

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Special Meeting April 24, 2013**

This meeting was held in the Second Floor East Library of Oak Park River Forest High School.

President Barber called the joint meeting between the Village of Oak Park, School District 200 and School District 97 to order at 7:00 p.m. Each board called roll call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, Spatz, and O'Connor
Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jасulca, Dr. Steven Isoye, Lisa Shelly, Therese Powell, and Gail Kalmerton

Village of Oak Park Trustees – David Pope, Glenn Brewer, John Hedges, Ray Johnson, Colette Lueck, Adam Salzman and Bob Tucker

District 200 Board of Education – Terry Finnegan, John Phelan, Amy Leafe McCormack, Ralph Lee, Sharon Patchak-Layman, Dr. Dietra Millard and Valerie Fisher

PLEDGE OF ALLEGANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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TRI-BOARD DISCUSSION

Each Board member was given the opportunity to voice their support or concerns about the proposed agreement.

TRI-BOARD DISCUSSION

Valerie Fisher, Denise Sacks, Jim O'Connor, John Hedges, Peter Traczyk, Colette Lueck, John Phelan, Bob Spatz, Ray Johnson, Amy McCormack, Jim Gates, Bob Tucker, Ralph Lee, Amy Felton Adam Salzman, Glenn Brewer, Dr. Steven Isoye, Dr. Al Roberts, Lisa Shelly, Terry Finnegan, David Pope and Peter Barber all spoke in favor of the agreement.

Dee Millard, and Sharon Patchak-Layman expressed concern.

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement to Support the Purchase of Services Pertaining to the Early Childhood Education Program

ACTION ITEMS

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Board of Education of Oak Park River Forest High School District 200, The Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, and the Village of Oak Park, Illinois for the purchase of services pertaining to early childhood education programming. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Traczyk, Felton, Barber, Sacks, O'Connor, and Spatz

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Johnson of the Village of Oak Park moved the above motion; seconded by Tucker. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Finnegan of District 200 moved the above motion; seconded by Phelan. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and two nays. Patchak-Layman and Millard voted nay. Motion carried.

2.2.1 Approval of the Contract Between District's 200, 97, the Village of Oak Park and the Collaboration for Early Childhood

Spatz moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the contract between District 97, Oak Park River Forest High School District 200, The Village of Oak Park, and the Collaboration for Early Childhood for early childhood education services. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, O'Connor, Felton, Spatz, Gates, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Hedges of the Village of Oak Park moved to approve the above motion, seconded by Brewer. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Lee of District 200 moved to approve the above motion, seconded by Fisher. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes and two nays. Patchak-Layman and Millard voted nay. Motion carried.

Applause was shared by all.

COMMENTS FROM THE COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

Eric Gershenson, president of the Collaboration for Early Childhood read the following statement.

COMMENTS FROM
THE
COLLABORATION
FOR EARLY
CHILDHOOD

“President Barber and member of the District 97 Board, President Finnegan and members of the District 200 Board, President Pope and members of the Oak Park Village Board, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Isoye and Manager Pavlicek:

Not long ago, Marian Wright Edelman, civil rights heroine, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a MacArthur Fellowship and the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award – gave an address that included the following remarks :

‘We have pushed so many of our children into the tumultuous sea of life in small and leaky boat, without survival gear and compass. I hope they will forgive us, and I hope God will forgive us. I hope we will all be moved to give all our children the anchors of faith and love, the sails of health and education, and the paddles of family and community to keep them safe and strong when life's sea gets rough.’

“Tonight, by your actions, you have answered Marian Edelman's call; you have responded to her invocation. On behalf of the Collaboration for Early Childhood and as a resident and former school board member, please accept a most heartfelt thank you.

Our community has long been characterized by our willingness to take up the most compelling socio-economic challenges of an era. It has thrived and become vibrant because of its creative engagement with these issues. A substantial body of evidence indicates that one of the defining issues of this moment is ensuring that every child develops to his or her full potential, and is not hindered by limited access to high quality early learning programs and services.

It has taken vision to recognize the potential benefits to addressing this challenge: narrowing the disparities in achievement among our students; reducing rates of substance use and abuse in middle school and high school students and young adults; lowering rates of involvement in the criminal justice system; improving health and increased earnings as our children become adults, increasing property values.

And it has taken courage to emerge from exclusive institutional frameworks and act in concert. By doing so you have been able to effectively address needs that affect all jurisdictions but are not the direct responsibility of any single one.

Tonight you make possible the implementation of a blueprint for action: action that will address many problems at their source – in early childhood. While it is not a magic bullet, it is a plan based on research about what works, intended to build on what exists. It holds real promise to ensure that all our children have the opportunity to succeed throughout their school years and adulthood.

In some sense it is appropriate to say that the real work is about to begin. But in other respects that would be misleading. As you know, a great deal has already been accomplished – and on a shoestring. This is the result of the extraordinary capability of the Collaboration’s Executive Director, Carolyn Newberry Schwartz and the dedication and productivity of her staff – that small band of sisters: Diana Rosenbrock and Karen Baldwin. It is also attributable to the leadership of the Collaboration’s Board and its Chair, Carrollina Song, and the commitment and energy of all of the Collaboration’s partner jurisdictions, agencies, and individuals. People who attend the monthly Collaboration Council meetings for the first time, come away amazed at the scope and dynamism of the undertaking. The truth of the matter is, if I glance behind me I could say of many of the people I see – if it were not for what you did on a given occasion we would not be here tonight. That is also true of many of you arrayed at the tables before me.

Tonight is a milestone in the life of our community, our children, and their families. I am absolutely convinced that as the years go by, as the result of the work we – all of us – do together, you will have reason to be proud of your vote this evening. Thank you.”

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.



Board President



Board Secretary