

Oak Park Elementary School District 97
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL – Meeting Room
Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention and Monitoring (C.L.A.I.M.)
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2014, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

In Attendance: Greg, Smith, Brandon Bell, Meredith Schacht, Amy Felton, Anne Warden, Sanford Greenberg, Ray Johnson, Peggy Kell, Jim Gates and Lou Anne Johannesson (secretary)

Not in Attendance: Wiley Samuels, Carollina Song, Jassen Strokosch, Carol Threlkeld

2. Public Comment/Committee Comment

There were no public comments. Chairman Smith noted that Member Johnson will be resigning after this meeting. He is re-locating for professional reasons. He stated that the committee has tremendous value.

3. Action Items

The November minutes were approved.

4. Sub-Committee Reporting

No sub-committees have met since last regular meeting.

5. Quorum Problems

Chairman Smith pointed out that five of the last seven CLAIM meetings had to be canceled due to a lack of quorum. He stated that the board wants work done by the committee and the quorum issue must be solved to accomplish anything. He suggests working on a reset of the committee. He suggested that terms will end for the current members but if members want to remain on the committee they may. Every other year members will be asked if they want to re-up. He asked member Felton about presenting specific language regarding staggered terms to the board. Member Felton said yes, and that staggering was good for continuity on the committee's work. She suggested a maximum limit of four terms. Member Kell suggested that the problem may be that there are too many members on the committee and that it meets too often. She said that initially there was a lot of interest and many issues on the table. She suggested the committee tackle one major issue a year. She also asked if the board has a specific finance committee why does CLAIM have a finance subcommittee. She suggested meetings every other month. Member Felton stated that the board wants to make sure that CLAIM has a redefining of its mission moving forward. Member Gates stated that the board was slow to give CLAIM new direction. He also stated that people came to meetings when there was something to do. Chairman Smith disagreed and stated that there was no quorum at the meeting just prior to the Legislative Forum. He stated that he thinks it is rather a lack of commitment. He reported that Member Samuels had suggested that if members miss a certain number of meetings, they are considered to have resigned. Member Johnson stated the Village Board has a similar policy, that after three absences

members have, “resigned”. Member Gates asked how that was received. Member Johnson said it is understood when members are elected to the board and that it has been fine. Member Gates asked if the charge has to change. Chairman Smith said yes, and asked when the board can consider new language. Member Felton said in March. Member Gates said the board will want a re-write from CLAIM. Member Felton will draft language to share with the Chairman to present to the board’s March meeting. It will then be voted on in early April.

Member Warden stated that the committee needs specific tasks. There are important functions for the group like keeping strong relationships with the legislators. Chairman Smith suggested all new sub-committees. After a lengthy discussion, the committee suggested

- Legislative Priorities/Outreach
- Event Planning
- Data Equity

The committee agreed to meet in January, February, April, May, September, October and November. Chairman Smith suggested that the subcommittees should meet more often. He said that the sub-committees could do more of the actual work of the full committee’s goals.

5b. Goal Setting

Chairman Smith suggested the follow as possible goals for the committee:

- Legislative priorities as set forth by the board
- Meeting with legislators and reaching out to Illinois’s two U.S. Senators
- Lobbying Day in Springfield
- Legislators Forum
- IASB Resolutions
- Networking with other education activist groups
- Guest Speakers

Member Gates updated the committee on the status of Districts 97, 90 and 200 joining together to push for a law providing data sharing for non-unified districts. A letter will be going to Senators Harmon and Lightford. District 200 has yet to sign the letter. He stated that there will be a vital role for CLAIM to play in this process. He reported that the board is awaiting communication from CLAIM on new goals. He stated that the board is very pleased with the committee and their accomplishments.

Chairman Smith stated that he anticipates at least one new member to be joining the committee and suggested canceling the March meeting so that the new charge can be approved by the board, and that work should resume in April. The committee agreed.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson
Secretary

