

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting April 26, 2017**

President Gates called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Present: Gates, Spatz, Spurlock, Felton, O'Connor (by phone), Brisben, and Datta  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley (by phone), Assistant Superintendent of HR Laurie Campbell, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Dr. Amy Warke, Senior Director of Special Services Mike Padavic, Senior Director of Policy, Procedures and Communication Chris Jасulca, Sr. Director of Administrative Services Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Kamm, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Datta moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 5:36 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ayes: Datta, Felton, Gates, Spurlock, Brisben, Spatz, and O'Connor (by phone)  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

**OPEN SESSION**

Brisben moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:30 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lary Grimaldi, an Oak Park Teacher, spoke on behalf of the Oak Park Teachers Association (OPTA). He thanked the Board and the community for supporting the referendum, and explained that it is comforting to know that the teachers will be able to continue their work. Grimaldi Thanked President Gates, Vice President Felton and Member Brisben for their years of support, and extended a welcome to Keecia Broy, Rob Breymaier and Katherine Murray-Liebl.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Faith M. Jackson, a substitute teacher, shared a letter of concern with the Board. She noted that administration ended her employment contract and she felt the decision was unjust. She requested that the Board review the findings, expunge her records and give her a letter of recommendation.

Martha Albers, the Choral Director at Brooks Middle School and Teacher Leader for the General/Vocal Music Department came to the table with members of the Music department. She noted that in the six years since the 2011 referendum, the students of District 97 lost much of the diversity of arts offerings. In addition, the Music Department faced reductions in staff and was excluded from district level conversations resulting in directives and curriculums that put parameters on their best practices. They wished to address the Board following another successful referendum in order to foster teacher-administration communications. Collaboration and transparency in the hope that the events following the 2011 referendum will not be repeated.

**Concern #1**

During the 2011 referendum, Oak Park citizens were presented with the possibility of a District 97 without arts. They voted to preserve the incredible diverse offering of curricular arts programming, guided by the principle that arts education is a paramount priority within the identity of this community. However; after the success of the 2011 referendum the middle schools began implementing the IB Programme, which put severe restraints on scheduling options for the arts. As a result, general music, guitar and piano classes were eliminated at the middle school level. In addition, students were no longer able to enroll in multiple arts classes. At the elementary level, our students lost six minutes a week of contact time, which in the course of a year is a month of classes. This loss of time impacts our students, teachers and music program.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - (Continued)

**Following this most recent referendum, will there be any additional changes to current programs that will further impact or reduce music offerings to students? Will there be reductions in funding that help support the curricular music classes?**

**Concern #2**

If leveraged, our program's excellence is good enough to help pass referenda, then we believe it has earned a position among the guiding principles that shape Board policy as our programs educate the whole child.

**How will the Music department be included in future District vision Planning conversations? What is the Board's overarching vision and specific goals for how it will implement the wishes of the community with regard to the importance of arts? What values will the Board impress upon administrators as they seek to implement this vision?**

**Concern #3**

At the building level, arts teachers are often excluded from conversations and decision making processes that impact the Music Program, specifically when it comes to scheduling building and traveling arts, language, and PE teachers. Teacher Leaders often work to solve problems after the schedule has been created, though it would be more efficient and equitable if Teacher Leaders and/or specials teachers themselves were directly involved in the scheduling process

**Will Teachers Leaders and individual specials teachers be involved in their building's discussion surrounding the scheduling of specials classes and chorus?**

Christine Keyes, an Oak Park resident, expressed concerns about student behavior at Brooks Middle School. She shared that her sixth grader reports fights during the day. Keyes explained that she continuously hears about behavior issues, and actually witnessed a situation herself. She explained that this is not the kind of environment she wants for her kids. Yesterday her daughter sent an email saying she was afraid at school. Keyes assured her that she was safe. Keyes explained that she does not pretend to hold the answers to the situations; but noted that the current path is not tenable. Something needs to quickly change.

While thinking of solutions, Keyes suggested that the district needs to think of the entire school body. Positive changes that will make the students proud of being part of the Brooks community. We cannot forget about those students who are the ones that seem to be doing "just fine" since they clearly are not.

Pat Dailey, an Oak Park resident, expressed interest in having the basketball hoops remain available for community use during the summer.

Dawn Deaton, an Oak Park Teacher, thanked the outgoing Board and welcomed the new members. She expressed understanding of all the work it takes to be a Board member, but explained that she left the April 11, 2017 meeting anxious, restless, and worried about her job and colleagues. She expressed concern over the lack of information share regarding the Public Hearing on Reduction in Force, expecting to hear details so the public could express their opinion. It was not until the action item was read that she found out that one of her colleagues was on the list. Deaton questioned why the district needed to eliminate positions after the referendum passed. She explained that by eliminating the position of her colleague, the district is losing the head of the student council and breaking up a highly valued teaching partnership. Deaton questioned how this decision supported the mission and vision. She shared that the referendum passed in large part because of the importance of world language, art, and music, noting that the community does not want to lose them. She noted that the passing of the referendum allows the district to continue with these and to do more. Deaton pointed out that the current discussion about the district vision does not explicitly talk about these and how they are tied to the vision and mission, despite the importance to the community. Deaton questioned the approval of \$1,000,000 in expenditures only one week after the elections, noting that the vote felt ill timed. Deaton suggested that the Board slow down, expressing concern that they are not hearing all the voices in the room.

Sule Ancieta, an Oak Park resident and parent of an eighth grader at Brooks, expressed concern about an incident that occurred on April 17, 2017. She reported that her student was bullied on school grounds by several students. The incident left him with bruises, and emotionally hurt. Ancieta noted the need to implement changes to support the whole child, and questioned the district's concern for the wellbeing of the child being bullied and the parents of the child. She questioned;

Who supports that child?

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – (Continued)

What about his self confidence and trust at school?  
What is the message this child is getting from the school?  
What does the school have in place to support this child?

Ancieta noted that one child is too many to lose from bullying, and noted that her family is still working on healing.

James Ratner, an Oak Park resident, welcome to new members. He expressed gratitude for the referendum, noted that he is looking forward to the expanding curriculum, and appreciates uniformity throughout the district. Ratner shared that he is an advocate for physics and asked about equity within the school district. He questioned if this could be a topic for the students to discuss.

Karen Yarborough, an Oak Park resident thanked the outgoing Board members and welcomed the newly elected Board members. She expressed concern about the proposed cuts to the CAST program. She explained that she was surprised and disheartened to learn about them after the passage of the referendum. She is disappointed that cuts were not shared prior to the election, noting that they did not appear on the list identify cuts to the arts program. She expressed concern that the lack of transparency engenders mistrust. She explained that the Superintendent is asking that the programs contribute more to keep the program in tact. She expressed concern that people do not understand what the CAST program is, and how it aligns and embodies the district's vision. She explained that every child who auditions gets a part, and the program tackles social issues. Yarborough expressed confusion as to why the cuts to this program would be beneficial, and shared that she feels that a narrowing of the curriculum indicates that the arts are not that important. She requested that the district restore the CAST program as it has been.

ACTION ITEMS

**2.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 11, 2017 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Spatz moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the minutes from the April 11, 2017 Board meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Gates, Datta, O'Connor, Brisben, Felton, and Spurlock  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**2.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Spatz moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented.

- 2.2.1 Approval of Bill List
- 2.2.2 Approval of Personnel
- 2.2.3 Policy Adoption

- Policy 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses)
  - First Exhibit for Policy 2:125
  - Second Exhibit for Policy 2:125
- Resolution Exhibit for Policy 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses) and Policy 5:60 (Expenses)
- Policy 4:30 (Revenue and Investments)
- Policy 4:110 (Types of School Board Meetings)
- Policy 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs)
- Policy 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications)
- Policy 5:60 (Expenses)
  - First Exhibit for Policy 5:60
  - Second Exhibit for Policy 5:60
- Policy 5:100 (Staff Development Program)
- Policy 5:260 (Student Teachers)
- Policy 6:145 (Migrant Students)
- Policy 6:160 (English Learners)
- Policy 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program)
- Policy 7:60 (Residence)
- Policy 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy)
- Policy 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Education)
- Policy 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and head Injuries)

- Policy 8:30 (Visitor to and Conduct on School Property)
- 2.2.4 Acceptance of Donations
  - Spenga
  - Mann School PTO
  - Longfellow PTO

Ayes: Spatz, Gates, Datta, O'Connor, Felton, Brisben, and Spurlock  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**2.3.1 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISMISSAL OF FULL-TIME EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

Datta moved, seconded by Spatz, that the District 97 Board of Education adopt the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HONORABLE DISMISSAL OF FULL-TIME EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District No. 97, Cook County, State of Illinois, has decided to *decrease the total number of full-time educational support personnel employed by the Board of Education*;

**WHEREAS**, as between full-time educational support personnel, the employee with the shorter length of continuing service with the School District, within the respective category of position, must be removed or dismissed first unless an alternative method of determining the sequence of dismissal is established in a collective bargaining agreement or contract between the Board of Education and any exclusive bargaining agent;

**WHEREAS**, there is no collective bargaining agreement or contract between the Board of Education and any exclusive bargaining agent which establishes an alternative method of determining the sequence of the removal or dismissal of full-time educational support personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has decided that the full-time educational support personnel hereinafter set forth shall be removed or dismissed and not reemployed for the 2017-2018 school term as a result of the decision by the Board of Education to *decrease the total number of full-time educational support personnel employed by the Board of Education in the School District*, pursuant to Section 5/10-23.5 of *The Illinois School Code*.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District No. 97, Cook County, State of Illinois, as follows:

**Section 1 :** That the following full-time educational support personnel are hereby removed or dismissed and not reemployed for the 2017-2018 school term, in conformance with the Exhibits attached hereto and made a part hereof, because of the decision by the Board of Education to decrease the total number of full-time educational support personnel employed by the Board of Education:

**Night Custodial Supervisor:**

Derek Fagan

**Maintenance Supervisor:**

Donald Vacca

**Full Time Media Aide:**

Katrina Keith

**Full Time Teacher Assistants:**

Johnnie Anthony  
Kimberly Baker  
Kristen Barney  
Mariannell Bassett-Dilley  
Claudia Berman  
Gwashauna Brewer  
Jameel Carter  
Mekonya Cheefus  
Ashley Flemming  
Margaret Heflin  
Jennifer Herron  
Joanne Holmes  
Sonya Howard  
Renita Labon

Shakari Laws  
Angela McCamury  
Maureen McDonald  
Hilda Moreno  
Alexander Neumayer  
Jessica Richardson  
Carol Woodard  
**Receptionist:**  
Trina Johnson

**Section 2 :** That the President and Secretary of the Board of Education are hereby authorized and directed to send the educational support personnel hereinabove set forth a written notice of honorable dismissal by first class mail at least **thirty (30) days** before the employees' last day of employment, which notice shall be substantially as set forth in the Exhibits attached hereto.

**Section 3:** That the President and Secretary of the Board of Education are hereby authorized and directed to send the educational support personnel hereinabove set forth a written notice of honorable dismissal by certified mail, return receipt requested, at least **thirty (30) days** before the employees' last day of employment, which notice shall be substantially as set forth in the Exhibits attached hereto.

**Section 4:** That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect forthwith upon its passage.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Datta, Spatz, Gates, O'Connor, Spurlock, Brisben, and Felton

Nays: None

Motion passed.

### 2.3.2 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISMISSAL OF PART-TIME EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, adopt the following resolution.

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISMISSAL OF PART-TIME EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District No. 97, Cook County, State of Illinois, has determined to *decrease the total number of part-time educational support personnel employed by the Board of Education* and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has determined that the part-time educational support personnel hereinafter set forth shall be dismissed and not reemployed for the 2017-2018 school term as a result of the decision by the Board of Education to *decrease the total number of part-time educational support personnel employed by the Board of Education in the School District*, pursuant to Section 5/10-23.5 of *The Illinois School Code*.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District No. 97, Cook County, State of Illinois, as follows:

**Section 1 :** That the following part-time educational support personnel are hereby removed or dismissed and not reemployed for the 2017-2018 school term, in conformance with the Exhibits attached hereto and made a part hereof, because of the decision by the Board of Education to decrease the total number of part-time educational support personnel employed by the Board of Education:

**PT Teacher Assistant:**  
Jenna Vollmer

**Media Aides:**  
Sanna Evans  
Darlene Friedman  
Gail Frost  
Jeanette Hess  
Janice Loud  
Olivia Miller  
Susan Winston

**Tutors:**

Shqipe Alili  
Meghan Cairns  
Elizabeth Cruz  
Nina Diehl  
Nora Flynn  
Kathryn Gallo  
Anne Harrington  
Beth Higgins  
Julia Inksetter  
Erin Leahy  
Gale Liebman  
Tanika McClain  
Anne McDonnell  
Carin McKinney  
Charles Moreland  
Courtney Perry  
Donna Weigel

**Section 2 :** That the President and Secretary of the Board of Education are hereby authorized and directed to send the educational support personnel hereinabove set forth a written notice of dismissal by first class mail at least **thirty (30) days** before the employees' last day of employment, which notice shall be substantially as set forth in the Exhibits attached hereto.

**Section 3 :** That the President and Secretary of the Board of Education are hereby authorized and directed to send the educational support personnel hereinabove set forth a written notice of dismissal by certified mail, return receipt requested, at least **thirty (30) days** before the employees' last day of employment, which notice shall be substantially as set forth in the Exhibit(s) attached hereto.

**Section 4 :** That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect forthwith upon its passage.  
**ADOPTED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017, by the following vote:

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Spatz, O'Connor, Datta, Spurlock, Brisben, and Felton

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Laurie Campbell explained that there are two kinds of school district employees in Illinois, those who require licensure and those who do not. She explained that if the district is going to reduce the number of hours for an employee, they must give 30 days' notice before the end of the current school year. She noted that this requirement includes areas like Title I, and teacher assistants. She assured the Board that this action is not a statement of the individual's performance; simple a prediction of the needs for the upcoming school year.

It was noted that this action is fairly routine in school districts as some positions are tied to enrollment. The district needs to err on the side of conservatism, in accordance with the state law.

**2.4.1 APPROVAL OF LANDSCAPING BID**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, award a contract to McAdam's Landscaping for a period of one year (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018), in the total amount of \$43,800 for districtwide landscaping needs as outlined in the memorandum to the Superintendent dated April 11, 2017. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spurlock, Gates, Spatz, O'Connor, Datta, Brisben, and Felton

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**2.4.2 APPROVAL OF BROKER EXTENSION FOR 541 MADISON PROPERTY**

Gates moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, extend the broker contract with Baird and Warner for the purpose to sell 541 W. Madison for a period not to exceed 120 days as outlined in the memorandum to the Superintendent dated April 11, 2017. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Spurlock, O'Connor, Datta, Spatz, Brisben, and Felton  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**2.4.3 APPROVAL OF AN OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP – BEST BUDDIES**

Spatz moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the overnight field trip request for two Brooks students and one chaperone to attend the Best Buddies International Leadership conference in Bloomington, Indiana on July 21, 2017 through July 23, 2017. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Gates, Spurlock, O'Connor, Datta, Brisben, and Felton  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**2.4.4 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTRACT AND BY-LAWS DOCUMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS COOPERATIVE (EBC) AND AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP IN THE EBC**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, accept the resolution authorizing acceptance of the contract and by-laws document of the educational benefit cooperative and authorizing membership in the EBC.

Campbell noted that the district has been monitoring the loss ratio since January and they are running higher than expected. She noted that the rates received by HUB were higher than expected, so the Benefits committee looked into the Educational Benefits Cooperative (EBC). She noted that the prices shared by EBC are more reasonable. She shared that the committee did an analysis of current enrollment and determined that membership would be beneficial to the district. Additionally, Campbell noted that the EBC membership comes with additional benefits for the employees (free flu shots, biometric screening, Cobra administration, and online enrollment, etc.)

Campbell recommended that the district join the EBC as of July 1, 2017, but noted that in order to get the program up and running, the district would need to move quickly. Therefore, she requested that the Board approve the membership this evening, waiving the Board protocol to review an item one meeting and take action the next. Campbell noted that she and Alicia Evans have been part of the cooperative for years and noted the stabilization that it brought to their previous districts.

It was reported that members Spurlock and Spatz attended the Benefits Committee meeting and were impressed with EBC. They identified the company as progressive and commended Campbell and staff. They recommended that the Board approve the proposal this evening in order for the district to meet the timeline.

Interest was expressed in knowing how the district plans to assist the lower paid employees with the transition.

Roll call vote.  
Ayes: Spurlock, Spatz, Gates, O'Connor, Datta, Brisben, and Felton  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**2.5.1 MOTION TO CERTIFY OFFICIAL RESULTS – SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION OF APRIL 4, 2017**

Gates moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 certifies the official results of the April 4, 2017 School Board election as reported by the Cook County Clerk's office, naming Keecia Broy, James (Rob) Breymaier and Katherine Murray-Liebl as elected to four-year terms as members of the Board of Education of School District 97. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Brisben, Spurlock, O'Connor, Datta, Spatz, and Felton  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**2.5.2 PROCLAMATION OF NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**

Spatz moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, proclaim that Keecia Broy, James Breymaier and Katherine Murray-Liebl have been duly elected members to the District 97, Oak Park Board of Education. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Brisben, Gates, Spurlock, O'Connor, Datta, and Felton

Nays: None  
Motion passed.

### 2.5.3 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS ON OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, adopt the resolutions read in recognition of outgoing Board members Jim Gates, Amy Felton and Graham Brisben.

Member Spatz read the proclamation recognizing member Graham Brisben;

#### **PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR GRAHAM BRISBEN**

**Whereas** Graham Brisben was elected by the citizens of Oak Park to serve on the District 97 Board of Education on April 9, 2013; and

**Whereas** Graham Brisben's passionate and dedicated service to the community as a member of the board played a pivotal role in the recruitment and hiring of Dr. Carol Kelley, the adoption and implementation of a vision that will enable the district to make meaningful progress toward addressing the opportunity gap, and the negotiation of an innovative and transformative contract with the Oak Park Teachers' Association that is supporting the district's long-term financial sustainability, rewarding the hard work of our exemplary faculty members, and aiding the success of our students both in and out of the classroom; and

**Whereas** Graham Brisben's expert guidance and leadership on the district's efforts to educate and inform people about the potential impact our two recent referenda would have on our students, schools and community contributed to the passage of both questions on April 4, 2017 and will help ensure that the children we serve continue to receive a high-quality education in modernized buildings that are safe, functional and accessible for all; and

**Whereas** Graham Brisben's commitment to fiscal stewardship led to the introduction of new systems and structures that have strengthened the district's overall financial practices, particularly around decisions that are made regarding capital expenditures; and

**Whereas** Graham's Brisben's strong belief in the importance of timely and effective two-way communication enhanced the district's relationships with its stakeholders and helped increase community engagement in the educational process; and

**Whereas** Graham Brisben proudly represented the board or served as a board liaison on several key committees, including the Oak Park River Forest High School Citizens' Council, the PTO Council, the Calendar Committee, the Benefits Committee, ED-RED, PING, IGOV and the Finance Oversight and Review Committee; and

**Whereas** Graham Brisben was an integral member of the boards that were recognized by the Illinois Association of School Boards in 2013 and 2015 for their hard work, excellence in the area of local school governance and tireless support of public education;

**Now, Therefore,** Be It Resolved by the District 97 Board of Education that it affirms the aforementioned accomplishments of Graham Brisben; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Graham Brisben on behalf of the District 97 community for helping our students learn, grow and achieve during his four years as a member of the board.

Member Datta read the proclamation recognizing Vice President Amy Felton.

#### **PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR AMY FELTON**

**Whereas** Amy Felton was appointed to the District 97 Board of Education on October 25, 2011 and was re-elected to the board by the citizens of Oak Park on April 9, 2013; and

**Whereas** Amy Felton's dedicated service as a member and vice president of the board, as well as her strong commitment to education, were instrumental in the hiring of Dr. Carol Kelley as the superintendent, the adoption of a vision for the district that seeks to help every child we serve realize their full potential, and the negotiation of innovative contracts with the district's four employee groups that are contributing to the continued success of our schools and students; and

**Whereas** Amy Felton played an integral role in the execution of an effective community-wide educate and inform campaign that was critical to the successful passage of two referenda on April 4, 2017 that will help ensure the district's long-term financial stability and create a positive learning environment for all students that is equitable, inclusive and focused on the whole child; and

**Whereas** Amy Felton's leadership on the district's policy committee played a vital role in ensuring that the board's policies align with the law, adhere to best practices, and are being used effectively throughout the

district to guide the work that is being done to foster the growth and promote the development of our students; and

**Whereas** Amy Felton demonstrated her steadfast belief in the importance of early childhood education and her tireless advocacy on behalf of our village's youngest learners by serving as the board liaison to the Collaboration for Early Childhood and supporting the Collaboration's ongoing efforts to establish an integrated early childhood system in Oak Park; and

**Whereas** Amy Felton responded to all concerns brought to her attention by the district's stakeholders, represented the board on several key committees, including the Oak Park River Forest High School Citizens' Council, the Oak Park Education Foundation, the PTO Council and the Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention and Monitoring, and helped identify strategies and solutions the district has implemented in collaboration with other local governing bodies and community organizations that have saved taxpayer dollars, helped our schools operate more efficiently, and provided our students with access to valuable resources that have enabled them to thrive both in and out of the classroom; and

**Whereas** Amy Felton and her board colleagues earned the Illinois Association of School Boards' School Board Governance Recognition designation in 2013 and 2015 based on their collective and collaborative efforts to engage in activities and model behaviors that led to excellence in local school governance in support of quality public education;

**Now, Therefore,** Be It Resolved by the District 97 Board of Education that it affirms the aforementioned accomplishments of Amy Felton; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Amy Felton on behalf of the District 97 community for helping to build a better tomorrow for our students during her six years as a member of the board.

Member Spurlock read the proclamation recognizing President Jim Gates.

#### **PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR JIM GATES**

**Whereas** Jim Gates was elected by the citizens of Oak Park to serve on the District 97 Board of Education on April 7, 2009; and

**Whereas** Jim Gates' faithful service as a member, vice president and president of the board played an integral role in the successful implementation of the International Baccalaureate and Project Lead the Way programs in our middle schools, the seamless transition to a new policy service provider and the effective rewrite of the district's policy manual, the improvement of the practices and protocols that guide the work of the board, and the adoption of a vision for the district that seeks to create a positive learning environment for all students that is equitable, inclusive and focused on the whole child; and

**Whereas** Jim Gates' strong commitment to fiscal stewardship contributed to the successful passage of referenda in 2011 and 2017 that have and will continue to aid the long-term viability of our schools and enhance the quality of the education that is available to the more than 6,000 children we serve; and

**Whereas** Jim Gates further fostered the district's reputation for academic excellence by helping lead the efforts to recruit and hire Dr. Carol Kelley and her predecessor Dr. Al Roberts, spearheading the development of the electronic superintendent's evaluation tool, and supporting projects, programs and initiatives that have promoted the growth and development of students and staff both in and out of the classroom; and

**Whereas** Jim Gates' fervent belief in the critical role that community involvement plays in the success of our schools led to the establishment of citizen-led committees such as the Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention and Monitoring (CLAIM) and the Committee for Community Engagement (CCE); and

**Whereas** Jim Gates' pursuit of opportunities to increase the board's engagement with residents and collaboration with other governing bodies resulted in the redesign of the board's website, the district's participation in events such as A Day in Our Village and the Farmers' Market, and his service as a board liaison to the Council of Governments, ED-RED, IGOV, PTO Council, the Oak Park Education Foundation and the Oak Park River Forest High School's Citizens' Council; and

**Whereas** Jim Gates participated in the successful negotiation of collective bargaining agreements with the district's four employee groups, including a transformative contract with the Oak Park Teachers' Association that is helping to shape the future of our schools and enabling our students to reach their full potential; and

**Whereas** Jim Gates' tireless dedication to board service was highlighted by his representation of the board at the Illinois Association of School Boards' State Delegates' Convention on an annual basis since 2009, his designation of Master Board Member that he earned in 2012 and has maintained over the past four years, his being a key member of the boards that earned the Illinois Association of School Boards' School Board Governance Recognition designation in 2013 and 2015, as well as an Award of Excellence from the Illinois State Board of Education in 2011, his representation on the board's policy committee, the board's self-evaluation and goal setting work team, the Facilities Advisory Committee, the CLAIM committee and the CCE,

and his critical role in the creation and implementation of the process for conducting the board's self-evaluation on an annual basis;

**Now, Therefore,** Be It Resolved by the District 97 Board of Education that it affirms the aforementioned accomplishments of Jim Gates; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Jim Gates on behalf of the District 97 community for his exemplary leadership during his eight years as a member of the board.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Datta, Gates, Spurlock, O'Connor, Brisben, and Felton

Nays: None

Motion passed.

#### **2.5.4 SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Katherine Murray-Liebl, Rob Breymaier and Keecia Broly publicly read the Oath of Office.

#### **RETIRING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Vice President Felton shared that being on a Board is a team effort. She noted that this Board is open to listening and sharing opinions. They are respectful in their debates and meeting the needs of the District 97 children. She shared nicknames for each of the Board member and thanked them, the staff, the Village and her family for supporting her in her efforts to serve on the Board. Felton welcomed the new Board members.

Member Brisben shared a PowerPoint that outlined his tenure on the Board. He explained that he only planned to serve one term and had four pivotal issues that he wanted to focus on. He shared that the children are the beneficiaries of the Board's work. Brisben welcomed the new Board members and suggested that they work as a team and keep the children first in every decision. Brisben shared a breakdown of the time that he spent on Board work, noting that it broke down to an average of 32.6 hours per month. He thanked the citizens for approving the referenda, the Board members past and future, the Board Secretary, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Kelley, the administrators, his family and the Oak Park teachers for their dedication to the children.

President Gates shared that this evening marks a 41 year journey in Oak Park, and thanked the community for allowing him to spend his entire 31 year teaching career in this community. He worked with over 3,500 students and families and made many life-long friendships. He was honored to come back to the district and serve the Board. He thanked the past and present Board members, members of the partnering boards (IGOV, Village, etc.). He shared that he was born in Oak Park and when he reflects on the meaningful things in his life, it is because his life was led back to Oak Park.

Chris Jasculca expressed thanks to the three outgoing Board members and shared that they are high quality, dedicated people. Jasculca present each with a gift of gratitude from the district.

#### **BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

**BOARD  
ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP CLAIM**

It was reported that the CLAIM work group on equity has been revamped. The most recent liaison report has been sent out to the Board members. The next CLAIM committee meeting will be held sometime in May. It was suggested that the Board would hear more about the summer programming by tracking the children in the summer program who are least engaged. It was suggested that the committee prepare an IASB resolution as they have done in the past.

#### **FORC**

It was reported that FORC cancelled its meeting for last week due to a lack of quorum. The next meeting will be held on May 8, 2017. It was noted that Member Spatz will not be able to attend that meeting and requested a replacement.

#### **CCE**

It was reported that the most current liaison report has been sent to the Board members.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP  
IGOV

It was reported that the fifth assembly has been postponed. The committee will be reflecting on the last two years and will decide what worked and what did not.

**SUPT EVALUATION**

Member Spurlock reported that the Superintendent’s Evaluation team met with Dr. Kelley and shared feedback. She noted that some of the feedback is based on the status of the four district goals, and that information will not be available until May 22, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT OF OLD BOARD**

There being no further business to conduct, President Gates declared the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m. A brief reception was held in honor of the outgoing Board members.

ADJOURNMENT  
OF OLD BOARD

**CONVENE NEW BOARD**

Member Spatz called the new Board to order at 9:15 p.m. All members were present except member O’Connor who participated by phone.

CONVENE NEW  
BOARD

**ELECTION OF TEMPORARY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY**

Spurlock made the motion to elect Bob Spatz as temporary President, seconded by Breymaier. Roll call vote.

ELECTION OF  
TEMPORARY  
PRESIDENT AND  
SECRETARY

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

**ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS  
PRESIDENT**

Datta made the motion to elect Holly Spurlock as President from April 26, 2017 thru April 24, 2018, seconded by Breymaier. Roll call vote.

ELECTION OF  
BOARD  
OFFICERS

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

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Datta made the motion to elect Jim O’Connor as Vice President from April 26, 2017 thru April 24, 2018, seconded by Broy. Roll call vote.

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

**SECRETARY**

Spurlock made the motion to elect Sheryl Marinier as President from April 26, 2017 thru April 24, 2018, seconded by Liebl. Roll call vote.

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

**NEW BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

The new board members expressed gratitude to the community for their support.

NEW BOARD  
MEMBER  
COMMENTS

**BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

The Board members were reminded of the special Tri-Board Town Hall meeting scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on May 1, 2017 at Roosevelt Middle School located at 7650 Oak Avenue, River Forest, Illinois, and the special Board retreat scheduled at the district office on May 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD  
ASSIGNMENTS

## LEADERSHIP ROLE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Laurie Campbell came to the table and shared that the OPTA Collective Bargaining Agreement established Leadership Roles for OPTA members. The parties agreed to establish the Leadership Role Committee consisting of two OPTA members appointed by the OPTA Executive Board and three members selected by the Superintendent.

Campbell reported that the OPTA agreement states that the Leadership Role Committee shall meet annually to discuss whether to recommend that the Board add, delete, reduce the number of types of roles and whether to make any adjustments in the Tier Level pay of a specific role based on new initiatives and/or whether the actual time commitments made by teachers in a specific leadership role exceeds or falls short of the initial estimated commitments.

Campbell reported that the committee has met three times to review and discuss the needed roles for the 2017-2018 school year and recommendations were made in the report. Campbell noted that the financial impact of the proposed roles is \$699,500 for the 2017-2018 school year, noting that this represents a reduction of \$101,150.

It was explained that the Board needs to approve the roles before the positions can be posted. Job descriptions will be available for each of the position, and applicants will be directed to the Principals who will make the selections, which are then reviewed by the Leadership Role Committee. The need to ensure that people are not "over roled" was expressed.

Board interest was expressed in assuring that the best people receive the position and that the process is equitable across the district. Interest was expressed in assuring that the best teachers do not end up all in one school. It was suggested that a committee develop some metrics for monitoring the ways in which equities or disparities emerge in how the roles are filled.

## ERATE UPDATE

Michael Arensdorff came to the table. He explained that as part of the recent eRate season the district provided a wide range of options in its 470/RFP for vendors to respond. This was done in an effort to get a grasp on the pricing structures and options for various bandwidths in a Wide Area Network (WAN), ranging 1 GB (current) up to 10 GB. In addition, the district asked for responses for internet speeds of 1GB (current), 2, GB, 5 GB and 10 GB. We also requested proposals for a two-year term and a three-year term. Following the long-term planning with infrastructure needs, there were none identified for this upcoming year beyond the continuation of the WAN and Internet services. In the past, voice services were provided through eRate, however; those have been phased out and at this time, are not services that will be supported under the program.

After review, Arensdorff recommended moving forward with Comcast as they have received the highest rating for their proposal in comparison of the others. The district has evaluated based on cost, completeness of proposal, prior experience, service quality and technical experience. Comcast finalized the contract and it was shared with the Board just prior to the meeting. He noted that the contract is for a term of 24 months for both WAN and Internet, and he noted that the speeds and service being provided will remain the same.

As part of the process, the district will also be making the change of paying the monthly cost of its 50 percent eRate cost. Comcast will receive their additional funds from the Federal eRate program, rather than District 97 paying the full amount and receiving a 50 percent refund later in the school year.

As part of this contract, the district will continue to pay for the warehouse connection month to month through September to ensure they have access, but not include the site in the 24-month contract.

## CONCLUDING ITEMS

### BOARD REMARKS

Member Spatz reported that he will not be in attendance at the next few Board meetings as he will be on vacation through May 15, 2017 and attending the World Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education. He noted that he will be bringing artwork from a Longfellow Kindergartener that will become part of the permanent exhibit.

President Spurlock will talk to member Spatz tomorrow about finding a replacement for him at the upcoming FORC meeting.

President Spurlock and member Datta met with the new Board members as part of the orientation.

CONCLUDING  
ITEMS

**BOARD REMARKS (Continued)**

It was reported that the Collaboration has an annual meeting scheduled on May 18, 2017 that they opened to the intergovernmental Board. Everyone was invited to attend.

Member Datta attended the elementary instructional music concert. She described the event as a nice cross district program.

President Spurlock reported that she will need to attend the May 9, 2017 Board meeting via Skype. She plans to talk to each member about their committee interests and the Board will have further discussion on committee assignments during the retreat scheduled on May 15, 2017. She expressed interest in setting new Board goals and priorities for next year and increasing the sense of belonging and ownership with the community.

**BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Kelley and administration were asked to respond to this evenings public comments.

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The draft agenda for the May 9, 2017 Board meeting was reviewed and modifications were recommended.

**PARKING LOT AND LONG-TERM CALENDAR**

The Parking Lot and Long-term calendars were discussed.

- Information on moving from 541 Madison Street (similar as moving from 970 Madison Street)
- Summer programming – update on timeline and plans before the program actually begins
- Training/evaluation of long-term subs

**BOARD MEETING ASSESSMENT**

The Board meeting assessments will be discussed during the May 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Spatz moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 9:55 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Breymaier, Spurlock, Datta, Broy, Liebl, and O'Connor

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

**OPEN SESSION**

Spatz moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 11:00 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Spurlock declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary