

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting January 22, 2013**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, Spatz, and O'Connor
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of HR and General Counsel Joanne Schochat, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss (Appointment /Employment / Compensation / Discipline / Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel for the Public Body, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Pending, Imminent or Probable Litigation 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:59 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

ACTION ITEM

The meeting was reconvened at 7:05 p.m. with all Board members in attendance.

2.4.3 Approval of Resolution to Support the Collaboration for Early Childhood Initiative

Vice President Spatz motioned by reading the resolution, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, direct District 97 to coordinate with local governing bodies to develop an intergovernmental agreement and to outline sustainable funding commitments to support the objectives identified in the 2009 early childhood strategic plan developed under the auspices of the Collaboration for Early Childhood care and education. Roll call vote.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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

SPECIAL REPORTS

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Julie Mullen came to the table. She presented the interactive classroom technology proposal prepared by a team of administrators and technology staff members. She defined the meaning of an interactive classroom and explained its importance. Mullen noted that the goal for technology is to create classroom environments that are flexible, engaging, media-rich, student-centered and interactive.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE (Continued)

Mullen reported that due to the increase in Web-based apps and cloud computing, the district has exceeded its existing bandwidth. She noted that Web-based testing (MAP and PARCC) will mean even bigger drains on available bandwidth.

Mullen reported that the wireless access points are too sparsely spaced to provide adequate connection speed and the version of PowerSchool that the district is currently using is out of date, with some features no longer being supported. Additionally, she noted an increase in the use of web-based programs, which have overburdened the district's computer labs.

Mullen made the following recommendations:

- Increase bandwidth from 150 Mbps to 300 Mbp
- Purchase a high-end router
- Switch internet services from Illinois Central Network (ICN) to Comcast
- Move from coverage model to density model wireless
- Add 220 wireless access points
- Add a network management system
- Upgrade PowerSchool to Version 7. Purchase two servers for this purpose. Use Pearson Remote Management Services to handle offsite data backup and system updates
- Upgrade to a Mac Pro server and purchase additional licenses to support at least 1,200 mobile devices
- Purchase 350 MacBook Airs and 50 iPads to replace classroom eMacs (One cart per school)

The team recommended that the district purchase only ceiling mounted or interactive projectors, and provide iPads with document camera stands and Apple TVs and/or Airserver application as new minimum configurations for all Pre-K–8 classrooms.

She reported that the original goal of the technology plan was to have SMART Boards and Elmos in every classroom by 2019. Now it is possible to achieve that same capability using an iPad with a document camera stand and Apple TV.

Mullen assured the Board that staff development will be supplied with the new equipment ensuring its successful transition. She noted that, although the initial reports on CromeBooks are good, the district would not consider purchasing any until they have been tested within the district.

Padavic reported that IDEA funds will be used to purchase additional computers for the Special Education classrooms.

Dr. Roberts reported that the advisory committee focused on the importance of interactivity in the classroom. In the future, the committee will review technology needs necessary to support Common Core. He noted that because of its size and multiple areas of need, this proposal may return to the Board for approval in pieces. He reminded the Board that although the technology preferences of the teachers will be considered, the teacher survey results will be used to identify teachers' technology skills and needs.

Board comments and concerns included interest in the detailed expenses related to this recommendation separated out so the Board can clearly delineate one time purchases versus ongoing expenses.

ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE (Continued)

Mike Padavic reported that the Accessibility Committee has met three times. They decided to tour the schools, allowing them to see where each building is with ADA compliance. During the tours, building floor plans are reviewed, giving consideration to building layout and placement of programs. It was noted that there are concerns that need to be considered other than capital improvements. The committee is currently exploring options and will bring recommendations to the Board at a later time.

Member Sacks explained that the committee will visit a Chicago school that is similar to the age and layout of the District 97 buildings. The school has made significant modifications and is now ADA compliant.

Padavic reported that he hopes that the recommendations will be presented to the Board in April or May, noting that this will be a long term project. Additionally, Member Sacks has been updating FAC on the activities of the Accessibility Committee.

Discussion took place on the 10-year plan. It was noted that architects indicated that the district clearly meets the minimum requirements for ADA compliance. Concern was expressed about whether meeting minimum requirements is sufficient. The classroom air conditioning concern was shared and it was recommended that the need for air conditioning in the classrooms be kept in mind when looking at the 10-year plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

4.1.2 Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2013

This item was tabled until February 12, 2013.

2.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

President Barber read the items on the consent agenda. Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda. Roll call vote.

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.2.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.2 Approval of Budget Authority

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, authorize the superintendent to commence preparation of the 2013-14 fiscal year budget. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.3 Approval of Playground Initiative

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the final schematics and cost estimates for the summer 2013 playgrounds for Hatch, Irving, Mann and Whittier schools and authorize the landscape architectural firm, Altamanu, to finalize construction documents and release a bid for same as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated January 8, 2013. Roll call vote.

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

TOPIC REPORTS

CALENDAR UPDATE

Joanne Schochat came to the table. She distributed an updated proposed 2013-14 calendar. Schochat reported that she was not able to obtain information from the high school indicating movement toward approving their calendar.

Dr. Roberts explained that the reason the district is reluctant to hold school on Good Friday is due to lack of student and staff attendance. Concern was expressed about acknowledging Good Friday as a holiday and commuting state and federal holidays away from their designated time of year.

It was noted that the last parent survey on this topic, done many years ago, indicated that 75 percent of the families would take off on Good Friday. A new survey was suggested as a way to determine if Christian families still celebrate Good Friday and would require the day away from school. The wording of the survey was discussed; recommending that it not single out Good Friday, but ask if there are any religious holidays that families would not send child to school on.

It was noted that a policy guiding the district calendar exists; however, it was recommended that it also address the calendar creation and the recognition of holidays. The Board was reminded that Election Day is another day that needs written direction in the policy.

It was noted that the Board values diversity and respects and values others traditions.

This will come back to the Board for approval on February 12, 2013. Dr. Roberts reported that parents have been calling and requesting the date of the first day of school. He asked the Board to acknowledge that they have no problem with the draft calendar identifying August 26, 2013 as the beginning of the school year. All were in agreement.

POLICY UPDATE

Chris Jасulca distributed CDs of the updated policy manual for review by the Board. He shared the history of transferring the policy manual to PRESS. Jасulca reported that several policies from the old manual were incorporated into the new version. Although these policies were not modified by PRESS, they were written, vetted and reviewed by counsel.

He asked the Board members to review the CD, and reported that the entire manual is posted on the Web site. He suggested multiple meetings to complete the review/approval process, recommending that the Board review sections 1-4 on February 12, 2013, and sections 5-8 on February 26, 2013, with approval of the manual during the March 19, 2013. If necessary, one additional review could take place on March 19, 2013 with approval on April 9, 2013.

Concern was expressed regarding policy number 6100. It was noted that revisions were recommended by FORC, but never received by the Policy Committee. Vice President Spatz will forward the revisions to Jасulca. This policy will be skipped during the initial approval process.

BOARD GOALS TIMELINE

1.6 – Update on the series of Administrative committee meetings about compensation strategies
Member Traczyk reported that February 7, 2013 is the first scheduled meeting of the committee. Dr. Roberts will work on coming up with a comparison list similar to the list created by FORC.

BOARD GOALS TIMELINE (Continued)

The number of students, free and reduced lunch and special education were suggested as possible areas of considerations.

2.1 – Proposed dates and order of the presentations for the three “Community Reports”

Dr. Roberts will send a list of dates and agenda topics to the Board for consideration.

Written plan for communicating more effectively

This report was shared in the Board packet. The Board was reminded that the policies will be reviewed during the next few meetings.

Priority for recruitment.

This report was shared with the Board under separate cover.

Review and updating of timeline

The timeline was reviews and updated.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that the Brook BRAVO troupe won one of eight top honor awards for Outstanding Production for their 15 minute adaptation of *Once on This Island* at the National Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta, Georgia where 82 schools/troupes/programs (4,000 attendees) presented their best work. This is the fourth year in a row that the troupe earned Outstanding Production, breaking their own record from last year.

Eighth grader, Natassia Barnes and seventh grader Aidan Lenehan were awarded the title of All Stars for the group and were featured in a special production at the Awards Banquet.

The cast of 44 performed *Hairspray, Jr.* to an audience filled with top entertainment celebrities. Five of the students were interviewed by Playbill.com and will be featured in the Broadway publication for the performance of *Hairspray, Jr.*

Ten of the Brooks students received Golden Tickets and the opportunity to audition for the Choreography DVD. Seven of them made it to the final cut and will be invited to New York to film the latest DVD.

Additionally, on Martin Luther King Day and celebration of the 44th Inauguration, the Brooks troupe of 70 visited the Martin Luther King historical museum in Atlanta where they performed for the crowds that were there. The students performed *We Tell the Story* in front of the Ebenezer Church, on the front lawn of the Martin Luther King Museum and in front of the mural wall outside the museum.

Holmes school will be holding a Rockin Lock In for their fifth graders on April 20, 2013.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

IGOV will meet this Saturday. They will be drafting a letter from the boards to encourage the community to send constructive feedback and encourage outside the box thinking when it comes to saving money, maximizing tax dollars and improving the life of the community.

BOARD CONCERNS /
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vex Robotics Battle of the Bots is this Saturday at Julian Middle School at 9 a.m.

The Race That’s Good For Life scheduled for Sunday, April 28, 2013, will be donating its proceeds to the Collaboration for Early Childhood.

The ED-RED dinner is next Monday evening.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

C.L.A.I.M. accepted the challenge to submit a presentation proposal to the Joint Conference. Although the proposal does not require Board approval, the Board will be invited to review it and share their input prior to its submission. The Collaboration will probably submit a presentation proposal to the Joint Conference as well. The submission for the presentation proposal to the National Association for the Education of Young Children’s Conference (NAEYC) was submitted on time.

February 23, 2013 is the Early Childhood Symposium at Julian.

The Collaboration will be speaking to the District 200 Board of Education on Thursday night to request their support with the intergovernmental agreement.

The Special Education Advisory Committee will be holding a Special Education Resource Fair at Holmes School on Saturday, January 26, 2013.

Chris Jasculca was acknowledged for sharing his written plan for communicating more effectively.

The Illinois State Board of Education will vote tomorrow to release more school level information about the ISAT performance of all Illinois students.

Member O’Connor attended the Beye PTO meeting. The entire Beye School body is reading the book, “Ninth Ward” about Hurricane Katrina. Principal Ellwanger will shave his head if the school reads for 1,000,000 minutes. Member O’Connor encouraged all parents to attend the Board meetings. He recommended refreshments be served.

It was recommended that schools only take student photographs once a year allowing the schools to focus more time on academics.

Members Sacks and Felton toured Gray School in Chicago, where they learned about the Teach To One program. They were impressed with the program and emailed the handouts to the other Board members. Member O’Connor was acknowledged for extending the invitation to tour the school and to learn about the program.

The Oak Park Education Foundation Staszak dinner will be held at the Oak Park Country Club on April 27, 2013. The event format is changing and all were encouraged to attend.

A majority of the Board members will be attending the State of the Village Dinner on February 22, 2013.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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PUBLIC
COMMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss (Appointment /Employment / Compensation / Discipline / Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel for the Public Body, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:49 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:49 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary