Open Session

Harton moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into open session at 7:39 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Harton, Spatz, Barber, Reddy, Gates, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Clouser
Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF JUNE
18, 2009

1.1.0 Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2009

Gates moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the June 18, 2009 joint district meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Barber, Reddy, Spatz, Harton, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Clouser
Motion passed.

1.2.0 Approval of Minutes of June 23, 2009

Spatz moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the June 23, 2009 meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Gates, Reddy, Barber, Harton, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Clouser

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment

Carollina Song, Oak Park, is a parent of a 6th grader at Brooks. She expressed concern about the advanced math program, and she questioned the policies and procedures that guide it. Song suggested that students' scores be shared with parents, helping them understand the decision making process. Song encouraged the district to demonstrate how the community's tax dollars are being successfully spent within this program.

Mary Pat Eraci-Sullivan, Oak Park, suggested that the board have the ability to read all of the comments submitted via the parent survey.

Consent Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA

President Traczyk read the items on the consent agenda. Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda.

4.1.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

4.2.1 Personnel Action as presented

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Harton, Spatz, Barber, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Clouser

Motion passed.

The new staff members in attendance were introduced to the board.

ACTION ITEMS

4.1.2 End of Year Summary and Adoption of the Tentative FY10 Budget

Therese O'Neill and Steve Miller from PMA reported on the 2008-2009 end of the year budget. The education, non-operating fund, and operating funds were reported as closing below budget. Due to the underfunding by state/federal governments, the education fund was reported as still out of balance, but O'Neill reported that the operating funds are almost in balance.

An increase in general state aid was reported due to the full-day kindergarten program. Additional funds will be added due to the approved state budget.

4.1.2 End of Year Summary and Adoption of the Tentative FY10 Budget (Continued)

Miller shared the projections, reporting that the general state aid received by the district is larger than most school districts of similar size. He attributed this to the increase in the average daily attendance caused by the implementation of the full-day Kindergarten program, and an increase in miscellaneous grants. There will be no change in property tax data or general state aid, and average daily attendance will include the full-day Kindergarten students. Miller projected minimal growth over most categories.

O'Neill explained the process used to generate the tentative budget and agreed to prepare a document that the board can use as a guide regarding the suggested cuts.

Board suggestions and opinions included a request for Miller to return in August with sample budget scenarios for the board's review that would include a discussion on timing and budget options. It was suggested that the district focus on creating an archive of all positive district information and post noteworthy articles on the Web page. A long-term technology vision was requested. It was suggested that appreciation be extended to staff members involved in cost savings. It was also suggested that O'Neill, Chris Jasculca and Dr. Collins package this as newsworthy.

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt its tentative 2009-10 budget in the total amount of \$73,879,712, thus placing such tentative budget on display for a minimum of 30 days and call for a public hearing of said budget on September 8, 2009. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Harton, Reddy, Gates, Spatz, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Clouser
Motion passed.

4.2.2 Appointment of a Special Education Director

Barber moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the appointment of Michael Padavic to Director of Special Education effective July 1, 2009 at a salary of \$126,000. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Gates, Reddy, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Clouser
Motion passed.

Dr. Collins introduced Mike Padavic, and reported that he is already scheduling meetings with parents and staff.

4.5.1 Approval of Board/Superintendent Goals for 2009-2010

The board/superintendent goals were discussed.

Comments and suggestions included a suggestion to add directives under communications regarding finances. It was noted that staff recognition has not been addressed. It was suggested that the document be enhanced to include staff relations and recognition.

4.5.1 Approval of Board/Superintendent Goals for 2009-2010 (Continued)

It was suggested that the Board of Education and superintendent documents be combined into one document. This document could begin with a brief statement defining the directives of the board, district, and superintendent. The board agreed to combine the documents with separate preambles.

This item was tabled.

Academic/Instruction

STUDENT PERFORMANCE ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIORAL

AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE MENTOR PROGRAM

Dr. Collins presented an overview of the program and shared that the district continues to have concerns about the academic achievement and behavior of African American male students. She reported that the board identified \$17,000 for this program during the 2008-2009 school year. The goal of the program is to increase the achievement, interest in school, and level of respect of the participating students. This is accomplished while increasing their knowledge of their own culture and assuring that the program aligns with the strategic plan. The team reported that the majority of the participants showed improvement in their grade point averages while students who did not complete the program typically showed a decrease. Suspensions and attendance improved for the participating students and parent involvement increased.

The team requested \$10,000 in support of the program for the 2009-2010 school year. They explained that they would like to downsize the number of participants for next year, allowing the mentors to share more quality time with each of the participants. The board agreed to approve this request at the August board meeting.

MATH AND READING TEST DATA

Kevin Anderson and Harla Hutchinson reported on math and reading test results. The results showed steady improvement with a drop due to summer loss.

Board suggestions and concerns included setting a consistent time period for testing, and reviewing the African American students' scores in more detail. A data analysis committee was suggested to review test scores and identify trends.

THIRD QUARTER SUSPENSION DATA

Hutchinson and Kelly Baird presented discipline data, reporting that the data shows that second semester incidents, mostly fighting and physical aggression, are high. They reported that all schools would be in PBIS and SWIS. PowerSchool will be used to track all incidents. They reported that, on average, suspended students hold a grade point average of less than 2.0.

Board comments and suggestions included the consideration of parents having the option of attending school with a student instead of an out-of-school suspension. Teachers input was requested regarding the second semester increase in suspensions and ways to resolve this problem.

Additionally, a district gifted program, based on verifiable, quantitative analysis, that does not exceed 5% of the total student population was suggested.

District Activity

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

RECERTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS CROSSINGS

The board was asked to review the supplied documents, as this is an annual item that will be brought to the board for approval during the August 18, 2009 meeting.

BIDS: PAINTING, FLAME RETARDANT CURTAINS, MULCH, rBGH FREE MILK

Therese O'Neill reported that bids would be presented to the board for approval during the August 18, 2009 meeting for painting at approximately \$39,000, flame retardant curtains at \$36,000, mulch at \$10,000, and rBGH-free milk (bids not in at this time).

FY09 AUDIT ENGAGEMENT APPROVAL

It was reported that the engagement letter must be reviewed and approved in August even though a three-year contract is in place.

Board of Education Priorities

BOARD PRIORITIES

None

Superintendent's Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Dr. Collins shared the following report with the board:

At the August board meeting we will be bringing forward the appointment of Michael Padavic as the representative and myself as the alternate on the DuPage/West Cook Cooperative Governing Board. This is a three-year appointment.

Administration has researched the title in other districts of the "Public Relations Coordinator." All titles are "Communications Coordinator" therefore Chris Jasculca's title has been changed to reflect current educational practice.

Six schools submitted and have received tentative approval of their Zero Waste Grants -- Beye (\$9,962), Hatch (\$8,667), Lincoln (\$9,997), Longfellow (\$9,985), Mann (\$3,068) and Whittier (\$2,902), totaling \$44,581. Therese and Norm have been working with Michelle Hickey of Seven Generations to facilitate the final work with all efforts geared toward uniformity of purchase involving dishwashers and hand dryers. The six principals are in support of this effort. These revenues and expenditures have been built into the 2009-10 budget.

Capital Projects--Tuckpointing work at Beye and Whittier has been completed.

- Waiting for the delivery of windows to be installed at Whittier which is expected prior to completion date of August 17.
- Tuckpointing work at Mann began on July 15 and is expected to be completed by July 31.
- Hatch tuckpointing is expected to be completed by August 7.
- Fire Alarm work at Holmes is complete as of today, which is two weeks ahead of schedule.
- The ROE required work at Whitter (boiler room) is complete as of today.

Superintendent's Report - (Continued)

- Door frame and hardware work at Whittier and Longfellow is expected to be completed by August 17. Lincoln floor tile work (asbestos abatement and replacement of floor tile) is complete on the first floor and second floor is in progress. All work should be completed by August 7, one full week in advance of scheduled completion date.

Playground/landscaping work at Hatch will be completed by end of next week. Gym floor refinishing will be completed by end of next week as well.

Dr. Collins met with the village manager, the police chief, District 200 superintendent and the two middle school principals to discuss the village being able to fund school resource officers and crossing guards. They developed a working group with representatives from all entities to brainstorm possible solution scenarios. They may have one school resource officer for both middle schools at the start of the year.

Dr. Collins met with the middle school principals, Therese O'Neill and Norm Lane to discuss the option of cameras in the middle schools. Parents will be informed of the need for the cameras based on several factors, including the reduction of school resource officers, thefts in the buildings, inappropriate behavior and the general safety of students and staff. In addition to the purpose of the cameras, the district will explain details such as placement and number needed. Parents will be surveyed regarding their thoughts, and the administration will come back to the board with updates at a later meeting.

The district has received a request from a board member regarding the student performance report. Given the changes in administration, and in order to provide the most accurate, detailed information, the report will be presented to the board in September at the earliest.

The technology department has been working over the summer to develop a long-range instructional technology plan for District 97, including purchasing, usage, and professional development. In order to provide time for the plan to be shared with the principals, Education Council, and Technology Review Committee when school resumes in the fall, it would be best to bring this report to the board at either the second September meeting or the first October meeting. It is planned that use of the ARRA funding for Title I and Special Education technology will also be included in this report to the board.

Notice was received late this afternoon that due to the budget crisis our state is experiencing, the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) appropriation has been reduced by one-third. As a result, all ECBG programs that were funded in FY09 and successfully met all requirements and conditions of the grant will receive two-thirds of their FY09 grant award amount for program implementation in FY10.

Dr. Collins attended the COG meeting on July 7. Highlights included:

- David Pope expressed gratitude for D97 support of ECC parent coordinator.
- Park District is getting ready to demolish a second property next to Carroll Park.
- TIF surplus payment is being sent to Cook County and the checks should be distributed in 6-8 weeks.
- Dr. Collins shared:
 - D97 2009-10 goals
 - The District's new communications coordinator and special education director
 - Partnering with ECC to fund Pre-school coordinator
 - Prepping for full-day Kindergarten in all schools
 - Funding on hold from state

Board Concerns

It was suggested that the superintendent’s report be sent to the board via email prior to each board meeting.

A FORC meeting will be held toward the end of August. Chris Jасulca was asked to review prior practice in acquiring new members as both the FORC and FAC committees are in need of additional members. The chairperson for FORC will be stepping down at the August meeting.

Board Response to Public Comment

Dr. Collins will respond to Ms. Song. Traczyk will respond to Eraci-Sullivan, sharing that the board will discuss the climate survey at the August meeting.

Announcements

ED-RED will be holding a meeting at the District 97 office on August 25 or 26. They are also in need of a governing board representative. Gates volunteered for this position.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the administration building, located at 970 Madison Street.

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary