

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting June 23, 2015**

Vice President Felton called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Brisben, O'Connor (6:30 p.m.), Datta, and Felton  
Absent: Gates and Spurlock  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Therese O'Neill, Senior Director of HR Steve Cummins, Senior Director of Special  
Services Mike Padavic, Senior Director of Policy, Procedures and Communication Chris  
Jasulca, Senior Director of Administrative Services Felicia Starks Turner, Director of  
Technology Michael Arensdorff, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Kamm  
and Helen Wei, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Spatz moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:11 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Pending or Probable Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Student Discipline 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)). Roll call vote.

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

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Brisben moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 7:03 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL  
REPORTS

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING – 50% REPORT FROM STR**

Therese O'Neill came to the table with Jennifer Costanzo from STR and Tim Puntillo from the Construction Management firm. They presented the original budget and a 50 percent budget comparison, noting an increase of approximately \$300,000. It was noted that this increase is due to the fact that the original numbers were based on estimates and the 50 percent figures are actual numbers using trade information. Costanzo reported that although the numbers are higher than anticipated, she is not concerned about being able to bring the cost down to the meet the original budget.

Puntillo reported that the next steps will include the drawing package, preparing the 90 percent budget, and preparing an upfront hard number for the trades, noting the need to release those funds. The 90 percent budget and approval of the upfront figures will return to the Board in August.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

**2.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL JUNE 3, 2015 BOARD MEETING**

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the minutes from the June 3, 2015 special Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

**2.1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 9, 2015 BOARD MEETING**

Spatz moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the revised minutes from the June 9, 2015 Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

**2.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 2.2.1 Approval of Bill List
- 2.2.2 Personnel Action as amended during executive session
- 2.2.3 Approval of CLIC Insurance Renewal
- 2.2.4 Approval of SELF Insurance Renewal
- 2.2.5 Appointment of District Treasurer
- 2.2.6 Resolution to Adopt Prevailing Wage
- 2.2.7 Acceptance of Donation

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

**2.3.1 ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER RESOLUTIONS**

Spatz moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the formal attached resolutions transferring \$3,591,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund, and then from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund; transferring \$758,800 from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund; and transferring up to \$49,994 of interest earnings from the Operations and Maintenance Fund, Debt Service Fund and Working Cash Funds to the Education Fund as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated June 23, 2015. Roll call vote.

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

**2.3.2 APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION BID**

Brisben moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, authorize the execution of a contract between Lakeview Bus Lines/Polar Express for the provision of regular and in- and out-of-District Special Education transportation for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years as outlined in the memorandum to the Superintendent dated June 9, 2015. Further, that the Board direct the administration to prepare and let similar transportation specifications in November, 2017 for the 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. Roll call vote.

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

**2.3.3 UPHOLD STUDENT SUSPENSION**

Spatz moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, uphold the suspension of student 20150623 but reduce the length of the suspension to one day. Roll call vote.

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

**2.3.4 APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT BONUS**

Spatz moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the formal attached resolution awarding a performance bonus to its retiring Superintendent of Schools. Roll call vote.

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

**COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS**  
**2014 – 2015 PRIORITIES**

COMMITTEE /  
WORK GROUP  
REPORTS

**FINANCIAL STABILITY (SS3)**

It was reported that Chris Jasculca will meet with members Spurlock and Spatz to work on the September FYI.

**CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE (SS7)**

It was noted that the Board took action on some of the outstanding items this evening. This team will be meeting in the near future.

**STANDING BOARD COMMITTEES**

STANDING  
BOARD  
COMMITTEES

**FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (FORC)**

The recruitment letter has been sent out to the community seeking two new members, and Vice President Felton will review the candidates applications. FORC is scheduled to meet during the month of August. It was noted that there has been multiple interest in all three committees.

**COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION, INTERVENTION, AND MONITORING (CLAIM)**

It was reported that President Gates attended the last CLAIM meeting, where two new members were present. A new chairperson will be appointed during their September meeting. It was noted that the update to the Board will need to be delayed until October, 2015.

The need for the committee to consider how they can focus their energy was noted. The annual legislator's forum in early October will need to be one focus, as well as securing all four legislators for this event. It was suggested that Richard Boykin, the Cook County Commissioner be invited to this event. Monitoring and perhaps outreach, as well as the need to continue to develop relationships with others who have a shared interest were suggested. Additionally, the committee should consider focusing on one or two major issues. The committee members plan to reach out to member Spatz for direction.

It was noted that during the August Board retreat, the Board will review the committees and create a list of people who they recommend the new superintendent should meet with individually. It was suggested that committee chairs be included on this list.

**FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)**

It was reported that the FAC met last Tuesday. They reviewed the End of the Year Financial Report, reviewed the summer work, introduced two new committee members and said goodbye to Dena Bell, Ralph Muehleisen and Jamil BouSaab. It was reported that this committee does not normally meet during the summer, but they agreed to have a sub-committee available and electronically review building documents during that time. FAC's next official meeting is scheduled in September, 2015. It was suggested that the Board send the 50 percent building estimates to the FAC for review.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS****RECERTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS CROSSINGS**

O'Neill reported that the recertification of hazardous crossings requires annual review and approval by the Board. This item will return for action on July 7, 2015.

A brief discussion about hazardous crossing took place. It was noted that the Crossing Guard Intergovernmental Agreement will need to be reviewed next year. That agreement will take the hazardous crossings into consideration.

It was noted that the one mile distance for bussing has been in effect since 1976.

**DONATION TO THE LINCOLN BAND DEPARTMENT AND BRAVO**

Retired District 97 teacher Miraflor Metropoulos would like to donate \$400 to purchase ukuleles for the Lincoln music department, and \$150 to the BRAVO Program at Brooks Middle School. This item will return to the Board for action on July 7, 2015.

**REVIEW VEHICLE BID**

O'Neill explained that Buildings and Grounds needs to replace the 1993 Ford pickup and the 1999 Dodge Ram truck. This expenditure has been included in the 2015-2016 budget.

It was noted that Norm Lane recommended increasing the number of vehicles when he started, and since then, the quality of the snow removal at the schools has increased greatly. Both vehicles are dual purpose trucks and can be used to assist with snow removal as well. This item will return to the Board for action on July 7, 2015.

**REVIEW OF TAX OBJECTIONS**

O'Neill reported that tax objections are received from the legal counsel every other year. The attorneys delineate the items and make a recommendation for resolution. It was noted that a more extensive discussion on this topic occurred during executive session. This item will return to the Board for action on July 7, 2015.

**REVIEW OF ASBESTOS ABATEMENT**

O'Neill reported that every three years there is a re-inspection of the district buildings for asbestos related issues, and specifications for the identified work is presented. This year, work has been identified at Lincoln, Irving and Whittier schools. Additional clarification on the work was requested. This item will return to the Board for action on July 7, 2015.

**TECHNOLOGY PLAN UPDATE**

It was explained that the 5-year Technology plan was based on the referendum and vision with the community. Five years ago, the Board approved a 5-year plan with the dollars identified for each year. Administration came back annually to explain the current and future expenditures. This 3-year plan is a continuation of that process.

Michael Arensdorff came to the table and shared the summary of the 3-year Technology plan. He noted that the budget for the 2015-2016 school year would include infrastructure enhancements, iMac Lab transitions, relocation of the district office, and continuation of the administrative lease at a total cost of \$281,047 and will need Board action on July 7, 2015.

Arensdorff projected the 2016-2017 budget to include professional development, additional infrastructure enhancements, the continued administrative lease, iPad refresh, first and second grade enhancements, and outdoor Wifi access at a cost of \$906,255. The 2017-2018 budget would include additional professional development, Project Lead The Way (PLTW) device refresh, staff iPad refresh, and Apple TV refresh at a cost of \$468,000.

Arensdorff anticipates being able to supply the Board with the staff survey data on growth, and more information on what the protocols look like in the classrooms. Additionally, he will continue to collect the feedback from staff and parents, and work with Dr. Kelley to identify needed data.

#### TECHNOLOGY PLAN UPDATE (Continued)

Board comments including appreciation for the Cap-ex sheets and a request to receive the materials earlier in the week for review prior to the Board meetings. The need for clarity on how to plan for future technology spending and Board approval was requested. It was suggested that during the Board retreat on August 29, 2015, that the Board discuss where they want instructional technology to be reported. Interest was expressed in hearing about the value of the outdoor Wifi.

After discussion, the Board agreed to take action on the 2015-2016 budget during the July 7, 2015 meeting. Additionally, the Board agreed to take action on the 3-year Technology Plan as a separate action item during the same meeting. It was suggested that if the Board is not satisfied with the wording of the motion to support the plan, they could postpone the vote.

#### MASTERYCONNECT PROPOSAL

Carrie Kamm came to the table. She reported that recent advancements in technology have led to dramatic changes in the way educators administer student assessments. This is underscored by the emergence of next generation assessments such as PARCC, which is more technology based. Next generation assessments are dependent, in part, on the students' ability to plot points, drag and drop, and select text and use a protractor. That is why it is critical for the district to take the necessary steps to align its system of assessments with the next generation standards.

Kamm explained that MasteryConnect is an electronic assessment system. It is a way to create assessments in a clear, practical way, and would be a valuable resource that teachers can use to effectively measure academic growth and actively engage students in the learning process. This type of system fosters both collaboration and differentiation by allowing teachers to easily share important information across grade levels and with colleagues from other schools. It also enables teachers to work together on assessment design, which is a core feature of high-functioning professional learning communities.

Kamm reported that in February, 2015, the ELA specialists and elementary grade level chairs participated in a demo of School City. They agreed that an assessment program would be a useful tool. In the spring of 2015, the principals had the opportunity to demo MasteryConnect, and agreed with the teachers.

Kamm noted that in order to make this tool useful under PERA, some investment of time and professional development would be necessary. She noted that the team is meeting on Thursday to prepare a professional development calendar for the year. They will start with third - eighth grades, and noted that teachers want to have evidence around standards that shows where students are along the continuum. Kamm reported that the program is compatible with iPads on a web browser and includes a special AP. She reported that MasteryConnect will interface with PowerSchool.

Board comments included interest in the promises made by MasteryConnect regarding the security of the student data.

It was noted that this is a three year contract that needs to be paid annually. This item will return to the Board for action on July 7, 2015.

#### **CONCLUDING ITEMS**

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

Dr. Roberts noted that he sent a confidential memo and addendum to the Board members.

Felicia Starks Turner is working with the Early Childhood committee regarding the early entry program. She will ensure that the program is transparent.

Dr. Roberts has been working on a report for Dr. Kelley that provides a list of ongoing issues, key issues by department, and a summary of personnel assessments.

Administration has been discussing the data analyst position, and O'Neill will be bringing a name before the Board in the near future. A memo will be sent to the Board that will explain the process and make a recommendation.

CONCLUDING  
ITEMS

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

Both middle schools are being recommended by their site teams for IB authorization. Dr. Roberts reported that he just received notice from Shaker Heights that they have just been authorized. He shared that they started the process well before Oak Park, and noted that District 97 made significant progress. He is proud of the staff, and acknowledged the IB coordinators and teachers for presenting themselves in a positive way during the site visits.

#### BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members Spatz, Spurlock, and Datta attended the IASB training for new board members.

Member Spatz also attended the IASB Governance meeting. He will attend the IASB West Cook Governing Board meeting on June 30, 2015, and has been nominated to be on the executive board for another 2-year term.

Member Spatz will attend the second I-ECO meeting on July 1, 2015. It was noted that this group is looking at ways to share energy resources. He shared the idea of including Dr. Kelley in future meetings.

Vice President Felton and member Spatz are working with Dr. Roberts and the Board Secretary on a "Who's Who" list for Dr. Kelley. Board members were asked to supply input through member Spatz.

The following quote was shared; "The plural of anecdote is not data".

The ECRA documentation was requested by the end of this week.

A report titled, "Rethink Teacher Evaluation in Chicago", was shared and highlights were noted.

Vice President Felton attended the Oak Park Education Foundation meeting. She reported that they are working on their budget for next year, and shared that this year was a stellar year for the organization. They are moving forward with the Spoken Word program, and are considering offering the program as an afterschool enrichment opportunity and/or in school during speech, drama, etc. The Foundation is looking for a coordinator for this program. It was noted that this program will be funded by the Peter Traczyk Memorial Fund. The Base Camp program is currently running and doing very well.

It was noted that President Gates requested the Board move forward with plans for the August 29, 2015 Board retreat. Member Brisben and possibly member Spurlock will touch base with Barbara Toney from IASB about tools that IASB might have available for a Board self-evaluation survey. If an appropriate tool is not available, they will create a draft self-evaluation tool for review during the July 7, 2015. Board members were asked to submit their feedback about a Board survey by July 1, 2015. Member Brisben will aggregate the responses for discussion during the July 7, 2015 meeting.

The individual Board members expressed well wishes and gratitude to Dr. Roberts.

Dr. Robert shared that he has been fortunate in his career and has been blessed with wonderful School Boards to work with. He thanked everyone for their friendship, partnership and keeping administration on their toes.

#### BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### PREVIEW AGENDAS

The draft agenda for July 7, 2015 was reviewed and modifications were recommended.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spatz moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss (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.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**OPEN SESSION**

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 9:35 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Vice President Felton declared the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

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Board Vice President

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Board Secretary