

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 21, 2013, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chairman Greg Smith called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

In Attendance: Greg Smith, Brandon Bell, Meredith Schacht, John Moss, Wiley Samuels, Joanne Schochat, Ray Johnson and Lou Anne Johannesson (secretary)

Not in Attendance: Jassen Strokosch, Anne Warden, Sanford Greenberg, Jim Gates, Jim O'Connor, Peggy Kell and Carol Threlkeld

2. Public Comment/Committee Comment

There were no public comments. There were no committee comments.

3. Action Items

Approval of Minutes January 17, 2013

After a brief discussion of edits, Chairman Smith made a motion to approve. The minutes were approved in a unanimous vote.

Motion passed.

4. Sub-Committee Reporting

A. Finance

Members Schacht, Smith and Moss gave a report on the meeting that was held with Senator Harmon. Members Warden and Moss were also in attendance. The members presented Representative Camille Lilly with the prepared "Impact Statement", and touched on the issue of pension reform. Member Schacht remarked that it was a productive meeting and a good introduction. She reported that member Moss has been in touch with Senator Don Harmon to schedule a similar meeting of introduction. Chairman Smith called for questions. No questions were asked at this time.

B. DATA

Member Datta stated that the sub-committee was having an existential crisis. The group has met to discuss a reasonable direction to take. The group has finished its work on looking into the District 97 sharing data with District 200. Datta wondered if the group should continue with that subject. She stated that the Records Act is not the primary obstacle to the option of challenging the statute, however the district is not interested in pursuing that road. She stated that longitudinal data might not be the right mandate from the board. She stated that a good model would perhaps be the finance committee's fact sheet that was prepared for small meetings with the legislators. He stated that the sub-committee could prepare something to hand off to the

legislators that highlights the questions and raises their consciousness on how split districts vs. unified districts are impacted by the law. She further asked if the whole committee had suggestions for a focus for the data sub-committee. Member Moss stated that quite a bit of student performance legislation is on the horizon. Chairman Smith suggested that the data sub-committee work on a fact sheet for the legislators meetings.

C. K.I.D.S.

Member Song stated that the issue of early childhood education has been put on the front burner since President Obama mentioned it in his State of the Union address. She stated that a continuing problem is that Preschool for All is annually at risk of funding cuts. She stated that her hope is that funding will be restored and that further cuts can be staved off now that the President has put the focus on it. She stated that the impact to District 97 is that the district has a few PSFA slots that need to be maintained in order to continue federal funding.

Member Song also stated that it would be advantageous to let Representative Danny Davis know about C.L.A.I.M. She stated that the group should let him know the local impact of funding for Early Childhood education.

Chairman Smith asked if the K.I.D.S. sub-committee should now become the Early Childhood sub-committee. He called for a motion to amend the sub-committee to Early Childhood education. John Moss made the motion. Carolinna Song seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

5. Other Items

A. Discussion of CLAIM Presentation Proposal to IASB Conference

Member Gates reported that the committees' proposal was submitted. He will get the final proposal circulated to the whole committee.

B. Legislative Forum

Chairman Smith stated that this item will stay on the agenda moving forward. Member Samuels asked what the time-line for the forum is. Member Moss stated that it should occur after each legislator has been met with. He suggested that the committee also invite people from the State Board of Education. Member Moss suggested that Representative Lighford should be the next legislator to meet with.

C. Connecting With Education Advocacy Groups

Chairman Smith remarked that three other school districts have similar groups as C.L.A.I.M.; Schaumburg, Barrington and Downers Grove. He suggested that the committee reach out to these groups to share knowledge. He stated the Ed-RED has links to all three groups on their website. Member Moss stated that he will forward a copy of Ed-RED's newsletter, "From the Floor to Your Door" to the members. Chairman Smith stated that items 5a and 5b will remain on each month's agenda for the foreseeable future.

D. Open Meetings Act and Email

Member Smith reminded the committee members to be careful about emailing according to the regulations of the state's Open Meetings Act.

Member Schacht informed the committee that Chairman Smith has resigned from the finance sub-committee due to his increased responsibilities as chairman.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson
Secretary