

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
November 28, 2017 Special Tri-Board Meeting**

This meeting was held at Oak Park River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville, Oak Park, Illinois, in room 293W.

**ROLL CALL**

The three boards each opened their meetings by calling roll at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call - Oak Park Elementary District #97

Present: Spurlock, O'Connor, Spatz, Breymaier, Broy and Data

Absent: Liebl

Roll Call - Oak Park River Forest District #200

Present: Moore, Cofsky, Spivey, Baron, Cassell, and Arkin

Absent: Iseli

Roll Call - Village of Oak Park

Present: Abu-Taleb, Boutet, Button (arrived at 7:13 p.m.), Tucker, Taglia, Andrews, and Moroney

Member Spatz, who is this year's President of the Collaboration for Early Childhood IGA Governing Board, facilitated the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was reviewed and no revisions were recommended.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chris Donavan, an Oak Park resident, read a statement. He reminded the boards that he addressed them with this same concern during their joint meeting a year ago. He expressed concern regarding the Madison Street Road Diet and Bend, noting that the traffic pattern could pose a safety concern to the children as they walk to and from school.

Additionally, Donavan expressed concern about the cost of the project. He summarized a recent article in the Wednesday Journal which reported that Jupiter Realty was seriously behind schedule in its redevelopment plan and had failed as the preferred developer. The article also reported that the Village President is recommending the extension of the Madison Street TIF District for another 12 years.

Donavan shared a handout that reported that the Equalized Assessed value (EAV) for properties in the TIF district has increased nearly \$13 million since it was created in 1995. He reminded the boards that a TIF lasts for 23 years, and that 2018 should be the last year of this agreement. He expressed concern over extending the TIF as the taxing bodies would continue to receive their revenue from the TIF properties based on the base year of 1995 and not the \$13 million EAV accrued since then.

Donavan asked the collective boards not to accept the recommendation of the Village President to extend the Madison Street TIF.

Each board was asked to individually respond to Mr. Donavan's comments.

**COLLABORATION REPORT ON PROGRESS: BUILDING OAK PARK'S EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY SYSTEM - JULY – 2013 – FALL 2017**

Carolyn Newberry Schwartz reminded the boards about the beginning of the collaborations efforts, noting that it was initiated in 2002 with a driving issue to ensure that every Oak Park child has access to high-quality early care and learning experiences. She noted that two thirds of disparities in achievement are in place before children enter Kindergarten, and noted that the persistence of these disparities show how difficult it is for schools to make a difference.

Newberry Schwartz introduced the Hectman Equation which supports the theory that there are lasting benefits from high-quality early childhood experiences for every child throughout their lifetime, including;

- Increased educational productivity
- Decreased involvement with police and the juvenile justice system
- Fewer student discipline issues
- Decreased use of drugs and alcohol by middle schoolers and teens

She shared the Collaboration's goal to have all children arrive at Kindergarten safe, healthy, ready to succeed and eager to learn. To achieve this goal, the collaboration is focusing on the following strategies;

- Early Detection Screening
- Parent Information and Support
- Professional Development
- Public Preschool Coordination

Newberry Schwartz reminded the boards that the Symposium is the Collaboration's signature event, however; additional initiatives are always being added. She reported that the organization made contact with 42 previously unknown, license-exempt providers in the village and shared the State's quality rating system and online coursework with them to help them meet training requirements through the Gateway system, hoping to encourage interest in the program. Additionally, the Collaboration continues to consider ways to connect early learning programs in Oak Park to the Collaboration as an expectation for doing business, and continue the training series, and coaching and supporting engagement in ExceleRate and Gateways credentialing programs.

Newberry Schwartz reported that the goal of the developmental screening strategies is to ensure that every child under Kindergarten age receives at least one developmental screening per year, and that children qualifying for services receive them.

She reported that the goal of the Parent Information and Support Strategy is to ensure that parents have the information and support they need to feel confident in their role as their child's first and most important teacher, and that the goal of the public preschool strategy is to ensure that all children meeting eligibility criteria attend a high-quality program.

She concluded by reporting that the Collaboration and Village work as leaders. The Collaboration is called upon regularly to consult with other districts and serves on eight different committees within the State, including the Community System Planning and Success for All Youth.

#### **USING DATA TO UNDERSTAND OUR CHILDREN AND INFORM OUR WORK**

Newberry Schwartz and Bob Goege from Chapin Hall came to the table. They reported that the Collaboration received a large grant which allowed them to take a deeper dive into the data. Goege reported that the data is being integrated so children can be followed across program. He noted that from the time they are born to the time they enter elementary school, their progress is being measured. He noted the need to focus on the quality of data, accessing the right data, and making sure that the data is accurate and complete. He shared that the Collaboration currently has access to the District 97 InfoSnap data and is working on getting WIC and Medicaid data. He share that the response rate to the questions asked during registration is very good and the data being received is excellent.

Goege reported that the number of children between the ages of newborn to five years old is increasing from year to year, and that the number of those children living in poverty is declining.

It was noted that the Collaboration is having difficulty getting all the children into programs who need them, so they are seeking alternative ways to reach the families.

Concern was expressed regarding nutrition, brain development and poverty. Goege explained that families with children up to the age of five on food stamps are eligible for WIC which could help with nutritional needs.

Newberry Schwartz shared that the home visiting program is unified and that the peer ambassador piece will be an important tool. She explained that the team is working on identifying where the kids are getting care from if they are not in HeadStart or Preschool for All.

Newberry Schwartz reported that the Collaboration is serving River Forest, however; there has not been a formal decision to involve the Collaboration within the schools. Additionally, she shared that within the past year, she participated in a discussion on equity in River Forest.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

Gordon Hellwig, treasurer of the Collaboration for Early Childhood shared the 2016-2017 financial statements and reported that the audit of the documents found no discrepancies.

#### **FY2017-2018 – OCTOBER YEAR TO DATE REPORTS: BALANCE SHEET AND PROFIT AND LOSS**

Hellwig reported that the expenses in this area are very close to budget.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT**

Bob Spatz reported that District 97 is the administrative agent for this account, and explained that each jurisdiction pays a different amount in accordance to the agreement. He noted that the report was emailed to the board members today, and that all jurisdictions were billed on time and all payments were received.

Village Board member Boutet expressed interest in what happens to the unused funds. Hellwig explained that the funds could be returned to the jurisdictions in the same proportions in which they were given. He noted that the IGA Governing Board will include this topic on their February agenda for consideration.

### **MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES**

#### **STATE CHANGES**

#### **RE-APPLICATION PROCESS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING**

It was reported that Preschool For All is a competitive process. The community has limited spots available to them, and the state is changing their method for determining who gets what spots. It was reported that the Collaboration is a major selling point for our application, however; the community does not have a lot of kids in the high poverty level which could affect the application process.

#### **DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING**

A bill has been passed that will require developmental screening to be included on medical forms completed by daycare services.

#### **BUDGET UPDATE**

It was reported that with the new State budget, the funding formula will cause the districts to lose some money relative to inflation, but not nearly as much as was anticipated.

#### **ERIKSON – EARLY CHLDHOOD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

It was reported that Felicia Starks Turner and Carolyn Newberry Schwartz were accepted as Barbara Bowman Leadership Fellows. The Collaboration was selected as part of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) initiative. Starks Turner and Newberry Schwartz spend one day a month at the Erikson Institute working on EDI.

#### **MC CORMICK FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE FELLOWS**

Member Spatz and Dr. Kelley, along with Ralph Martire from District 90 have been attending the McCormick Foundation Executive Fellows meetings where they collaborate with a group of judges, senators, and superintendents from around the state.

#### **COMMENTS**

Trustee Taglia expressed interest in seeing the Collaboration's Website categorized to make it easier to navigate.

Laura Crawford was introduced as the Collaboration's Data Manager and Greg Sanders was introduced as the creator of the data base.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, member Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary