

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting June 10, 2014**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Gates, Sacks, Felton, O'Connor (6:32 p.m.), Brisben and Traczyk (6:37 p.m.)  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jасulca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Director of HR Steve Cummins and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:31 p.m. to discuss (Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ayes: Felton, Sacks, Gates, Brisben, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Absent: Traczyk, O'Connor  
Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:00 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting was reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Dawson, an Oak Park resident and the parent of two children, expressed concern about the asbestos abatement planned at Mann School during the summer, as his children will be attending the summer program there. He spoke to Norm Land and Therese O'Neill about his concern. After talking to them, he noted that he was not feeling any better about the process and the safety of his children. Dawson expressed concern that Lane is not clear on the scope of the work, and the number of children who will be accessing the building. He explained that the staff is not aware of the scope of the work and have not begun packing up their classrooms. Ms. O'Neill was going to speak to the principal today and get back to him, and he decided that since the Board was meeting this evening, he would express his concern directly to them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim McConachie, a resident of Burr Ridge, IL, reported that he dropped off documents regarding violations performed by Kenneth Company in regard to the Prevailing Wage Rates, and expressed his concern to the Board.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

**ELEMENTARY WORLD LANGUAGE – TECHNOLOGY OPTION**

Lisa Schwartz and Dawn Deaton came to the table. Schwartz reported on the current World Language (FLES) program model. She noted that Kindergarten – second grades meet three times a week; 30 minutes each for a total of 90 minutes, and grades three - five meet two times a week for 30 minutes each, for a total of 60 minutes.

SPECIAL REPORTS

## ELEMENTARY WORLD LANGUAGE – TECHNOLOGY OPTION (Continued)

They noted that the FLES teachers and families have seen changes in second language acquisition with the additional hour added in Kindergarten – second grades. They reported that Dr. Roberts charged the team to find a way to add time (touches) for grades three through five; using technology if possible and without adding staff.

Rosetta Stone was shared as the recommended program. It was noted that it is the market leader and a very strong option. Deaton shared that she uses the product personally and finds it to be easy to use and motivating. Rosetta Stone allows for independent study, access to studying with it during the day and at home, individual instruction according to each learner's pace, tools that measure student's progress and for parents to be informed of their child's progress. The ladies reported that Rosetta Stone is a good match to the current program being used.

They suggested that Rosetta Stone be used in third through fifth grades as a bell ringer, a center activity, and before and after school activities. At home, the program could be used for daily homework (15 minutes) and during the summer. Additionally, the program has a teacher manager tool to monitor student progress. Deaton suggested that this product could also be used as an activity for a non-speaking substitute. Additionally, Deaton noted that the program could be used by staff members to help them acquire new skills. She suggested consideration of possible fee-based parent subscriptions.

Deaton noted that Rosetta Stone could be used as a support for ELL students, as it offers a dual language license to support ELL instruction. Other school districts reported a 57.3 percent increase in ELL scores on ACCESS. She noted that the top 10 percent of learners improved ACCESS scores by more than 200 percent.

Schwartz reported that the cost of a three year site license for 2,000 users would be \$131,988 (a discount of \$32,000); which come out to \$21.99 per student, per year.

Dr. Roberts reported that Lincoln School, which houses the Spanish Immersion Program, is in the process of being assessed. The process will be completed by the middle of the 2014-15 school year.

Board comments included noting that the license cost is less than a text book. Interest was expressed in knowing how the success of the program will be assessed, and that the students are using the program consistently. Interest was expressed in how this would be paid for.

It was suggested that Rosetta Stone would be a great option for students who need support but do not qualify for ELL. It was suggested that the district reach out to the PTOs or the Ed Foundation for partnerships in before, after and lunch time programs. Interest was expressed in ways to limit summer loss. It was suggested that the district also consider offering this to the sixth through eighth grade students. It was suggested that the Board reach out to Comcast regarding Wi-Fi for families that cannot afford the service.

## ELEMENTARY MATH MATERIALS PRESENTATION

Jean L'Heureux, a fifth grade teacher at Hatch, and Lisa Schwartz updated the Board on the current math textbook status. Schwartz recommended postponing the adoption of a new math curriculum for one year, noting that there is currently a limited selection of math textbooks that have been completely redesigned after the release of the Common Core Standards, and more time is required to do a full textbook evaluation. Schwartz introduced the concept of a consumable option for one year to fill the need for math materials while the committee continues to review permanent options.

ELEMENTARY MATH MATERIALS PRESENTATION (Continued)

She reported that My Math is a traditional program similar to Everyday Math. The teacher manuals are clear and concise; the program includes differentiated resources for support and enrichment, and supplemental resources for instruction (videos, student, and tutorials) are included. The student materials allow for content and practice using pre-tests and post-tests. She reported that My Math includes parent communication tools, and an electronic textbook that is fully functional on the iPad. She noted that homework would be completely digital and that home Wi-Fi is not required. Schwartz recommended that the Board approve the purchase of the following materials:

- K-2 - paper based at \$35,568 (\$18.72 per student)
- 3-5 - \$31,800 (\$15.90 per student)
- K-5 - Manipulative (as needs) \$20,000
- Total - \$87,369

Schwartz noted that after Board approval, the teachers will be granted online access to the teacher/student materials, and to the online webinars. During the months of June and July, a team of teachers will review the 2013-14 resources, looking for materials that will compliment the My Math program. The materials will be delivered to the buildings in mid July, and professional development will be offered to Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers during the August institute days.

Future recommendations include the need for a committee to continue review of math materials, collect feedback on My Math materials, and continue to focus on professional development for math content and practices. Several teachers will be sent to UIC for training this summer, and will participate in the review of materials.

Board comments included support for consistency across buildings, and interest in a careful analysis of the fidelity of this textbook. Everyday Math was recommended for future consideration, as was considering a way to utilize the expertise within the community. This item will return to the Board for action on June 24, 2014.

TECHNOLOGY FEES

Michael Arensdorff came to the table. He shared an overview of the technology fees for this year and recommended charging \$20 per student for the 2014-15 school year. He explained that the goal is to keep the fees as low as possible for families. The proposed fee is 20 percent less than anticipated back in February. He explained that the goal was to insure that the district has enough coverage, but to not have a large amount of funds remaining at the end of the school year.

Board comments included interest in the ability to pay the fee online. This item will return to the Board for action on June 24, 2014.

**ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

**2.4.2 Approval of Minutes from the May 27, 2014 Board Meeting**

Traczyk, moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the May 27, 2014 Board meeting.

- Ayes: Traczyk, Felton, Sacks, Gates, O’Connor, Spatz, and Brisben
- Nays: None
- Absent: None
- Motion passed

**2.1.2 Approval of Minutes from the May 31, 2014 Special Board Meeting**

Felton, moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the May 31, 2014 Board meeting.

Ayes: Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, Gates, Spatz, O’Connor, and Brisben  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed

**2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda**

Sacks moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented to the Board.

- 2.2.1 Bill List
- 2.2.2 Personnel Action
- 2.2.3 Approval of Data Equity and Local Longitudinal Data Resolutions
- 2.2.4 Resolution to Adopt Prevailing Wage Rates
- 2.2.5 Appointment of District Treasurer

Ayes: Sacks, O’Connor, Traczyk, Felton, Spatz, Gates, and Brisben  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

Mike Padavic introduced the new special education teachers at Lincoln School.

**2.3.1 Appointment of Director of Technology**

Felton, moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, appoint Michael Arensdorff as the district’s Director of Technology.

Ayes: Felton, Sacks, Gates, Traczyk, O’Connor, Spatz, and Brisben  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

**2.3.2 Approval of the Organizational Restructuring Plan**

Gates, moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the organizational restructuring plan as discussed in open session on May 31, 2014 and outlined in the memorandum from the superintendent dated June 10, 2014.

Dr. Roberts reported that he is in the process of reviewing job descriptions. He noted that the district will be looking to fill two Directors of Curriculum and Instruction positions. The new administrators must be able to perform evaluations, helping the district meet that need. He noted that conversation has taken place during OPTA negotiations about the need to ensure timely accurate evaluations, and that the new evaluation form will require additional time to complete. Dr. Roberts will communicate the change to the staff via School Messenger and explain why this change is taking place.

Ayes: Gates, Felton, Traczyk, Sacks, O’Connor, Spatz, and Brisben  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

### 2.4.1 Approval of Vehicle Bid

Gates, moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve award of a contract to M & K Quality Truck Sales in Summit, IL, in the total amount of \$49,600, for the purchase of a 2014 Isuzu Diesel Box Truck as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated May 27, 2014.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

### COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS

COMMITTEE /  
WORK GROUP  
REPORTS

#### FACILITIES UPDATE (FAC)

O'Neill came to the table. She updated the Board on the process of seeking bids for the Brooks and Julian Landscaping project. She noted that the recommendation is to award the bid to the Kenneth Company. In response to a letter that was sent to the Board indicating that Kenneth Company was not in compliance with the Prevailing Wage laws, O'Neill shared the following update. Four of the complaints were in 2005 and one in 2010. She reported that she reached out to Altamanu regarding the complaints. She checked the list of references and Altamanu contacted vendors listed. O'Neill discussed the concern with the village which indicated that Kenneth Company is their vendor of choice. She assured the Board that references indicated that there were no current issues with the company or Prevailing Wage. She reported that payrolls will need to be attached to bills as they are submitted for payment, and will be reviewed for compliance.

Additionally, O'Neill reported that the cost of the work has changed. She attributed the change to the timeliness of the bid process, to the fact that this is a relatively small project, and that the cost of sub contractors has increased. O'Neill noted that DSEB will increase by CPI, noting that the district will gain the difference in future revenue. This item will return to the Board for action on June 24, 2014.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

##### *Presentation of CLIC*

O'Neill reported that the district will see a decline in this annual premium. She will bring it back for action on June 24, 2014.

##### *Transfer Resolution Review*

O'Neill explained the need to annually transfer funds to close out the end of the school year. This item will return to the Board on June 24, 2014 for action. Clarity of the memo was requested.

##### *Presentation of SELF*

Steve Cummins came to the table. He reported that the SELF (Workers Compensation pool) annual renewal will decrease by 21 percent. This item will return to the Board for action on June 24, 2014. Interest was expressed in a historical report on trends.

##### *Donation – Beye PTO*

Dr. Roberts reported that the Beye PTO is offering to renovate the Beye library at a cost of \$10,000. The project has been reviewed by the Director of Buildings and Grounds and he believes that the project can be completed within the \$10,000 budget. This item will return on June 24, 2014 for action. A picture of the space was requested after completion.

#### POLICY

It was reported that the Policy Committee will be meeting next week.

#### FINANCIAL UPDATE (FORC)

It was reported that the FORC Committee will be meeting on June 30, 2014.

#### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (C.L.A.I.M.)

It was reported that the two approved resolutions will be submitted in a timely manner. It was noted that they will also be shared with ED-RED.

#### SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION UPDATE

This topic will be discussed in executive session following the open meeting this evening. O'Neill and member Traczyk will make a recommendation to the Board as to compensation to Vice President Gates' nephew for creating the evaluation tool.

#### MADISON STREET PROPERTIES UPDATE

This item was discussed in executive session prior to the open meeting this evening.

#### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN UPDATE

This committee will be meeting with the FAC Committee. Discussion will occur with Michael Arensdorff and with the creator of the Superintendent's Evaluation tool regarding next steps.

#### AD HOC DASHBOARD/BENCHMARK COMMITTEE UPDATE

This committee will be meeting within the next two weeks. It was reported that the Success for All Youth (SAY) group is hiring an Executive Director; a Loan Executive from Serenity Partners is already in place, and Rush has offered a part-time staff person. The group has \$117,000 allocated for this initiative, with \$20,000 identified for data collection.

#### BOARD SELF-EVALUATION UPDATE / GOALS TIMELINE

It was agreed that the Board will allocate some time to recap the retreat and plan goals during an upcoming meeting. Vice President Gates and member Felton asked the Board to individually review the document they shared during the Board retreat, and to add a discussion item to the Board agenda on June 24, 2014 to review the document as a team.

#### **CONCLUDING ITEMS**

##### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Roberts reported that the interview process for the assistant principal position at Julian is scheduled for Thursday.

Appreciation was extended to Vice President Gates for organizing the Day in Our Village event. It was noted that interest was expressed by the community members to volunteer in the schools.

Dr. Roberts reported that he is planning a meeting for principals on June 23, 2014. Items to be addressed include developing their instructional leadership, RBT training, establish our new cohort in RBT, and assigning principals in Kindergarten through eighth grade curriculum. He noted that the major role of the principals in the school is to be instructional leaders; tools will be shared to assist them in this process.

Dr. Roberts reported that despite some challenges, he, along with assistance from Lisa Schwartz and Felicia Starks Turner, is working on identifying the vision.

He reported that he visited many schools this week, and they were all engaged in learning up to the end of the school year.

Dr. Roberts and Therese O'Neill are working with the Park District to resolve concerns expressed about the Longfellow Field.

CONCLUDING  
ITEMS

## BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

A summary of the Day in Our Village event was shared. It was noted that approximately 250 people visited the district's booth. Appreciation was extended to everyone who assisted in this event.

Vice President Gates expressed a concern about the standards and policies for graduation. He will be sending the Policy Committee a recommendation for more rigorous wording for the promotion policy for eighth grade. It was suggested that the Board rethink the practice of a graduation ceremony.

It was reported that District 97 was not able to have representation at the last IGOV meeting. During the meeting, a new structuring plan for the committee was discussed. The Board was asked to consider the recommendation and plan on discussing the options during the July 22, 2014 Board meeting.

Concern was expressed about the inconsistent use of cell phones in the classrooms. It was noted that this falls under guidelines that Chris Jasculca and Dr. Roberts will be reviewing in the near future. Dr. Roberts requested that the Board members share specific concerns via email to Jasculca and himself.

## BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

It was agreed that discussion at the table will be considered response to the concern about Kenneth Company.

O'Neill was asked to contact Mr. Dawson regarding his concern about asbestos abatement to assure him that this will be a safe process. Dr. Roberts assured everyone that Norm Lane is very thorough about projects under his direction.

## PREVIEW DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE JUNE 24, 2014 BOARD MEETING

The draft agenda for the June 24, 2014 meeting was reviewed.

## BOARD 2013-14 TIMELINE

It was noted that the committee assignments are still pending.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:34 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Purchase or Lease of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2))

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

The Board reconvened in the Executive Conference room at 9:40 p.m. All were present except member O'Connor.

## OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:41 p.m. All members of the Board currently in attendance were in agreement.

OPEN SESSION

**ADJOURNMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

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Board President

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Board Secretary